

# PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 26 JUNE 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### The Speaker:

1. **Referral of document in terms of section 17(2)(c) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009 (Act 10 of 2009) (FMPPLA): The Executive Authority must table in Parliament, for referral to the oversight mechanism, the draft adjustments budget at least one month before the adjustments budget must be submitted to the National Treasury.**

#### **Parliamentary Oversight Committee**

Submission of the first draft adjustments budget for 2020/21.

2. **Referral of bill to committee in accordance with Standing Rule 217:**

#### **Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport**

Recognition of Customary Marriages Amendment Bill [B 12–2019], NCOP-proposed (section 76).

### TABLINGS

#### The Speaker:

1. **Tabling of document in terms of section 17(2)(c) of the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2009 (Act 10 of 2009) (FMPPLA): The Executive Authority must table in Parliament, for referral to the oversight mechanism, the draft adjustments budget at least one month before the adjustments budget must be submitted to the National Treasury.**

Submission of the first draft adjustments budget for 2020/21.

## **2. Report of the Public Service Commission**

Report on the unannounced inspections of schools in the Western Cape regarding compliance with health and safety regulations for mitigating the impact of COVID-19.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government for the 2019/20 financial year, dated 1 May 2020, as follows:**

#### **Members**

The Committee comprised of the following members:

America, D (DA) (Chairperson)  
 Makamba-Botya, N (EFF)  
 Maseko, LM (DA)  
 Smith, D (ANC)  
 Van der Westhuizen, AP (DA)

#### **Alternate members**

Allen, RI (DA)  
 Marran, P (ANC)  
 Mitchell, DG (DA)  
 Lili, A (ANC)  
 Schäfer, BA (DA)  
 Xego, M (EFF)

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The mandate of the Committee is to:

- 1.1.1 Maintain oversight over the executive member and his Department, including the implementation of legislation, and to hold them accountable to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament;
- 1.1.2 Consider and report on legislation, other matters and annual reports referred to it by the Speaker;
- 1.1.3 Evaluate the performance of municipalities and municipal entities in the province through the review of:
- 1.1.4 The annual reports submitted to the Provincial Parliament in terms of section 132(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003);
- 1.1.5 The oversight reports adopted by the respective municipal councils on those annual reports;
- 1.1.6 Any reports issued by the Auditor-General on the affairs of any municipality in the province;

- 1.1.7 The consolidated statements on the state of municipalities' budgets referred to in section 71(7) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003; and
- 1.1.8 Any other report or statement concerning the affairs of a municipality referred to the committee by the House.
- 1.2. In fulfilment of its mandate the Committee:
  - 1.2.1 facilitated public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee;
  - 1.2.2 conducted its business in a fair, open and transparent manner;
  - 1.2.3 promoted cooperative governance; and
  - 1.2.4 reported regularly to the House.

## **2. Reporting department**

Department of Local Government

## **3. Overview of Committee's activities**

3.1	Number of committee meetings	9
3.2	Number of oversight visits	2
3.3	Number of provincial bills considered	2
3.5	Number of public hearings	3

## **4. Oversight activities**

Being an election year the Committee conducted only one meeting during the first quarter. At its first meeting the Committee elected a chairperson in accordance with Standing Rule 82 (1).

The Standing Committee on Local Government's second meeting was a briefing by the Department on its 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan, organisational structure, mission, vision and core functions, key programmes and envisaged legislation. The briefing provided the members with an overview of the operations and core functions of the Department as well as a better understanding of the various programmes in the Department.

The Committee conducted four meetings during the third quarter. The Committee was briefed by the Auditor-General on the 2017/2018 Audit Outcomes of Municipalities in the Western Cape which was followed by a discussion with the Department of Local Government and Provincial Treasury on corrective measures at underperforming municipalities. The Committee also received the Department's 1st Quarterly Performance Report for April 2019 – June 2019. The Committee also deliberated on the Department of Local Government's Annual Report for the 2018/2019 financial year. The Committee further deliberated on Vote 14: Local Government, in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019] after which the Committee adopted its Report on the Schedule to the Bill.

During the fourth quarter the Committee conducted an oversight visit to Westridge Gardens and Lentegeur PTI (Informal Trading Area) and deliberated on Vote 14: Local Government, in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 3–2020]. The Committee supported the Vote and the report was adopted. The Standing Committee on Local Government was part of the Cluster B oversight visit to the Central Karoo and

Garden Route Regions on the impact of the drought in these Regions. The Cluster visit took place from 2 – 6 February 2020.

## **5. Legislation**

In the 2019/20 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

### **5.1 Provincial bills**

5.1.1 Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019]: Vote 14

5.1.2 Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 3–2020]: Vote 14

## **6. Financial particulars**

At the close of the 2019/20 financial year, expenditure attributed to the activities of the Committee accumulated to R 97 500.

## **2. Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works for the 2019/20 financial year, dated 1 May 2020, as follows:**

### **Members**

The Committee comprised of the following members:

Mitchell, DG (DA) Chairperson  
 America, D (DA)  
 Herron, BN (GOOD)  
 Mvimbi, LL (ANC)  
 Van der Westhuizen, AP (DA)

### **Alternate Members**

Baartman, DM (DA)  
 Dugmore, CM (ANC)  
 Nkondlo, ND (ANC)  
 Maseko, LM (DA)  
 Schäfer, BA (DA)

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 The mandate of the Committee is to:**

- 1.1.1 Maintain oversight over the Executive member and his Department and its Entity, including the implementation of legislation and to hold them accountable to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; and
- 1.1.2 Consider and report on legislation, other matters and Annual Reports referred to it by the Speaker.

## **1.2 In fulfillment of its mandate the Committee:**

- 1.2.1 Facilitated public participation and involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Committee;
- 1.2.2 Conducted its business in a fair, open and transparent manner;
- 1.2.3 Promoted co-operative governance; and.
- 1.2.4 Reported regularly to the House.

## **2. Reporting department**

Department of Transport and Public Works.

## **3. Reporting entity**

Government Motor Transport

## **4. Overview of Committee's activities**

4.1	Number of committee meetings	8
4.2	Number of oversight visits	2
4.3	Number of provincial bills considered	2
4.5	Number of public hearings	3

## **5. Oversight activities**

- 5.1 Being an election year the Committee conducted only one meeting during the first quarter. At its first meeting the Committee elected a chairperson in accordance with Standing Rule 82 (1).
- 5.2 The Standing Committee on Transport and Public Work's second meeting was a briefing by the Department on its 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan, organisational structure, mission, vision and core functions, key programmes and envisaged legislation. The briefing provided the members with an overview of the operations and core functions of the Department as well as a better understanding of the various programmes in the Department. During the Committee's meeting on 30 July 2019 at the Gene Louw Traffic College at Brackenfell the Committee was briefed on the Department's Road Safety Strategy and Public Transport Hub for the Western Cape. The Department also provided a demonstration of the in-vehicle technology that will assist Traffic Officers executing their duties. The Committee also received a briefing by the Department on the Provincial Property Committee's Annual Report for 2018 and the Premier's Annual Report for 2018 relating to provincial state land.
- 5.3 During the second quarter the Committee deliberated on the Annual Reports of the Department of Transport and Public Works and Government Motor Transport for the 2018/2019 financial year. The Committee further deliberated on Vote 10: Transport and Public Works, in the Schedule to the Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019] after which the Committee adopted its Report on the Schedule to the Bill.
- 5.4 During the fourth quarter the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works was part of the Cluster B oversight visit to the Central Karoo and Garden Route Regions on the impact of the drought in these Regions. The Committee also conducted an oversight visit to Mitchells Plain Train Station where the Committee

met with Mr R Maseko, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Prasa and deliberated on Vote 10: Transport and Public Works, in the Schedule to the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 3–2020]. The Committee supported the Vote and the report was adopted.

## **6. Legislation**

In the 2019/20 financial year, the Committee dealt with the following legislation:

### **6.1 Provincial bills**

6.1.1 Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 6–2019]: Vote 10

6.1.2 Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 3–2020]: Vote 10

## **7. Financial particulars**

At the close of the 2019/20 financial year, expenditure attributed to the activities of the Committee accumulated to R 46 757.

## **3. Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government on its oversight visit to Westridge Gardens and the Lentegeur Public Transport Interface (PTI) (Informal Trading Area) on Tuesday 18 February 2020 as follows:**

### **Delegation**

The delegation consisted of the following Members:

America, D (Chairperson) (DA)

Maseko, LM (DA)

Van der Westhuizen, AP (DA)

Apologies were received from Members Makamba-Botya, N (EFF) and Smith, D (ANC).

### **1. Introduction**

The Standing Committee on Local Government embarked on an oversight visit to Westridge Gardens and the Lentegeur Public Transfer Interface (PTI) (Informal Trading Area) on 18 February 2020. Mr R Williams, the Head of Recreation and Parks, briefed the delegation on the history of Westridge Gardens and accompanied it on a tour of the gardens.

At the Lentegeur PTI (Informal Trading Area), the delegation was briefed by Councillor E Jansen and Mr S Ngondo from the City of Cape Town's Department of Economic Development, after which it undertook a tour of the newly developed Public Transport Interface.

### **2. Westridge Gardens**

#### **2.1 Overview of the visit**

Westridge Gardens is situated in the residential part of Mitchells Plain and features a variety of significant botanical flora, including indigenous Cape Fynbos. There are also pathways for walks and enough grassy areas for picnics and for the taking of wedding photographs. A skateboard ramp situated in the park attracts the younger section of the population. Community concerts and festive programmes are held here annually, which include the popular summertime Concerts in the Park and the Mitchells Plain Festival.

## **2.2. Findings and observations**

At the official opening of the Rose Garden on 19 April 2011, a member of the Executive Mayoral Committee stated that Westridge Gardens was a model for the transformation of a public park and that the beautiful, peaceful, well-kept and well-utilised gardens could be regarded as the benchmark for future park improvement projects.

Westridge Gardens has been undergoing continuous changes over the last few years and has received funding from the Urban Renewal Fund and from ward allocations in Ward 78. Part of this funding was used for the establishment of a rose garden, which is now in full bloom.

The public open space at Westridge Gardens can be hired for events and small functions and it is frequently used for weddings and children's parties. Westridge Gardens offers the following:

### Features

- Variety of flora, including Cape Fynbos
- An indigenous dune
- A rose garden
- Water feature

### Facilities

- Play equipment that includes facilities for children with physical disabilities
- Skateboard ramp and park
- Grassed area
- Public toilets
- Benches
- Footpaths/tracks
- Cycling allowed
- Dogs on leashes allowed
- Parking
- Fenced-off/enclosed area

One of the main events hosted at the gardens is the DStv–Michells Plain Festival featuring more than 60 local artists, entertainers and DJs spread across two stages. More than 40 000 people attend the event and there are a variety of food, fashion, electronics and gadget stands. A massive military display featuring the SANDF is one of the highlights. All funds that are generated through these events are paid over to Recreation and Parks at the City of Cape Town.

Security at the gardens is one of the main challenges and, even though there is 24-hour security, the gardens often fall victim to vandalism. Proper high-mast floodlight systems would assist security guards during their night patrols.

All maintenance is budgeted for by Recreation and Parks and the Ward Committee. Boreholes and water tanks are used to irrigate the garden.

### **2.3. Acknowledgements**

The Standing Committee wishes to commend the City of Cape Town and in particular all councillors, ward councillors and officials involved with Westridge Gardens and notes the positive impact that the gardens has had on the community.

## **3. Lentegour Public Transport Interface (PTI) (Informal Trading Areas)**

### **3.1 Overview of the visit**

In light of the above, the Standing Committee visited the Lentegour Public Transfer Interface (PTI) (Informal Trading Area) in Mitchells Plain and met with councillors and officials from the City of Cape Town.

### **3.2. Findings and observations**

The Lentegour PTI is situated near the Lentegour Station and it initially started as an informal trading area without any formal licensing or control. When the City decided to construct the public transport interface there was a public participation process that included existing shop owners, informal traders and stakeholders. There are currently 177 trading bays, which were approved and there are about 200 traders.

The main aim of the project was to formalise the informal trading. An Area Coordinating Team was also established as part of the PTI, which is responsible for the coordination of the Lentegour Business Hub area. The Area Coordinating Team meets monthly and is chaired by Cllr Elton Jansen. The Area Coordinating Team provides a platform where informal traders can raise their concerns.

Some of the main challenges are vandalism and the safety of the traders as well as the community. The area is used by vagrants to sleep in and that creates an unsafe environment but this has not yet been addressed. The Area Coordinating Team plays an important role in creating synergy between the South African Police Service in Lentegour, City Law Enforcement and local security to ensure a safe environment for all.

Informal traders are often asked by drug dealers to keep illegal substances with the promise to be rewarded later, and that contributes to the stigma attached to informal traders.

It was highlighted that traders follow customers (feet). Informal traders are prepared to trade in areas that are not serviced because that is where the most pedestrians are. Traders will move from an area because there is no public transport to an area where either the taxis or busses operate from. That is why it is important to consult with informal traders and to get their input on the developing of trading areas.

The City uses a system called the Informal Trading Permit System (ITPS), which is information-technology-driven and which requires very little human interaction. When a



person applies for a permit, it is all captured on the system and the system will determine who gets a licence based on the captured information. It also assists the City to build a database of all the traders. The concern is that the information is not regularly updated and not everybody has access to technology and emails.

The Committee proceeded with the site visit to the newly constructed trading areas and interacted with some of the traders.

### **3.3. Acknowledgements**

The Standing Committee wishes to commend the City of Cape Town and in particular all councillors, ward councillors and officials involved with the Lentegour PTI and notes the positive impact it has had on the informal traders and the community at large.

## **4. Report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works on its oversight visit to the Mitchells Plain Train Station on Wednesday 19 February 2020 as follows:**

### **Delegation**

The delegation consisted of the following Members:

America, D (DA)  
 Mitchell, D (Chairperson) (DA)  
 Van der Westhuizen, AP (DA)

Apologies were received from Members Herron, B (GOOD) and Mvimbi, L (ANC).

### **1. Overview of the visit**

The Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works conducted an oversight visit to the Mitchells Plain Train Station (MPTS) on Wednesday 19 February 2020. During the visit a meeting was held with Mr R Maseko, the Acting CEO of Prasa Western Cape. The purpose of the visit and the meeting was to observe what was happening at the MPTS, what the infrastructure damages were, to discuss the way forward and the plans Prasa had to turn the situation around. The visit to MPTS was followed by a visit to the Mitchells Plain Transport Hub to see the impact of the lack of rail transport on the taxi and bus transport services and on the community of Mitchells Plain.

### **2. Findings and observations**

Mr Maseko highlighted that the central line has not been operational since 3 November 2019 due to continued vandalism. The rail network is a system and Mitchells Plain, Kapteinsklip and Lentegour are unfortunately at the lower end of the rail network and the community of Mitchells Plain is therefore affected by the damages that occur at the upper-end of the rail network. All the overhead cables, which supply power to the trains between the Bonteheuwel and Philippi stations, have been stolen. The stations that are affected are Netreg, Heideveld, Nyanga, Philippi, Lentegour, Mitchells Plain and Kapteinsklip.

Prasa had two major programmes to improve the Metro Train Service before the service was suspended in November 2019. The first was the re-signalling programme, which would have ensured better control for trains to move at higher speeds. The second was to

provide newer trains that were suitable to operate on these lines. The trains that Prasa currently have were designed in the United Kingdom in 1957.

Prasa had discussions with various stakeholders and the community at large regarding possible solutions to the problems. The two major solutions were to secure the rail reserve by building a wall to limit movement within the rail reserve and the rebuilding of the rail network from Bonteheuwel to Philippi.

Currently Prasa is busy with the procurement process for the building of the wall and the procurement process will be completed by April 2020, and it would also include the rail reserve between Cape Town and Woodstock. The height of the wall will be approximately 3,6 metres, of which 0,6 metres would be under the ground to prevent tunnelling. The wall has been tested at the Nyanga station and Prasa envisages to have the central line back in limited operation by no later than September 2020.

Mr Maseko further highlighted that a major challenge has been the protection services and security contracts, and Prasa was in the process of establishing a more formalised security contract. When the security contract was cancelled, Prasa was left very vulnerable and that was when the vandalism increased.

It was also highlighted that Prasa has been extremely unstable at the top and this has had a negative impact on its operations and responsibilities.

The Committee expressed its concern at the lack of action by Prasa when the vandalism started. The fact that there was no electricity on the central line made it easy for criminals to steal cables.

The Committee was informed that a dedicated prosecutor has been allocated by the National Prosecuting Authority to Prasa to attend to cases relating to cable theft and Prasa-related matters.

Cables are clearly marked with Prasa stamps but once the cables are melted the stamps cannot be identified.

The Committee proceeded with the site visit to the Mitchells Plain Transport Hub.

### **3. Resolutions**

The Committee RESOLVED that it would invite Prasa and the Administrator of Prasa to brief the Committee regularly on its recovery plan and turnaround strategy.

### **4. Acknowledgements**

The Standing Committee wishes to thank Mr Maseko, Acting Chief Executive Officer: Prasa, for the briefing on the current situation at the Mitchells Plain Train Station and the envisaged corrective measures. The Committee also welcomed his willingness to meet with the Standing Committee at future dates.

## **5. REPORT OF THE SOCIAL CLUSTER VISIT WEEK 11 TO 14 FEBRUARY 2020**

### **1. Introduction**

The Social Cluster Visit Week is a key mechanism established by the Western Cape Provincial Parliament to achieve its constitutional oversight mandate in the province. It is intended to ensure that Members of the Provincial Parliament, through its standing committees, continuously keep abreast of developments and delivery issues in the province. It also affords the opportunity to undertake oversight visits and to interact with communities in order to get first-hand information on the needs and challenges that are confronting people. The delegation also visited projects that are implemented by various government departments in the province. The Social Cluster Visit Week afforded the Social Cluster's standing committees the opportunity to visit the West Coast area. The following standing committees were part of the Social Cluster Visit Week:

Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport;  
 Standing Committee on Education;  
 Standing Committee on Health;  
 Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters; and  
 Standing Committee on Social Development.

### **2. The delegation**

The delegation of the Social Cluster Visit Week included the following Members:

Mackenzie, RD (DA) (Leader of the delegation)  
 Allen, RI (DA)  
 BakuBaku-Vos, NG (ANC)  
 Bans, AP (ANC)  
 Bosman, G (DA)  
 Botha, LJ (DA)  
 Christians, FC (ACDP)  
 Kama, M (ANC)  
 Philander, WF (DA)  
 Sayed, MK (ANC)  
 Windvogel, R (ANC)

### **3. Oversight visit to the Riebeeck Valley Special Needs School in Riebeeck West on Tuesday 11 February 2020**

The delegation was welcomed by:

Mr A Arendse, Head of Inclusive and Specialised Learner and Educator Support (ISLES);  
 Mr J Benjamin, District Director for the Cape Winelands Western Cape Education Department (WCED) District Office;  
 Mr J Petersen, Principal of the Riebeeck Valley Special Needs School;  
 Mr JC van Wyk, Service Manager at the Education District Office on the West Coast;  
 Mr NV Garka, Circuit Manager for the area;  
 Mr R Manuel, Provincial Programme Manager of the Riebeeck Valley Special Needs School;  
 Mr R Rickett, Deputy Principal of the Riebeeck Valley Special Needs School;  
 Ms F Samson, Chairperson of the School Governing Body (SGB); and  
 Ms Rossouw, Counsellor at the school.

The Chairperson opened proceedings and allowed for brief introductions.

### **3.1 Salient points pertaining to the Riebeeck Valley Special Needs School**

- 3.1.1 The motto of the Riebeeck Valley Special Needs School (the School) is “If a child cannot learn the way you teach, maybe you should teach the way they learn: Ignacio Estrada”.
- 3.1.2 The School’s vision is to become “a special school of excellence”. The mission is to allow each learner to discover and develop skills at their highest possible level to enable them to become responsible citizens who can make a meaningful economic contribution to society.
- 3.1.3 The School was registered as a section 21 school, which means it manages its own finances.
- 3.1.4 The school complement consists of 358 learners and 54 staff members (including 23 staff teachers). Currently, there are 25 learners from farm schools admitted for the year.
- 3.1.5 The School has in-migration learners from various areas. The School also accommodates referrals from different circuits, across districts and provinces, and transfers from other schools.
- 3.1.6 The teacher–learner ratio is 1:35. There are mild to moderate intellectually challenged learners and severely intellectually disabled learners.
- 3.1.7 The School Admission Management Information (SAMI) system is designed for learners between the ages of 14 to 18. The School has implemented training sessions since 25 February 2020 to teach learners to utilise the SAMI system.
- 3.1.8 The School provides support to high-needs learners in line with the Department of Education’s policy “Education White Paper 6: Special Needs Education”, which promotes building an inclusive education and training system for all learners. Learners who apply as “high-needs learners” must submit an application that is processed by district psychologists and sifting panels headed by the Provincial Coordinator. However, final approval is given by the Provincial Director for Special Education Support.
- 3.1.9 The School’s nutrition programme includes five meals per day: Breakfast is served at 07:00, all learners receive sandwiches at 10:00 and all learners are served lunch at 14:00. Learners who live in the hostel are given dinner at 17:15 and then a sandwich and a beverage at 19:30. This is supplemented by in-season vegetables from the mixed farming and feeding scheme garden.
- 3.1.10 The School does not have a budget for learner transport. The School is responsible for the maintenance of its fleet and the drivers receive a stipend, which is covered by contributions made by parents. Transport is provided to learners who live within a 100 kilometre radius of the School.
- 3.1.11 The After-School Game Changer programme includes sporting codes such as rugby, soccer, netball, swimming classes presented by the National Sea Rescue Institute, cricket, table tennis and drama.
- 3.1.12 The School has three hostels, which can accommodate 250 learners.
- 3.1.13 In terms of the School Safety Plan, the SGB was in negotiations with a new armed response unit to assist the School. The Safer Schools Programme provides the School with security during the school holidays. School perimeters are closed off as part of a school project and a skills development initiative by its welding department.

### **3.2 Key achievements**

- 3.2.1 The School received the Premier's award for the best-implemented programme or project in 2015 and the School won the Provincial Secondary School leadership category in 2018.
- 3.2.2 In terms of sport, the School represents Boland, the Western Cape and National Athletes in different sporting codes every year. The School has also hosted the National Cross Country Championship for under 16s and under 18s.
- 3.2.3 The School won the National Feeding Scheme Garden Completion in Category A in 2012, 2013 and 2019.
- 3.2.4 In 2019, the School achieved 100 per cent in terms of placement of final-year learners either to jobs and/or Further Education and Training (FET) colleges.
- 3.2.5 The School continues to partner with the private sector and educational institutions for experimental learning programmes and/or placements of learners.
- 3.2.6 Four years ago, a company called Lidenberg Racing approached the Headmaster of the School to offer a learner, Mr Ruben Adonis, the opportunity to be an intern at the company. After a year, the company offered Mr Adonis a full-time job. Currently, another learner has also been offered a six-month internship at the same company.

### **3.3 Challenges reported by the School**

- 3.3.1 The School does not have the funds to maintain and/or replace old vehicles. Additionally, the School receives many referrals of learners from farm schools, which create transport challenges in terms of access to farms, and more specifically, inaccessible roads to farms. Parent involvement in trying to resolve this matter is practically non-existent for various reasons. However, if learners utilise the hostel, transport challenges are alleviated.
- 3.3.2 The School's infrastructure is more than 150 years old and needs urgent repair, specifically in terms of plumbing, new roofing of the hostel buildings and electrical rewiring.
- 3.3.3 The School has applied to the Municipality to close the road between the School's different premises. This is an urgent matter to safeguard learners as the road has created the opportunity for criminals to access the school building. However, the School has not received a response to this request.
- 3.3.4 The School has also requested relief from the Municipality regarding its monthly bills from Eskom, which averages at R180 000 per month. So far, the request has not been approved.
- 3.3.5 Medical care for learners in the hostel is non-existent.
- 3.3.6 In terms of the hostels, the following needs urgent attention:
  - 3.3.6.1 fixing of rooms and ceilings;
  - 3.3.6.2 plumbing and electrical work (listed for 2021 on the list of the Department of Public Works);
  - 3.3.6.3 resurfacing of the road to the girls' hostel; and
  - 3.3.6.4 inadequate ablution facilities for the girls' hostel.

### **3.4 Resolutions and actions**

- 3.4.1 **The delegation resolved that:**

- 3.4.1.1 The delegation studied the recommendations that were made by the Social Cluster in its Visit Week reports from the Fourth and Fifth Parliaments' visits to the West Coast.
- 3.4.1.2 The WCED should brief the Standing Committee on Education on the special needs schools in the province.
- 3.4.1.3 The Standing Committee on Education to conduct an oversight visit to Graafwater High School to inspect the school and see how this benefits the neighbouring communities once it has been converted to a school of skills as proposed by WCED West Coast District.
- 3.4.2 The delegation **recommended** that the WCED, together with the West Coast District Office, should encourage the Riebeeck Valley Special Needs School to engage with other special needs schools to replicate the strategies utilised by other schools when seeking funds from companies and industries.
- 3.4.3 **The delegation REQUESTED the following information:**
  - 3.4.3.1 A breakdown of the number (provided in percentages) of learners who enrolled in 2015, the number of learners who passed in 2019 and the number of learners who dropped out of the School. This breakdown should apply to levels 1 to 4.
  - 3.4.3.2 A breakdown of the number of learners who completed level 4 and who have been absorbed into the workforce over the past three years, as well as the number of learners who enrolled at FET colleges.
  - 3.4.3.3 A report detailing what the WCED is doing to credit or assess the courses at special needs schools or schools of skills.
  - 3.4.3.4 A brief report detailing whether the two teachers mentioned by the Principal of the School, who have been approached to teach learners at the School, are registered and whether they have been assessed by the WCED.
  - 3.4.3.5 A breakdown of the 54 staff complement, indicating the number of WCED posts and School Governing Body posts.

#### **4. Oversight visit to the Radie Kotze Hospital on Tuesday 11 February 2020**

The Social Cluster delegation visited the Radie Kotze Hospital (the Hospital) in Piketberg, a district hospital in the Malmesbury health district of the West Coast region. Dr Harwkridge, Regional Manager, and other departmental officials welcomed the delegation.

##### **4.1 Salient points pertaining to the Radie Kotze Hospital.**

- 4.1.1 The Radie Kotze Hospital, a district hospital, is a level 1 hospital that renders a full package of level 1 care-related services. The Hospital is a 45-bed hospital. Currently it has a total of 31 beds that consist of 7 beds for surgical, 8 beds for paediatric, 2 beds for maternity and 14 medical beds.
- 4.1.2 During the 2019/20 financial year, the average length of stay of patients was 3.0 days, while there was a 72% emergency centre intake. The bed-utilisation rate of the Hospital was 98%.
- 4.1.3 The delegation was informed that HIV and Aids, tuberculosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) were relatively high and these diseases were the leading causes of premature mortalities in the West Coast Sub- district. In addition, assault with a sharp object and transport motor vehicle accidents were also reported as leading causes of mortalities in the district.

- 4.1.4 The current budget expenditure of the Hospital is R19, 815m, with a deficit of R2m a month during the 2019/20 financial year.
- 4.1.5 The Hospital reported that it recorded a total headcount of 3 894 for the Outpatient Department (OPD), a headcount of 10 524 for the emergency centre, 209 deliveries in the facility, and 543 operations for tonsils, endoscopies, and colposcopies were also performed at the facility during the 2018/19 financial year.
- 4.1.6 The delegation was informed that, in 2017, after the fire that destroyed 70% of the Swartland Hospital, the Radie Kotze Hospital had to take on a significant extra load, including violent psychiatric patients for seclusion and 72-hour observation.
- 4.1.7 The Hospital also admits referrals from the Moorreesburg Primary Healthcare Centre.
- 4.1.8 The Hospital further reported that there are no child morbidity and mortality cases for children under 5 since 2016 and no current maternal deaths in the current financial year.

## **4.2 Challenges relating to the Radie Kotze Hospital**

- 4.2.1 The hospital has a shortage of staff and this has led to staff burnout, low staff morale and under resourcing.
- 4.2.2 The Hospital could not obtain locum support staff due to budget constraints
- 4.2.3 There is a lack of senior on-site supervisors for medical, nursing and corporate staff.
- 4.2.3 The Hospital operates for 24 hours a day, but there are no administrative staff members on duty during the night shift.
- 4.2.4 Staff attitude and customer service were reported as major challenges at the Hospital. The delegation was informed that community members were not happy with the treatment they received from staff members. Unfortunately, members of the public were not able to lodge their grievances in writing.
- 4.2.5 The aging workforce was also highlighted as a challenge as senior experienced staff members were retiring.
- 4.2.6 The waiting area at the Emergency Centre has only one sister and one staff nurse, and one doctor on call.
- 4.2.7 There is an increase in mental health patients from the surrounding communities due to substance abuse.
- 4.2.8 The aging infrastructure was reported as a major challenge and the facility needs to be upgraded. Furthermore, there are no ventilators and air-conditioners in the seclusion room.
- 4.2.9 The driving distance to referral hospitals in Paarl or Cape Town is 150 km.
- 4.2.10 X-rays are only done five days a week, from Monday to Friday. On weekends the office is closed and emergency patients are referred to Paarl.
- 4.2.11 There is a high rate of TB treatment defaulters that can be ascribed to migration. Due to the seasonal nature of farm work, it makes it difficult for the Department of Health to trace farm workers for treatment.
- 4.2.12 Security was also reported as a challenge at the Hospital.

## **4.3 Resolutions and actions**

### **4.3.1 The delegation RECOMMENDED that:**

- 4.3.1.1 The Hospital must consider putting a complaints and compliments box in a place that is easily accessible to patients and the public.
- 4.3.1.2 The Hospital must activate a complaints hotline and the details must be put on notice boards to allow patients who cannot write to call and lodge their grievances.

### **4.3.2 Information requested**

The delegation requested the following information from the Department of Health:

- 4.3.2.1 A staffing plan for the West Coast Region.
- 4.3.2.2 Detailed information on the vacancy rate of the Hospital.
- 4.3.2.3 Detailed information on a strategy in place to deal with staff and patient satisfaction at the Hospital.
- 4.3.2.4 A breakdown of the cost of the damage caused by mental patients in the past three years.
- 4.3.2.5 A detailed report on the number of complaints that were lodged and resolved during the 2019/20 financial year.
- 4.3.2.6 The total cost of the security company contract for the Radie Kotze District Hospital, the number of security officers on duty per shift and how the ratio of security on duty is determined.

## **5. Oversight visit to the West Coast Regional Office of the Department of Social Development (DSD) on Wednesday 12 February 2020**

The Social Cluster delegation visited the DSD regional office in Vredendal. Dr Rossouw, DSD Regional Manager, and Mr Macdonald, Social Worker Manager, on the West Coast welcomed the delegation and led the presentation on the basket of services that are offered by the DSD in Vredendal and the surrounding areas.

### **5.1 Salient points pertaining to the DSD West Coast Regional Office**

- 5.1.1 The DSD regional office in Vredendal falls under the Matzikama Municipality and provides services to 18 towns with 20 000 households and a total of 71 045 residents in accordance with the 2007 population data by Statistics SA.
- 5.1.2 The core responsibilities of the office are to provide services to persons living with disabilities, older persons, and substance abuse programmes, after-hour child protection services, registration of ECDs in collaboration with Grassroots and ELRU, probation services, victim empowerment services and community development services.
- 5.1.3 The Department also provides services that include child protection services, social crime prevention and victim empowerment programmes, safety placements, foster-care placements and family preservation services. During the visit, the Department reported that they were also working with teen parents, fathers, mothers and grandmother-headed families and foster families.
- 5.1.4 The regional office has a total staff establishment of 120 personnel of which 29 officials are allocated to the DSD Vredendal office.
- 5.1.5 The funded NGOs in Vredendal have a total of 10 social workers:
  - 5.1.5.1 Badisa has three for children and families;
  - 5.1.5.2 MADA has three for substance abuse and VEP programmes;
  - 5.1.5.3 Onse Kaia has one for the shelter;
  - 5.1.5.4 Olifantsrivier APD has two for disabilities; and
  - 5.1.5.5 Namaqua Treatment Centre has one for the substance abuse programme.
- 5.1.6 The Department reported that it is planning to revisit its working agreement with the NGOs to cover the vast majority of the geographic areas, especially the farms in outlying areas.



5.1.7 It was also reported that the region has an additional five social workers at sector departmental level, that consist of:

5.1.7.1 One social worker for the Department of Education;

5.1.7.2 One social worker for SAPS; and

5.1.7.3 Three social workers for Correctional Services.

5.1.8 A child protection online course for all DSD social workers in the region was rolled out to assist social workers to manage records online.

5.1.9 It was reported that training on the Screening, Identification, and Assessment and Support (SIAS) document was not always implemented for the DSD offices in the West Coast Region.

5.1.10 The DSD office in Vredendal has an allocation of 11 vehicles in total that consist of one Bakkie, one kombi, and nine sedan GG vehicles. It was reported that 23 DSD official drivers share the 11 vehicles.

5.1.11 The office reported that it also links young people to opportunities by continuously supporting and recruiting young people for the Chrysalis Academy, the Huguenot College, universities, the West Coast College, the PAY internship, linking young people with the EPWP and CWP programmes and employment opportunities at Shoprite Checkers.

5.1.12 Furthermore, the office has established successful collaboration and partnerships with various stakeholders in the region, such as a close working relationship with Landelike Gemeenskapsontwikkeling since the establishment of the NPO to arrange life-skills training for the EPWP interns.

5.1.13 The Department is also part of the Drought Humanitarian Relief Work Stream Project that was established in January 2018. The aim of the project is to identify households and beneficiaries in the Matzikama SDA that were affected by the drought in the Matzikama Municipality. Furthermore, the DSD office also participates in the Citizen Interface Project that is led by the Department of Local Government to focus on ECD and economic development, and it also participates in the IDP processes of the Matzikama Municipality.

5.1.14 The child health and immunisation statistics in the West Coast Region are low.

5.1.15 It was reported that 14% of the population in the West Coast Region are HIV positive and 24% has TB.

5.1.16 There is a need for Community Development Practitioners and Assistant Development Practitioners in the West Coast Region to assist the NGOs in providing services in the outlying areas.

5.1.17 The Department reported that there was a discussion with the Department of Community Safety to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of the Chrysalis Satellite Academy in Vredendal.

5.1.18 There is a need for a special focus on the Substance Abuse Programme and the Victim Empowerment Programme in the West Coast Region.

## **5.2 Challenges as reported by the West Coast DSD office**

5.2.1 There is a shortage of social workers at the DSD West Coast Regional Office. Currently, the office has 9 social workers, 3 auxiliary workers, and 3 Assistant Community Development Practitioners.

5.2.2 It was reported that the norm, as proposed for the ISDM model for the province, is 1 social worker: 4 500 population and the supervisor ratio of social workers is 1:6. However, due to the shortage of staff, the office has 1 social worker supervisor who manages 8 social workers. Furthermore, the caseload of social workers in the DSD

Vredendal office is 1 social worker for 8 282 of the population instead of 1 for every 4 500. In addition, the long driving distances need to be taken into account when serving clients who live in farming communities.

- 5.2.3 The counselling room in the DSD office is not suitable to conduct interviews with clients. A special room in a discreet area away from the noise and distraction is needed.
- 5.2.4 The school dropout rate in the region is high.
- 5.2.5 It was reported that teenage pregnancy is relatively high and accounts for 17% of births in the area.
- 5.2.6 There is high rate of illegal immigrants with improper documentation in the area.
- 5.2.7 The DSD reported that there was a high number of children in the area who did not have a birth certificate. This makes it difficult for the children to attend school and to apply for SASSA grants.
- 5.2.8 The placement of young people in job opportunities is a challenge due to their inadequate skills and a lack of mentorship. However, it was reported that Chrysalis was busy compiling a database for the placement of young people in the area.

### **5.3 Resolutions and actions**

#### **5.3.1 The delegation resolved that:**

- 5.3.1.1 Officials of the Western Cape departments of Social Development, Health and Education be invited to brief the Standing Committee on Social Development on how government departments manage and share data with each other with a special focus on who manages the different categories of government data.
- 5.3.1.2 The Department of Transport and Public Works brief the Social Cluster on the allocation of government vehicles to government departments in the province.

#### **5.3.2 Information requested**

The delegation requested the DSD to submit the following information:

- 5.3.2.1 A copy of the staffing assessment report and the request for additional staff for the West Coast Region submitted to the DSD head office in 2018.
- 5.3.2.2 A detailed report on the number of children not in school and the number of the children who are SASSA grant beneficiaries.
- 5.3.2.3 A report on the number of social workers in the DSD Moorreesburg office and detailed information on the case backlog of the office.
- 5.3.2.4 A copy of the Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support document.
- 5.3.2.5 A report on the school dropout rate in the West Coast Region, the causes for the dropout and the challenges faced by young people in the region.
- 5.3.2.6 Detailed information on the number of children who are currently placed in foster care and who cannot attend the schooling system due to not having a birth certificate.
- 5.3.2.7 Detailed information on the vehicle allocation for the DSD offices in the West Coast Region.
- 5.3.2.8 Detailed information on the number of child-headed households in the West Coast Region.
- 5.3.2.9 Detailed information on the DSD programmes that aim to combat Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder in the region.
- 5.3.2.10 The Department of Social Development must provide the geographic spread of the areas where the workshops or community engagements on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Disorder were conducted in the current financial year and set out the future plans of the Department to deal with the problem.

## **6. Oversight visit to the Vredendal Cape Access e-Centre on Wednesday 12 February 2020**

Mr H Arendse from the Department of the Premier and Ms J Stewe, the Centre Manager, delivered a presentation to the delegation.

The need for an e-centre at the Thusong Service Centre was identified by all the stakeholders in Vredendal. The role players were the Western Cape Government, the Matzikama Municipality, different government departments, community organisations and the community. A community questionnaire was conducted by the Thusong Service Centre and the study showed that there was an urgent need for this service in the community. After successful negotiations between the Thusong Manager and Cape Access, the Vredendal Access e-Centre was opened in 2015.

### **6.1 Salient points pertaining to the Vredendal Cape Access e-Centre**

- 6.1.1 There are 18 computers at the Cape Access e-Centre.
- 6.1.2 The e-Centre assists citizens to make use of computers, gives access to the internet, provides basic computer training, offers accredited e-skills training and provides access to government information and services.
- 6.1.3 The e-Centre provides training courses that are accredited by Microsoft.
- 6.1.4 The International Certificate in Digital Literacy (ICDL) training is provided to citizens who are focused on developing the community.
- 6.1.5 All trainers are trained according to uniform standards for ICDL.
- 6.1.6 Training at the e-Centre takes place on Wednesdays from 09:00 to 10:00.
- 6.1.7 Educational Early Childhood Development Training takes place every Thursday for Grade R to Grade 7 learners.
- 6.1.8 All positions at the e-Centre are on a contract basis.
- 6.1.9 The e-Centre has about 120 users per day.
- 6.1.10 The e-Centre is in partnership with Unisa, Digital Learner Adviser and the Parenthood Academy.

### **6.2 Challenges as reported by the Vredendal Cape Access e-Centre**

- 6.2.1 The e-Centre does not have enough paper for all the requests for printing made daily.
- 6.2.2 The space of the e-Centre is small and cannot accommodate the number of people who wish to attend training.
- 6.2.3 The e-Centre currently has 155 people on the training waiting list.
- 6.2.4 The portable air-conditioning system does not function properly for the set-up of the e-Centre.
- 6.2.5 The college students do not utilise the computer rooms at the college and this creates an influx of people at the e-Centre.

### **6.3 Information requested**

- 6.3.1 The delegation requested the Department of the Premier to provide the following information:

- 6.3.1.1 A breakdown of the cost for sustaining the Cape Access e-Centre.
- 6.3.1.2 A copy of the Service Level Agreement between the Department of the Premier and the Matzikama Municipality.
- 6.3.1.3 The plan of action to increase the space for training rooms and the installation of a proper air-conditioning system.
- 6.3.1.4 A report on how the location of e-Centres is determined.
- 6.3.1.5 Copies of the latest audit reports for all the Cape Access e-Centres.

## **7. Oversight visit to the Clanwilliam Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) on Wednesday 12 February 2020**

The Clanwilliam CYCC is a DSD facility situated in Clanwilliam. The facility currently accommodates 60 boys between the ages of 12 and 21. It can accommodate up to 100 residents. The services of the centre were previously outsourced and were rendered by Bosasa, a service provider that was liquidated in October 2019. After the liquidation, the Department of Social Development took over and is providing the services in-house. The Clanwilliam facility is a registered CYCC that provides care to boys between the ages of 12 and 17 who are awaiting trial in terms of the Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005), and to boys between the ages of 18 and 21 who display challenging behaviour in terms of the Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008). It was reported that the boys are kept in groups according to levels: boys in level 1 are least restricted and once they are released from the centre, some are reunited with their families while others are placed in foster care homes and community-based care; boys in level 2 are placed in children's homes; boys in level 3 are placed in a secure environment and are dealt with in terms of the Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005); and boys in level 4 are dealt with in terms of the Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008). The function of the Clanwilliam CYCC is to provide care services, empowerment and development services, support services and sustainability services. In all CYCC in the province, the activities and education are structured to ensure that children are able to continue their participation outside of the facility.

### **7.1 Salient points pertaining to the Clanwilliam CYCC**

- 7.1.1 In October 2019, the contract of Bosasa with the DSD was terminated by liquidators before its initial termination date of May 2020.
- 7.1.2 The DSD reported that once the Bosasa corruption scandal broke, the Department started the migration process from outsourcing to insourcing the services of the centre.
- 7.1.3 On 1 November 2019, the DSD migrated its services from outsourcing to Bosasa to insourcing. The transition was successful and was done without disrupting the residents.
- 7.1.4 The Clanwilliam CYCC building belongs to the Department of Transport and Public Works.
- 7.1.5 The DSD appointed staff members to provide the services from mid-October to November 2019. The newly recruited officials received training and a second recruitment drive is in process.
- 7.1.6 The DSD informed the delegation that it retained 100 of the 190 personnel who were previously employed by Bosasa.
- 7.1.7 The DSD also reported that Bosasa educators were not fully trained. Some of those who were working at different CYCCs in the province had criminal records and unsuitable qualifications. This resulted in the Department not appointing them.
- 7.1.8 The DSD reported that it bought everything that Bosasa previously owned in all the provincial CYCCs, including vehicles. However, the cars and buses bought from

Bosasa are standing still due to some government transport issues. The centre is currently leasing the cars and the buses.

- 7.1.9 The DSD is providing training in diversion programmes to all Social Workers at CYCCs in the province.
- 7.1.10 The DSD is planning to roll out approved registered programmes to all CYCCs in the province.
- 7.1.11 The Department is establishing efficient reporting mechanisms and safety audits for all children in the CYCCs.
- 7.1.12 The delegation was informed that the DSD is busy with a pilot programme to ensure that Grade 11 learners continue with their schooling curriculum while in the CYCCs. It was reported that 12 girls have been given access to a public school through this programme.
- 7.1.13 One of the biggest successes of the Clanwilliam Child and Youth Care Centre is its brass band music choir.
- 7.1.14 The delegation was informed that the cost per child in a CYCC for holistic care is approximately R33 000 per month.

## **7.2 Challenges reported by the Clanwilliam Youth Care facility**

- 7.2.1 The new building within the facility has not been officially handed over to the DSD by the Department of Transport and Public works because the locks were damaged by the contractor. The handing over of the new building was scheduled for December 2019 due to the damaged locks. The Department of Transport and Public Works undertook to hand over the building at the end of February 2020.
- 7.2.2 The space at the Clanwilliam CYCC is inadequate and there is limited office and storage space.
- 7.2.3 The Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones are not connected due to poor the internet connection.
- 7.2.4 There is a challenge regarding educators at the Centre. The Department is struggling to attract and retain educators due to the difference between the salaries and benefits offered by the DSD and the Department of Education. OSD is not provided for educators at CYCCs due to the prescripts of the Department of Public Service and Administration.
- 7.2.5 The Department reported that educators appointed by the Western Cape Education Department are getting better salaries and benefits as compared to the educators at the DSD. Furthermore, educators at the DSD are working in a high-risk environment and do not get danger allowance.
- 7.2.6 A court case by NEHAWU was reported as a challenge for the CYCCs across the country. The Department reported that the former national Minister of Social Development promised Bosasa officials that they would be protected and would not be dismissed or retrenched if they embarked on a strike.
- 7.2.7 The Department reported that NEHAWU did not want the Department to do a background check of staff, although some employees had criminal records. They wanted the Department to absorb all employees who were employed by Bosasa at CYCCs.
- 7.2.8 The Department highlighted that Bosasa was a private company and the transfer of staff was allowed between private companies if one company is liquidated. However, there is no legislation that governs the transfer of staff from a private entity to a government department.
- 7.2.9 The centre needs the urgent installation of the air-conditioners and a prefabricated structure that will be used as a roofing shade over an open space next to the new building.

- 7.2.10 The dormitories require an upgrade and new mattresses are also needed.
- 7.2.11 During the visit the delegation was informed that some of the children did not want to be released from the facility. They opted to commit petty crime or to misbehave to get punishment so that their stay could be extended.

### **7.3 Resolutions and actions**

- 7.3.1 The delegation resolved to visit the CYCCs in the Cape metropolitan area.

#### **7.3.2 The delegation recommended that:**

- 7.3.2.1 There is an urgent need to lobby for better salary structures for all educators at the CYCCs.
- 7.3.2.2 The Department should consider installing the air-conditioners and a prefabricated structure that will be utilised as a roofing shade over an open space next to the new building.
- 7.3.2.3 The centre needs additional new mattresses.
- 7.3.2.4 The Department must consider upgrading the dormitories.

#### **7.3.3 Requested information**

The delegation requested the Department of Social Development to submit the following documents:

- 7.3.3.1 A report on integrating children back into communities and on the support that is available to them once they exit the facility.
- 7.3.3.2 A detailed report on the incident of the child who refused to be released from the Clanwilliam CYCC. Did the Department conduct an inspection at the home of the boy to determine the reason behind his refusal to be reunited with his family? The report should include how the Department protect children who do not want to exit the facility.
- 7.3.3.3 Detailed information on how the Department caters for religious and cultural differences and the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning/queer clients at CYCCs.
- 7.3.3.4 A report on the measures used by the Department to determine the success of the CYCCs in the province.
- 7.3.3.5 A report on children placed in terms of the Children's Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008) to ensure that the system is not giving up on them.
- 7.3.3.6 A copy of the Safety Audit Report for children in the Clanwilliam CYCC once the audit is completed.
- 7.3.3.7 A detailed report on the complaints received from children at the Clanwilliam CYCC through the complaints box.
- 7.3.3.8 A detailed budget allocation of CYCCs in the Cape metropolitan area versus the CYCCs in rural areas, and the monthly expenses of children in rural areas versus the monthly expenses of children in the CYCCs in the metropolitan area.

#### **7.3.4 Recommendation**

The WCPP Research Unit to conduct research on the management, sustainability and success of CYCCs in Africa.

## 8. Oversight visit to the Velddrif High School on Thursday 13 February 2020

The delegation was welcomed by Ms A van der Westhuizen, the Principal of Velddrif High School. She was accompanied by Mr J Van Wyk, ICT Service Manager for the Education District Office on the West Coast, Mr A Retief, and Circuit Manager for the Education District Office on the West Coast. They were accompanied by Ms Sandra Crafford, Chairperson of the School Governing Body (SBG), Mr E Karolus, Deputy Chairperson of the SBG, Ms Z de Koker, Treasurer of the SGB, and Ms D Turner, Member of the SBG.

The Chairperson opened proceedings and allowed for brief introductions.

### 8.1 Salient points pertaining to the presentation of the Velddrif High School

- 8.1.1 In 2017, Saldanha Bay had 23 ordinary public schools, accommodating 17 584 learners. No-fee schools accounted for 52,2% of all schools, while 10 out of 23 schools (43,5%) had library facilities, and the learner–teacher ratio was 53:5.
- 8.1.2 The district’s matric pass rate was 84,3% in 2017, which was above the province’s average matric pass rate. The pass rate is, however, declining as it was 87,9% in 2015. The Grade 12 dropout rate in 2017 was 31,3%.
- 8.1.3 The Velddrif High School (the School) is an Afrikaans-medium section 21 school that was founded in 1890. The school caters for learners from Grade R to Grade 12, which makes it a combined school. There were 458 learners enrolled in 2019, which included 29 Grade R learners, of which 239 were female and 219 were male. The school fees are R850 per month for 10 months and all fees are paid before 31 January of each year. The total fee amount is R8 500 with a discount of 10%.
- 8.1.4 The School offers a very limited curriculum choice for a high school (only two subjects per group).
- 8.1.5 All 26 Grade 12 learners who were enrolled at the school passed matric in 2019. This includes 19 learners who achieved bachelor passes, four learners who achieved diplomas and three learners who achieved higher certificate passes.
- 8.1.6 The School has 17 classrooms, two science laboratories, a specialist classroom, a workshop, a computer laboratory and a library.
- 8.1.7 The School has 19 teachers. The school also employs a groundsman, two cleaners, a secretary and a financial officer. Two of the teachers teach both primary and high-school learners.
- 8.1.8 With regard to learner transport, four learners from Dwarskersbos and two learners from Kersefontein make use of school transport.
- 8.1.9 The school has no nutrition scheme, but there is a community project that feeds 15 learners per day.
- 8.1.10 The majority of Grade 8 learners attend boarding schools and the majority of Grade 9 learners attend the West Coast College.
- 8.1.11 The budget expenditure on maintenance projects was as follows:

2017	Maintenance	R50 575,94
2018	Maintenance	R36 006,28
2019	Maintenance	R39 287,79
	Vibracrete walls	<u>R12 000,00</u>
		R51 287,79
2020	Install CCTV	R155 585,80
	Slide gates for entry and exit	R12 360,00
	Restore classroom ceiling	R2 088,60
	Repair cracked pillars	R4 500,00
	Painting and spraying of roofs	R70 000,00

	Repair leaking toilets	<u>R8 250,00</u> R252 784,40
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## **8.2 Key achievements reported by the School**

- 8.2.1 The School has achieved a 100% pass rate in its National Senior Certificate results in 2019 and has produced a number of candidate learners.
- 8.2.2 The School achieved outstanding systemic results in Grades 3, 6 and 9 for 2019.
- 8.2.3 The staff empowerment plan is in place.
- 8.2.4 The school participates in the SA athletes and cultural programmes, where they perform very well.

## **8.3 Challenges reported by the School**

- 8.3.1 The quintile classification needs to change as the area is not a quintile 5.
- 8.3.2 E-learning has not been set up at the school.
- 8.3.3 School safety and access control requires upgrading as there are problems in the afternoon when the learners leave the school premises: cars block the entrance of the school when learners are collected.
- 8.3.4 There is not much community involvement in the school.
- 8.3.5 The school was currently in Circuit 3, but then moved to Circuit 2 in 2019, which does not assist the school as this Circuit is further away in Piketberg and the cost implications have increased due to this.
- 8.3.6 The school has been left in limbo as it is unsure of what the WCED's vision for the school will be in the future.
- 8.3.7 A contractor was assigned to upgrade certain areas of the school, but only worked for a few months before abandoning the job. It has been four years and the WCED has not responded to this complaint.
- 8.3.8 Other major challenges for the school are the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) requirements and the Personnel Administrative Measures (PAM) allocation per post level. If these two programmes are implemented, there will be a shortfall of four educators if the current staff establishment of 12 educators for 2020 is to be upheld. This would mean that classes will be without educators, regardless of the learner-teacher ratio. The school's current lack of personnel is a constant battle. In terms of the school's finances, the school currently employs five educators from its own funds. As a fishing village, the income is seasonal and thus many parents qualify for exemptions from paying school fees. Therefore, the school is depended on its fundraising programmes to generate an income.

## **8.4 Resolutions and actions**

- 8.4.1 The delegation resolved that the WCED must urgently investigate the maintenance contractor who allegedly abandoned work four years ago without completing the project at the School.

## **8.5 Requested information**

The delegation requested the WCED to submit the following documents:

- 8.5.1 A report on whether a safety assessment has been conducted since the School is 130 years old.
- 8.5.2 A report on the alleged abandonment of the contractor, detailing what the tender was for, the contractor services, and the work that was completed and paid for.



- 8.5.3 A report on the number of learners, if any, who must still be placed in schools in the West Coast District area.

## **9. Oversight visit to the Diazville Primary Mass participation; Opportunity and access; Development (MOD) programme on Thursday 13 February 2020**

The delegation was welcomed by Ms C Valentyn (MOD Programme Officer), Mr C Cornelson (Acting District Manager: MOD Programme), Ms H Fisher (Acting Principal) and Mr M Cleophas (Diazville Primary Sport Coordinator). Following introductions, the delegation proceeded to a question-and-answer session during its walkabout at the MOD Centre.

### **9.1 Salient points pertaining to the Diazville Primary School MOD programme**

- 9.1.1 The Diazville Primary School (the School) has 1 200 learners and 27 teaching staff.
- 9.1.2 The School has a quintile 4 rating and is listed as a no-fee school.
- 9.1.3 The MOD Centre is fully fledged in terms of its coaching and general MOD operational requirements.
- 9.1.4 Following engagements with private sector businesses, the School has had facilities for Grade R built on the premises and awaits approval for a proposed R1,6 million fully equipped sports centre.
- 9.1.5 There is also an agreement with Afrisam regarding the sourcing of limestone from the School's premises for the production of cement. In return, Afrisam offered to fund upgrades that will include two artificial surfaces for various sports codes, a mini athletics track, floodlights, upgrades to the current sports field and spectator seating.
- 9.1.6 Mr Cleophas, who himself was at the forefront of initiating the MOD programme, stated that the MOD programme is a powerful mechanism and, since its launch at the School, there have been several success stories of learners who have progressed to higher sporting honours. Learners achieved these feats across sporting codes, including rugby, football and kickboxing. The School is also considered a hub for the cross-country running code, indigenous games, as well as gymnastics.
- 9.1.7 The School's MOD programme offers roughly 10 codes, dependent on the season, and also offers activities in arts and culture.
- 9.1.8 The School's MOD Centre has a good relationship with the Western Cape Sports Academy for the West Coast District. The Academy is based at the nearby Saldanha Bay Sports Stadium.
- 9.1.9 During the holiday programmes, the MOD Centre uses assistance from local adolescent young people, many of whom have dropped out of the schooling system. These young people are themselves kept constructively occupied by assisting. The Department of Community Safety and the Department of Health have offered first-aid courses and promoted oral hygiene activities during the holiday programmes. The local adolescent young people have also benefitted from this training.
- 9.1.10 Due to its quintile rating, the School's feeding scheme only has enough provisions to feed 540 learners daily, despite a significantly larger number of learners who attend the MOD programme. This reality means that staff are left to allocate the meals, usually sandwiches, by alternating and/or selecting which learners to feed. Although the learners are asked to indicate who of them brought lunch meals to school for the day, so that those who did not bring any meals will get an allocation, the reality is that there are not sufficient provisions to feed all the learners. Additionally, the stigma among older learners of not being able to afford to bring a

meal to school might well result in a learner not having any meal during the school day, and quite possibly, due to socio-economic reasons, no meals for the day.

9.1.11 The School reported that it has alerted the WCED of the need to review the School's quintile status.

9.1.12 The School is 50 years old and its ablution blocks and nine classrooms have been renovated recently. However, the School has submitted requests for emergency repairs and painting.

## **9.2 Public input**

Councillor Theresa Rossouw provided some input by referring to the potential of further partnerships between the School and the (large) local businesses for the establishment of a food garden.

## **9.3 Resolutions and actions**

9.3.1 The delegation recommended that:

9.3.1.1 The WCED and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's MOD Programme urgently look into the Diazville Primary School's feeding scheme and to explore the possibilities of assisting the School in finding a corporate sponsor to increase the provisions for the feeding scheme to ensure that all learners are sufficiently fed.

### **9.3.2 Request for information**

9.3.2.1 The Committee requests the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport to submit its plan to promote success stories from its MOD centres, such as those of previous Diazville Primary School MOD Centre attendees who have achieved higher sporting honours

9.3.2.2 The WCED to indicate whether or not the Diazville Primary School's quintile status has been reviewed, given the lack of provisions that the School's feeding scheme has to feed all its learners daily. If no such review has been undertaken, kindly provide details as to the reasons for not having the School's quintile status reviewed.

9.3.2.3 The WCED to provide a report on the maintenance and caretaking plan for the Diazville Primary School's building and premises.

9.3.2.4 The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport to provide the 2019/20 budget allocation for the West Coast region's MOD centres.

9.3.2.5 The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport to provide the number of coaches at MOD centres in Saldanha Bay.

9.3.2.6 The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport submit a list of key success achieved by the Diazville Primary School's MOD Centre attendees.

## **10. Oversight visit to the Saldanha South African Police Service Vredenburg Cluster, Thursday 13 February 2020**

The delegation was briefed by the Deputy Cluster Commander, Col L Marx, and Capt K Hope, the Acting Station Commander. Following short introductions by all present, the meeting was briefly adjourned. The delegation proceeded with an inspection of the holding cells, the Community Service Centre (CSC), the Victim-friendly Room, and the 13 store rooms. Upon re-adjournment, Col Marx presented an overview of the Vredenburg Cluster in terms of crimes related to domestic violence (DVA) and the DVA register, drug- and

gang-related crime, marine life poaching in relevant areas of the Cluster and measures taken to prevent it, as well as victim support structures. Col Marx also reported on the vehicle fleet management, staffing structures in the Cluster and the relationship between the SAPS and other stakeholders in combatting crime.

## **10.1 Salient points pertaining to the discussion on the SAPS Vredenburg Cluster**

- 10.1.1 The increase in domestic violence cases as well as in burglaries was largely attributed to substance abuse.
- 10.1.2 The SAPS confirmed its protocol for an on-duty social worker of the DSD and a member of the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) unit to deal with cases where child victims of domestic violence and abuse have to be removed from a harmful environment. Any instances where there is a deviation from this protocol would have to occur under extreme circumstances.
- 10.1.3 The SAPS reported that it had to deal with many social issues that were beyond the scope of policing. The SAPS is thus not properly equipped to deal with the changing dynamics of social ills.
- 10.1.4 All SAPS members undergo basic DVA training, however, staff are encouraged to complete the additional five-day advanced course.
- 10.1.5 The SAPS has not sufficiently adapted to the challenges posed by the influx of people from other areas to the West Coast, especially into informal settlements. The population growth has increased by approximately 4,7%.
- 10.1.6 Gang and drug kingpins have expanded to outlying areas, such as the West Coast. Other factors, such as the implementation of operations, including the deployment of the South African National Defence Force in the City of Cape Town, have led to increased gang and drug activity in areas outside of the metropolitan area. Crime kingpins own properties, hire persons to commit crimes and establish the drug trade. The increase in the population growth on the West Coast has, in part, also influenced the level of criminality across various crime categories.
- 10.1.7 Drug- and gang-related crime accounts for roughly 70% of the crime in the Vredenburg Cluster.
- 10.1.8 The SAPS reported an increase in TRIO crimes: these crimes include residential carjacking, robbery at residential premises and robbery at non-residential premises. The increase in population growth has resulted in the establishment of foreign business owners, many of whom retain cash on their business premises in the absence of official bank accounts.
- 10.1.9 The SAPS is part of a Saldanha Bay Safety Initiative that includes the municipality, provincial traffic and neighbourhood watches (NHWs).
- 10.1.10 Despite reported delays in accreditation by the Department of Community Safety, the Saldanha NHW is reaping success in its patrol and community crime-prevention activities because of good visibility. The SAPS reported that it has good cooperation with this NHW, but emphasised that it would need a dedicated officer assigned to the NHW.
- 10.1.11 The Vredenburg Cluster has seen significant improvement in the reduction of crime in the December 2019 to January 2020 period.
- 10.1.12 For the State of the Nation Address (SONA), held on 13 February 2020, 70 police officers from the Vredenburg Cluster were deployed for duty in and surrounding the parliamentary precinct. At least two thirds of the Cluster's vehicle fleet was deployed for use at the SONA operations.

- 10.1.13 The SAPS reported 343 hours of overtime work across its units in the 2019/20 financial year to date, further emphasising that there is little to no budget for overtime.
- 10.1.14 An increase in protest actions uses a lot of resources, which has led to staff being overworked.
- 10.1.15 The Detection Services Unit is the best rated in the Vredenburg Cluster. This is despite some stations, such as Langebaan SAPS, that have a branch commander who has a cased load of 160 dockets.
- 10.1.16 Marine life poaching is prevalent on the West Coast.
- 10.1.17 The Sea Border and SAPS Water Wing have not had a vessel since mid-2019. The SAPS Water Wing has also not had a vessel with a working engine to conduct coastal patrols and operations. The lack of coastal policing resources has left the local marine life endangered and vulnerable to criminal activities.
- 10.1.18 All the police stations in the Vredenburg Cluster are equipped with a Victim-friendly Room.
- 10.1.19 All police stations in the Vredenburg Cluster have trained volunteers.
- 10.1.20 The Hopefield SAPS, the St Helena Bay SAPS and the Laaiplek SAPS are all occupying leased buildings used by SAPS.
- 10.1.21 All the stations are based in residential houses and consequently have limited space and resources expected of fully fledged police stations. The St Helena Bay SAPS has a generator that has been deemed irreparable in April 2019. In the interim, this station is using a roadblock generator that is only effective to power basic lighting. During loadshedding periods the police station is at risk as the landline phones are not functional and policing is done by candlelight.
- 10.1.22 The Vredenburg Cluster has a significant understaffed personnel structure.
- 10.1.23 Some of the limiting factors that add pressure on staffing are cases of long-term incapacity leave, the lack of data capturers and overburdened charge offices. At the time of reporting, there were seven members of the Vredenburg Cluster being investigated by the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

## **10.2 Input by stakeholders**

- 10.2.1 Mr W Bezuidenhout represented the Department of Community Safety to provide input on the local Community Police Forum (CPF) and the Department's monitoring of police stations in the Vredenburg Cluster.
- 10.2.2 Mr C Maart, Chairperson of the Vredenburg CPF Cluster, confirmed that there was a good relationship with the SAPS. He added that the drug trade and abuse was problematic in the Cluster, police stations were understaffed and not properly equipped and that there was an overall lack of resources for both the CPFs and the SAPS. He added that the SAPS response times were affected by under-resourcing.
- 10.2.3 Councillor T Rossouw of the Saldanha Bay Municipality gave input stating that the launch of the Saldanha NHW focused on Saldanha town and did not include areas such Witteplek, Middlepos, and other outlying areas. She added that Witteplek had no vehicles for NHWs and members had to conduct foot patrols. She added that attributing the increase in crime to the influx of persons from the Eastern Cape was indicative of extreme racial profiling. Col Marx, however, stated the NHW was launched in all the areas of the Saldanha Bay Municipality. Col Marx also responded to the allegations of extreme racial profiling by stating that the increase of the area's population was the result of persons moving from various locations. She added that this increase led to more crime, but also more opportunities for

crime, and referenced the increase of robberies of foreign-owned businesses, domestic-violence cases, gang-related crime in the Cluster and protest action.

### **10.3 Information requested**

10.3.1 The delegation requested the South African Police Service to provide:

- 10.3.1.1 A breakdown of the number of Domestic Violence related incidents reported in the Vredenburg Cluster, indicating the province and/country of origin of the alleged perpetrators. This list should be for the 2018/19 financial year and for the current financial year to date.
- 10.3.1.2 A list of granted and actual posts per station in the Vredenburg Cluster for each unit, namely detection services, VISPOL and support services for 2019/20.
- 10.3.1.3 The number of cases of incapacity leave for the Vredenburg Cluster.
- 10.3.1.4 A full list of the Western Cape SAPS' resources deployed at the State of the Nation Address on 13 February 2020. The list should include the number of officers and their respective ranks, and the number of vehicles used.
- 10.3.1.5 A list of the cost of resources used for the State of the Nation Address (SONA) deployment. The information should state from which programme budget the cost of overtime for personnel and the cost of fuel was paid. And where feasible, provide the number of kilometres covered per vehicle that was used for deployment to the SONA 2020 operations.
- 10.3.1.6 A list of the following in respect of the South African Police Station Water Wing Unit for the West Coast:
  - 10.3.1.6.1 The number of Water Wing officers;
  - 10.3.1.6.2 The number of vessels deployed to the Water Wing;
  - 10.3.1.6.3 The number of fully functional vessels used for operations; and
  - 10.3.1.6.4 The number of vessels that require repair.
  - 10.3.1.6.5 The delegation requested the Western Cape Police Ombudsman to investigate the lack of resources for coastal policing on the West Coast.
  - 10.3.1.6.6 The delegation requested the Department of Community Safety to provide detailed reasons for the delay in the accreditation of neighbourhood watches in the Vredenburg and Vredendal clusters, a list of the required documentation that still need to be submitted, as well as a list of NHWs that still require accreditation. The Department should list the reasons per area and provide a timeline of when the accreditation process is expected to be finalised.
  - 10.3.1.6.7 A report on the timeline of expected infrastructural repair and upgrades to the Hopefield SAPS, the Laaiplek SAPS and the St Helena Bay SAPS.
  - 10.3.1.6.8 The delegation requested Councillor Theresa Rossouw to provide in writing the allegations of non-cooperative service from the South African Police Service in the Vredenburg Cluster, and to list the police stations to which she referred. The written submission should include the dates, time and name of the police station and the officer on duty where the victims were refused service. The names of the male and female victims should not be provided.

### **10.4 Commendation**

The delegation commended Col L Marx on the sterling crime-combatting efforts and initiatives in the Vredenburg Cluster.

### **10.5 Resolutions and Actions**

10.5.1 The delegation resolved:

10.5.1.2 to request the Provincial Commissioner of Police in the Western Cape to accompany the delegation on its follow-up visits to Vredenburg.

10.5.1.3 to send a letter of commendation to Col L Marx on the sterling crime-combatting efforts and initiatives in the Vredenburg Cluster.

## **11. Oversight visit to the Vredenburg Hospital on Friday 14 February 2020**

The Social Cluster delegation visited the Vredenburg Hospital (the Hospital) in the Saldanha Sub-district of the West Coast Region. Dr Perez, Medical Manager in the Saldanha Bay Sub-district, welcomed the delegation. He informed the delegation that the Vredendal Hospital is a level 1 hospital which has 81 beds, however, due to the new infrastructure that was recently commissioned, they are in a process of submitting an application to increase the number of beds to 107. He mentioned that they opened a new paediatric ward last year that can take up to 26 patients and this year a psychiatric area with 16 beds on the extension of the general ward will be opened that will increase the number of beds to 107.

### **11.1 Salient points pertaining to the Vredenburg Hospital.**

11.1.1 The Hospital is a level 1 district hospital and offers a basic standard of care and a full pharmacy service.

11.1.2 The Hospital provides health services to an estimated population of 122 713. 23% of the population is aged 15 to 24 years; 53% of the population is aged 25 to 64 years and 9% of the population is 65 years and older.

11.1.3 The Hospital, apart from offering clinical services, is also the hub for surrounding primary healthcare facilities with regard to financial management, supply chain management, data management and infrastructure maintenance.

11.1.4 The Hospital also offers services that fall outside the standard district hospital package, namely a functional renal dialysis unit, which is operated by the Groote Schuur Hospital as a public-private partnership.

11.1.5 The renal dialysis unit targets private patients, however, the hospital takes up to six non-paying dialysis patients, and the unit will increase its capacity after it has moved to the new area.

11.1.6 The Hospital is receiving specialist outreach and support from the new Somerset Hospital, except for mental health outreach that it receives from the Paarl Hospital.

11.1.7 The Hospital is collaborating with the University of Cape Town (UCT) by providing practical training to final-year family-medicine students.

11.1.8 Currently, the Hospital does not have a full-time family physician, however, it has a joint appointment from UCT. The Hospital has no emergency-care specialist.

11.1.9 The delegation was informed that the Saldanha Sub-district enjoys support from five non-governmental organisations, which offer community-based care and intermediate care with 62 community-based cares.

11.1.10 Dr Perez reported that the hospital gets assistance from an NGO called Siyabonga, an intermediate care facility that has 12 beds, which are partially funded by the Department of Health.

11.1.11 In addition, Huis Isabella, a 24-hour mental healthcare institution that caters for patients with intellectual disability, is partially funded by the Department of Health.

11.1.12 The Saldanha Bay Sub-district has eleven primary healthcare facilities that consist of eight fixed clinics and one mobile, with an operating budget of R58 156 000.

- 11.1.13 The primary healthcare facilities are rendering comprehensive services, including women and child health, chronic disease management, emergency health and community health workers as part of the case-based surveillance (CBS).
- 11.1.14 The primary healthcare in the Saldanha Bay Sub-district has two community-oriented primary care sites in Laingville and Diazville. Their work involves wellness, health promotion, inter-sectoral collaboration and linking with the Whole of Society Approach initiative.
- 11.1.15 The delegation was informed that the last section of the Hospital was completed and will be in operation very soon.
- 11.1.16 It was reported that the new state-of-the-art paediatric ward is in operation.
- 11.1.17 The delegation was informed that the new admission area of the Hospital will be opened at the end of March 2020.
- 11.1.18 There were no maternal deaths reported at the hospital since 2018.
- 11.1.19 There were no child mortalities recorded in the last two quarters of 2019.

## **11.2 Challenges reported by the Vredenburg Hospital**

- 11.2.1 The shortage of staff.
- 11.2.2 The Hospital urgently needs a quality assurance and public communication officer.
- 11.2.3 It was reported that only two porters are on duty at the Hospital during the week and no porters on weekends. There is an urgent need for the appointment of additional porters. Currently, doctors and nurses are pushing patients.
- 11.2.4 There is high absenteeism due to staff burnout.
- 11.2.5 It was reported that mental health illnesses were on the rise, both among health personnel and community members, due to substance abuse, poor coping mechanism and lack of social support.
- 11.2.6 There is a need for additional staff in the workshop, currently the workshop has one artisan and two foremen. In addition, kitchen staff are also needed.
- 11.2.7 The personal safety of staff in health facilities in the district was highlighted as a major challenge.
- 11.2.8 An increase in violence, especially on weekends, put severe pressure on the Hospital.
- 11.2.9 There is a rapid population expansion in the Saldanha Sub-district with no significant growth of personnel, facilities and budget for the Department of Health.
- 11.2.10 There is an increase in immigration, both national and foreign, in the region without related facility growth and development.
- 11.2.11 High unemployment was reported as a challenge in the West Coast region. This has a direct impact on the health service because the majority of community members do not have medical aid and are dependent on the public health service.
- 11.2.12 There is an increasing rate of non-communicable disease and an increased complexity of patients. It was reported that health facilities on the West Coast have experienced increasing numbers of younger patients with lifestyle diseases, such as stroke and diabetes.
- 11.2.13 The TB and HIV incidence remains high with a high default rate among newcomers to the area.
- 11.2.14 Social media and the threat of legal action deteriorate the image of the Hospital.
- 11.2.15 Financial growth and development were reported as a challenge. Currently the operational budget of the Hospital is R112 million monthly, which is inadequate.
- 11.2.16 There is no mortuary facility at the Hospital, only has a cold room.

### **11.3 Public Input**

During the meeting, councillors from various political parties in the Saldanha Sub-district were in attendance and gave input during the meeting. They highlighted various challenges experienced at various health facilities in the Sub-district – challenges such as:

- a) The shortage of staff and an urgent need for doctors.
- b) There is a need for an awareness campaign to educate communities about the triage system in health facilities and the different services offered by different health facilities. This will assist in curbing the long queues at the Vredenburg District Hospital.
- c) Awareness of TB and TB treatment is needed. It was reported that young people were defaulting on their HIV and TB treatment.
- d) There was a high teenage pregnancy rate in the Sub-District and that awareness was also needed.
- e) The safety of staff members at health facilities in the Saldanha Sub-District was raised as a concern. It was reported that patients who are using substances became violent and attacked staff members.

The councillors highlighted a list of challenges at the Hanna Coetzee Clinic, such as the distance of the clinic from the communities. As a result of this distance, community members were robbed on their way to and from the clinic. Inadequate and poor infrastructure was also highlighted as a challenge. The councillors requested mobile clinics to be made available as a supplement to the Hanna Coetzee Clinic, as the clinic is facing many challenges that include a shortage of staff and high staff absenteeism, to name but a few. The poor response time of the ambulances in the various communities was also reported and it was reported that communities ended up calling the police for assistance.

### **11.4 Resolutions and actions**

- 11.4.1 The delegation resolved that the Standing Committee on Health conducts an oversight visit to the Hanna Coetzee Clinic in Vredenburg.

### **11.5 Information requested**

- 11.5.1 The delegation requested the Department of Health to provide the Standing Committee on Health with a progress report on the request submitted by the Vredenburg District Hospital for the approval of the Quality Assurance position.

## **12. Conclusion**

The delegation successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the urgency of the challenges experienced at the various sites that were visited. The facilities visited need support in their endeavours to succeed against the backdrop of the challenges noted in this report.

### **12.1 For future Cluster Visits, the SOCIAL CLUSTER DELEGATION resolved that:**

- 12.1.1 The distance and time be managed when chairpersons review the draft programme.
- 12.1.2 A day be dedicated to a specific portfolio to allow proper oversight by committees.
- 12.1.3 The programme be scheduled with only two activities a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.



- 12.1.4 Procedural Officers work on their reports on the days when the other portfolios meet.
- 12.1.5 Notices of the Cluster Visit Week be forwarded to all senior managers of the facilities to be visited.
- 12.1.6 The Social Cluster delegation encouraged the use of email/sms/WhatsApp messenger to submit their resolutions for the Cluster Visit Report.
- 12.1.7 A motion be tabled by the Social Cluster Members to congratulate the Social Cluster officials on putting together a successful programme and a successful Visit Week.

### **13. Acknowledgement**

The delegation thanked the management of the different facilities that were visited for their willingness to share valuable information with the Social Cluster delegation.