

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TUESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2021

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government on its oversight visit to the Kannaland Municipality on Wednesday 28 October 2020, as follows:

Delegation

The delegation consisted of the following Members:

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

An apology was received from Member Maseko, LM (DA).

The Standing Committee on Local Government embarked on an oversight visit to the Kannaland Municipality on 28 October 2020 and was briefed on the Deep Borehole Project and the Ladismith Thusong Centre after which the delegation embarked on a visit to the Deep Borehole site and a tour of the Ladismith Thusong Centre.

1. Deep Borehole Project

1.1 Introduction

The Kannaland region has a population of approximately 22 956 with 5 570 households and includes the towns of Calitzdorp, Zoar, Van Wyksdorp and Ladismith. Ladismith is the biggest town in the area and struggles the most with water provision. Since 2015 the drought has had an extremely negative impact on the water security in the region, which affected economic growth and caused concern that businesses might relocate to other towns because of water security.

1.2 Findings

- 1.2.1 Ladismith is located at the beginning of the Klein Karoo region and signs were erected to make visitors aware that they were entering a water-scarce region.
- 1.2.2 The bulk of the town's water is extracted from boreholes and water is collected in smaller survive dams when the river is in flood, but these dams are too small. The aim is to build a bigger dam, namely the Swartberg Dam, to ensure adequate water storage throughout the year.
- 1.2.3 There are factories in the town that rely heavily on water for their operations and they also provide a major boost for the town's economy. They use approximately 40% of the town's water. One of the cheese factories recently expanded and the Municipality would like to support such expansions.
- 1.2.4 Two hydrologists have been used to source more underground water and a potential area has been identified for drilling a new deep borehole, which will reach a depth of approximately 500 m to 600 m. The prediction is that the borehole could provide enough water for the town and that the quality of the water would be of a high standard.
- 1.2.5 Currently there are 12 existing boreholes and four exploration boreholes have been drilled to determine the position for the deep borehole.
- 1.2.6 It was highlighted that some funds were gazetted for the Swartberg Dam, but not all the funds have been transferred to the Municipality and there is no real commitment from the National Treasury and the Department of Water and Sanitation.
- 1.2.7 The Municipality mainly relies on funding from the provincial government for drought-relief projects but funds have been made available by the National Treasury for the Calitzdorp pipeline and a storage dam.

1.3 Resolutions

The Committee resolved that the Department of Water and Sanitation should brief the Standing Committee on Local Government on the status of the proposal for the building of the Swartberg Dam and that the National Treasury should brief the Standing Committee on the allocated funding for the Swartberg Dam.

2. The Ladismith Thusong Centre

2.1 Introduction

Anton Bredell, the Western Cape Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, opened the centre on Tuesday 8 November 2016. The aim of the centre is to give the communities of Ladismith, Zoar, Van Wyksdorp and Calitzdorp access to government information and services within their communities instead of community members having to travel far to obtain these services as they previously had to do. The centre is a one-stop service centre that provides integrated government services.

2.2 Findings

- 2.2.1 The services provided at the centre include child care and protection, crime prevention and support, substance-abuse prevention and rehabilitation, care and services for the elderly, services for the disabled, victim empowerment, early childhood development and partial care.

2.2.2 The Cape Access E-centre provides access to computers (the use of these computers are free), the internet and email, and people may also print a maximum of ten pages a day at the centre. Basic as well as accredited computer training is also offered at the Thusong Centre.

2.2.3 The following departments have office space at the Thusong Centre and they provide the centre's staff:

- Cape Access: Office of the Premier
- Department of Social Development (DSD)
- Sassa
- Home Affairs

The departments mentioned above are the most essential departments that are currently operating at the Thusong Centre.

2.2.4 Home Affairs only visits the centre two days a week (Monday and Tuesday) and the other departments are active at the centre from Monday to Friday.

2.2.5 The last successful outreach programmes (Thusong mobiles) were held in 2019 in Van Wyksdorp and Zoar. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no Thusong mobiles will be held in 2020/21.

2.2.6 On Thursday 22 October 2020 the Thusong Centre launched a COVID-19 awareness project in collaboration with Government Communication and Information System Department by means of the distribution of newsletters and pamphlets.

2.2.7 The Kannaland Municipality is in the process of upgrading the old library in Calitzdorp to establish a satellite Thusong Centre with the same services and departments as in Ladismith. An application will be made to Department of Local Government for funding to provide these services in Calitzdorp.

2.2.8 The Kannaland Municipality is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the building.

2.3 Resolutions

The Committee resolved that the Department of Local Government should assist the Kannaland Municipality with the expansion of the Ladismith Thusong Centre and with the establishment of the satellite Thusong Centre at Calitzdorp.

3. Acknowledgements

The Standing Committee wishes to commend the Kannaland Municipality and takes note of the positive impact that the Thusong Centre has had on the community.