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Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement  
Western Cape Provincial Parliament  
IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

**PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF THE PETITION COMMITTEE ON THE PETITION SUBMITTED BY DENNEHOF  
CENTRE IN VILLIERSDORP**

## **REPORT**

The Petitions Committee, having considered a petition submitted by the Dennehof Centre in Villiersdorp reports as follows:

### **1. Introduction**

In September 2017, the Committee received a petition from the Dennehof Centre. The petitioners complained about their area which was plagued by a scourge of social issues and the lack of adequate healthcare facilities.

This report discusses the Committee's recommendations taken during engagement sessions with stakeholders.

### **2. Overview**

#### **Salient elements of the petition:**

- The Petitioners claim that the Villiersdorp community was plagued by a scourge of social issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, rape and a lack of adequate healthcare facilities.
- The Dennehof facility has been laying unused for several years while the Theewaterskloof Municipality allowed the building to deteriorate into a waste pile. The Municipality was reluctant to hand over the property to the Department of Public Works in order for the property to be developed as a functional asset in the community.
- The Petitioners claim the Dennehof facility could be utilised as a Rehabilitation Centre and potentially create 300 permanent jobs in the local community in Villiersdorp.
- Petitioners wrote to various government departments including the Department of Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Transport, and the Office of the Premier with no feedback from the respective departments.

The Committee held its first meeting on the petition on 13 April 2019. During this meeting, the Committee resolved to invite the Department of Public Works and Transport and Theewaterskloof Municipality to provide feedback on the petition received from the Dennehof Centre, including any other documentation pertaining to the Dennehof Centre. The Committee also resolved that the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and Theewaterskloof Municipality, where possible, provide feedback on the correspondence sent by the petitioner, Mrs AE Venter, as indicated in the petition.

Theewaterskloof Municipality indicated that the property was managed by the Overberg Municipality. Following intensive investigations, it was discovered that the property was owned by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (herein after the Department). The Committee wrote a letter to the Department and finally on 21 August 2019, the Minister, Ms P De Lille, responded to the Committee.

The Department provided the history and background to the Dennehof Centre. The portion 4 of the Farm Dennehof No, 69, Caledon Road (in extent 109.53.51 hectares), Title Deed Nr. T37195/1983 and is under the custodianship of the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Nine houses were occupied at the time, with seven being leased out privately by the Overberg Municipality. Mrs Venter occupied two houses. All the vacant buildings and houses, etc. were

vandalised and in need of repair at the Dennehof Centre. The houses were built of asbestos products which according to a Health and Safety Report are safe to occupy. The houses do not need to be demolished but can be repaired.

During the vesting process of State-owned property in 2002, it was resolved that the property should be vested with the National Government of the Republic of South Africa. On 1 July 2015, Mrs Venter submitted an application to the Department to utilise the property as a Rehabilitation Centre for the chemically dependent. The application was responded to by the former Minister of Public Works, Minister S Sigcau, advising her that the property was leased to the Overberg Municipality.

This property was subsequently under the management of the above-mentioned Municipality until 27 February 2019. But in September 1992 the Department received "Notice of Termination" with the intention of handing it back on 28 February 2019. Following this all, occupants residing on the property, on 13 February 2019 including Mrs Venter, were advised of the Department's intention to enter into a new lease agreement with all existing lessees/occupants on-site.

All lessees, except for Mrs Venter, signed their lease agreement. This resulted in a "Notice to Vacate" due to non-compliance and non-payment of rentals. The notice was handed in on 18 March 2019. To date, Mrs Venter, is illegally occupying two dwellings on the property. She has never vacated the property, and therefore a "Final Notice" would be issued during the week of 21 August 2019. Given the failure to pay her rental since 1 March 2019, Mrs Venter, is viewed as a bad debtor of the Department.

It came to the attention of the Department that Mrs Venter is claiming that she would take over the management of Dennehof as of 01 August 2019 and all lessees must pay their rental to her.

### **3. RESOLUTIONS**

The Committee notes the explanation provided by the Department of Public works and RESOLVED to conclude the petition of Dennehof Centre.



**MR G BOSMAN, MPP**  
**CHAIRPERSON: PETITIONS COMMITTEE**  
**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**  
**DATE: 20 SEPTEMBER 2019**