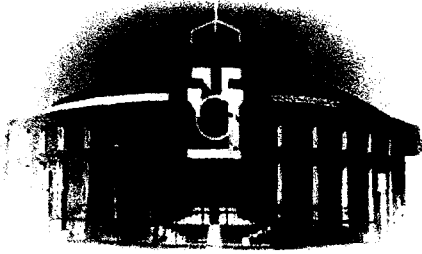


NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE



**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND TRADITIONAL
AFFAIRS**

REPORT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT HELD AT MADIBENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY


CHAIRPERSON: HON P SEBEGOE

MAR 2010

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Portfolio Committee on Local Government, Housing and Traditional Affairs in response to the recent community protests on poor service delivery at Madibeng local municipality has instigated an oversight visit to the community and municipal council as a way of fact findings on the protests that have been taking place at the areas including Maboloka, Letlhabile, Mmakau, Mothutlung and Demonville. This report outlines the purpose, key findings, recommendations and conclusion of the oversight meeting.

2. PURPOSE

Fact finding mission on the protests that have been taking place in the Municipality by way of monitoring, evaluating and improving the provision of basic services to the community of Madibeng Local municipality.

3. OBJECTIVES

- To measure and evaluate service delivery at Madibeng local municipalities
- To identify challenges faced by the community in Madibeng Local Municipalities.
- To identify the challenges faced by the Council of the Madibeng
- Ensure that current issues are resolved

4. FINDINGS

SESSION ONE : PC MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Chairperson of the portfolio committee indicated and reiterated to the community representatives that the intention of the portfolio committee is to meet

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with the community from the affected areas, but not organized structures within the communities. The community indicated that they have submitted the memorandum to the Office of the Premier and the office of the Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs and that it is within this context that they were expecting the response of the memorandum.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FINDINGS:

Community concerns

Mmakau community representative

- Applauded the presence of the Portfolio Community and indicated that they have written and submitted the memorandum to the Premier's office as well as the office of Corporate Governance.
- Indicated that they only need the progress on the responses from the office of the premier, and refused to raise their community concerns to the portfolio committee.
- They need a rapid intervention on memorandum by the portfolio committee.
- Urged the portfolio committee to consult with the Premier's Office on the memorandums.

Mothutlung Community

- The community indicated the municipality has responded to the memorandum and the community is not satisfied on the responses received from the municipal council.

Letlhabile Community

- The memorandum have been submitted to the Premier's Office and the Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs on the needs and outcries of the community on basis services.

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- The portfolio committee to be given the copies of all the communities memorandums and the responses of the municipality.

Maboloka community

- Community not satisfied to be called to the meeting then go without their memorandums answered.
- The provincial government is aware of the outcries of the Madibeng community, their dissatisfaction on the poor services they receive from the municipal council.
- Some communities have not received responses to memorandum as submitted

General Community Concerns

- Madibeng community tired of poor service delivery.
- The community needs a way-forward; they want the municipal council to be taken out of office.
- The Premier must take responsibility
- The municipality water is not conducive, toilets also an issue.

Portfolio Committee response

- The portfolio committee indicated again to the communities that it is only on a fact finding mission on the protests that have been taking place in the municipality.
- The portfolio committee urged the community once again to raise all their concerns, and then the portfolio committee will engage with the council including the municipal EXCO on all issues.

5. SESSION TWO: MEETING WITH THE COUNCILLORS AND THE MUNICIPAL MAYORAL COMMITTEE

Presentation by the Ward Councillors

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MMAKAU

- Water project stopped without notice is the base of the protest
- Apollo lights not functional
- Roads and water
- Community members arrested during protests and to appear in court on the 5th may 2010

Interventions

- Met with the council to address the issue
- Water project stopped because contractor(Nov 2009) appointment was still under investigation
- Instigated the meeting where in the water project restarted, roads projects approved by the council and the community have been briefed at all stages.

MOTHUTLUNG

- 4th Jan 2010, housing project resumed from recess (10 Dec 2009),
- On the 5th Jan 2010 the community protests started,
- The CLO compiled a list of community to work on the housing project, but the community started marches and protests,
- The community also demanded to be hired/appointed at the strata mine, the community group submitted the memorandum to the council
- Delegation comprises of ANC youth league and officials of Madibeng local municipality
- Delegation instigated a march on the 28th Jan 2010 at the municipality, the situation worsened, where RTT came for intervention but their meeting got disrupted.
- The delegation began to hold night meetings and intimidating the ward councilor
- Water and grass problems were amongst the issues raised in the memorandum.

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- Community indicated that the response of their memorandum by the council was not satisfactory to them.
- The community did not benefit from ESKOM project of changing of globels because of the interruptions.
- Community threatened to burn the house of the councilor.

Interventions by the Councilor

- Councilor wrote a letter to the Speaker that her work has become unbearable as she is being disrupted by the community timeously
- Things are out of order as the community receives lies about everything.

MABOLOKA

- Water shortages a concern
- Councilors interference in the water projects
- Delay of payment to the water project contractor by the municipality causes problems
- Community members have been employed on the project
- The norms and standards of the council is that the council report to the community after each council meeting held.
- Member of Parliament who resides in Madibeng, Mr. Paul Nguni is influencing the community on the protests that have been taking place.

DAMONSVILLE

- Memo submitted by the community
- Need for dustbins
- Water problem

LETLHABILE

- The march was initiated in Letlhabile ,then expanded to the neighboring communities

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- A community has arranged the handover of the memorandum with the department of local government; hence the council has not been able to see the copy.

WARD 29

- Public works sold land for , as a result there is no land to build RDP
- Application for building RDP houses submitted to the province since 2007
- Provincial government unable to give the municipality the ROP for the municipality to proceed to build RDP houses

Interventions

Tried to stop the province to sell but could not succeed

WARD 10

- The community had been not received any municipal services since 2003.
- Blockage of road (R52) to kgabalatsane by David Masike (municipal employee)
- Intimidation of councilors and PR councilors and their families

Interventions

- Requested intervention from the council with no success

OUKASIE: WARD 22

- Road linking oukasi and elandsrand not conducive
- Clean water a concern
- Withdrawal of the budget by the province from oukasi to other areas
- Finalization of housing project which has been there for 15 years (13 and 22). foundations has been there for 15 years.
- Power taken council by the provincial government.
- Councilors houses being attacked
- Paul Nguni and ex MM issue be addressed urgently, as it causes havhoc.

WARD 16

- David Matshike, the municipality official influencing community and arranging protests
- Marches emanates from the water problems, now it has cascaded to other areas.
- Requested the Portfolio Committee to intervene and assist

6. MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Municipal officials act as concerned community group and employees at the same time.
- Protests are all about the administration of the municipality and unsatisfactory status of previous officials.
- It is alleged that there is a third force (Paul Nguni and suspended municipal manager) who influences these community protest to achieve their own objectives.
- Health care facilities a concern
- There is an area at Letlhabile called a No-Go-Area, thus making it difficult for the municipality to render services in the area.
- High electricity problem at Mothutlung, houses/homes are affected.
- Higher Levy for cemeteries at Maboloka
- The municipality have More than 30 informal settlement in ward 29 and 30 and the municipality had been struggling to secure land for proper housing
- Reservoirs run below 39
- Currently no IDP in place
- Councilor's life and their families are in danger.
- CLO for housing has been arrested and the community wants the person reinstated.
- Urged the Portfolio Committee to discuss with the provincial government representatives who came to the municipality and obtain memorandum without knowledge of the council.

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- High mass lights fixing in Oukasi has started
- The department of correctional services has offered to launch the cleaning campaign together with the municipality.
- The municipality met with the national treasury, and there is a possible implementation of section 137
- The municipality will be undergoing a project of disconnecting illegal connection of water and electricity.

8. COMMITTEE CONCERNS

- Non submission of financial statement.
- Poor management of employees issues by the Municipality who pursue political matters whilst on duty, the culture of the municipality is questionable.
- Accounting systems are very poor
- Issues raised by the Auditor General to be followed up as follows:
- There is a need to be clear Segregation of duties
- Committee wanted clarity on whether the Municipal Manager has now been charged.
- Lack of Early fraud detection systems
- Supply chain management system a concern as it is not up to date.
- Exceptions reports not been taken serious and addressed.
- Why are employees who protest against the employer still at work and not being formally charged?

9. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

After a brief visit and interaction with the community members it is clear that they have little understanding on issues pertaining to service delivery. We therefore recommend that:

- Public education on the roles of all government structures

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- Progress report in terms of conflict resolutions between the Mayoral Committee and the employees.
- Progress report in terms of interventions be submitted to the Portfolio Committee on a quarterly basis.
- Regular municipal public consultation and feedback provision
- The municipality must improve their level of transparency and accountability to the community.
- Entrepreneurship be encouraged to help reduce poverty and unemployment
- Empowerment of communities through community poverty alleviation projects in partnership with other stakeholders
- Speed up the process of attending to complaints lodged by communities.
- The municipality must be transparent enough on their appointing system.
- Conduct Qualification audits at local municipalities, especially moretele local municipality.
- Municipality must put in place strong control measures relating to projects committed for implementation.

10. CONCLUSION

Portfolio Committee to follow up with Department of Local Government and the Premier's Office regarding progress made on issues raised in the Memorandum with a view to provide feedback.