

**PROGRESS ON UNDERTAKINGS BY DEPUTY MINISTER NEL MADE DURING THE TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE PROGRAMME, OUDTSHOORN, WESTERN CAPE, 13 APRIL 2015**

**CONTEXT**

The following table contains the undertakings made by Deputy Minister Nel during the NCOP’s Oudtshoorn session ofTaking Parliament to the People. The many complaints and issues raised by citizens are being tracked. Some include matters that have direct implications for changes to national and provincial policies. A significant proportion was for the Oudtshoorn Local Municipality, which was placed under Administration as per Section 139 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa on 14 August 2015, and is being attended to by the Administrator, Mr. Kam Chetty. The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and the Western Cape Local Government Department (WC DLG) are supporting Mr. Chetty to turn the municipality and undesirable situation in Oudtshoorn, around.

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| **Issue** | **Action** | **Responsibility and Status** |
| **Use of fictitious/outdated statistics in development of IDPs:** Over the past few years allocations have been made based on outdated statistics contained in the IDP such as the one that says that Mosselbay is the second largest municipality in the District whereas it is, in fact, Oudtshoorn in terms of Stats SA. | The matter was taken up with the Eden District Municipality and the sentence in the IDP was corrected. | **COGTA**  ***Completed*** |
| **Inequalities with regards to the distribution of equitable share to municipalities:** The Ministry of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs should review the distribution of equitable share to municipalities as there is lot of inequalities in this regard. | The formula used to allocate the Local Government Equitable Share (LGES) was reviewed during 2012 through a collaborative and consultative process that included National Treasury, the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) and extensive consultation with municipalities, and other local government stakeholders. The new formula is based on data from the 2011 Census, which resulted in major changes to some allocations. As a result, new allocations are being phased in over a five-year period ending in 2017/18. | **COGTA**  ***Completed*** |
| **Allegations of political allegiance in the allocation of funding to municipalities:** It was alleged that the allocation of funding to municipalities for infrastructure was seen to be based on political allegiance since Kannaland Municipality was only allocated R30 million whereas George Municipality was allocated R300 million. | Funding to municipalities is allocated according to pre-determined formulae and conditions. Generally, population size, levels of poverty, number of indigents and service delivery back-logs are key indicators in the allocation processes. Grants are also dependent on applications from municipalities. Besides differences in population sizes, the George LM can apply for the Neighbour Development Grant, while Kannaland LM cannot. Only Metropolitan Municipalities and Secondary cities can access this grant, for example. | **COGTA / National Treasury**  ***Completed*** |
| **The report on the investigation of alleged councillors’ intervention in municipal administration reported to be kept under wraps:** Even though an “out of the blue” report has been completed to address the matter of councillors’ interfering in the work of the municipal administration, this report has been swept under the table by the DA. | COGTA is working on the Óut of the Blue’ report. The matter will be taken forward by the Western Cape Provincial Task Team. However, the Good Governance pillar of the Back to Basics Programme focuses on delegations and separation of powers between the administration and political leadership of local government. | **COGTA**  ***Ongoing*** |
| **Lack of integration of neighbourhoods in the George Municipality:** Notwithstanding the fact that SA has been in democratic dispensation for more than 20 years, none of the neighbourhoods in George are integrated. | The matter was discussed with the George Local Municipality, the National Department of Human Settlement and the Provincial Department of Human Settlement, who all agree that levels of integration in the George Local Municipality and all municipalities in South Africa, are unacceptable. While, It is the policy of the national government to ensure the development of integrated human settlements, the reality is that land availability dictates where houses will be built, especially ‘RDP’ houses.  In the case of the new ‘RDP’ housing developments in George Local Municipality, residents that are from historically different race groups live together. While the level is very low, it does occurs in the George Local Municipality. | **George Local Municipality and various role players**  ***Ongoing*** |
| **Lack of user-friendly transport for people with disabilities:** There is no transport that is user-friendly to people with disabilities in Oudtshoorn such as dial a ride. | The matter was discussed with the Oudtshoorn Local Municipality. The Administrator, Mr. Kam Chetty, will ensure that proper transport plans are developed to cater for people with disabilities. While implementation will be tracked by COGTA, the level of resources available will dictate how the plan will be implemented. | **Oudtshoorn Local Municipality / COGTA**  ***Ongoing*** |
| **Allegations of political allegiance in the provision of job opportunities:** Allegations were made that job opportunities in the Oudtshoorn Municipality are given to people based on political allegiance. | The matter is being investigated by Mr. Chety, who will submit a report upon completion. | **Oudtshoorn Local Municipality**  ***Ongoing*** |
| **A delay in allocating a house to an elderly resident:** Mr M Dalasile from Oudtshoorn asked government to prioritize elderly people when it comes to house allocation as he has been applying for one since 1991. | The Administrator is following up on this matter with the Housing Section in Oudtshoorn LM and will provide a report. | **Oudtshoorn Local Municipality**  ***Ongoing*** |
| **Poor responsiveness by police and municipal officials to a resident’s complain:** Mr Lukas Dyalvani of Oudtshoorn, Duduza no.5 complained that a building contractor by the name of Power is claiming his house which he built out of his earnings and now the contractor is claiming some money to be paid back to him. His concern is that the police and municipal officials are not responding or acting on the complaint that he has lodged with them. | The matter has been raised with the Administrator, who committed to address the challenge of the municipal officials not attending to the complaint.  The Oudtshoorn Local Municipality (OLM) is currently busy with the development of a complaint management system. The system will be linked to the organisational performance management system, which will also be tracked to performance of individuals. .  A report will be provided by Mr. Chetty. | **Oudtshoorn Local Municipality**  ***Ongoing*** |
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| **ADDITIONAL UNDERTAKINGS MADE BY DEPUTY MINISTER NEL** | | |
| **Deputy Minister Nel** | **Update** | |
| The Department has initiated a programme titled “back to basics” through which it will support municipalities to ensure that a minimum basket of services are provided to households across the Province. | The *Back to Basics* focuses on key performance areas that include Putting People First, Provision of Basics Services, Institutional Capabilities, Good Governance and Financial Health.  In the Western Cape Province the Back to Basics programme has focused on ten (10) priority municipalities, including Oudtshoorn Local Municipality. The current intervention is a component of the Back to Basics programme.  Besides monitoring the provision of services in municipalities, COGTA is also working with municipalities to ensure that indigent registers are reviewed and updated, thus enabling those most deserving to receive free basic services.  Other key initiatives and components include unannounced visits to municipalities by the Minister and Deputy Ministers, the development of an Information and verification system, the Inter-Ministerial Task Team on Service Delivery, which is a vehicle to address challenges of delivering basic service in an integrated and cohesive manner. Review and possible amendments to appropriate legislations, regulations, policies and frameworks are being considered to advance service delivery. Further, technical assistance and deployments to municipalities are being undertaken by COGTA and its Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA) to address service delivery challenges. Technical assistance is being provided to the priority municipalities, while deployments to OLM has been conducted. | |
| It is imperative that councillors provide regular feedbacks to their communities. | The Western Cape Back to Basics Task Team has supported all the priority municipalities to develop operational ward plans, which are being monitored. A necessary feature of these plans are reports back to communities.  Working session with all priority municipalities have been conducted and progress is being monitored by the Bach to Basics Provincial Task Team and the WC DLG. The WC DLG is also monitoring the ward plans of the other municipalities. | |
| National government would ensure that there is no political interference in municipal administration by councillors. | The Western Cape Back to Basics Provincial Task Team is supporting municipalities to ensure that a proper separation between the administration and political leadership exists. Workshops on governance have been conducted with all the priority municipalities and ongoing monitoring is being conducted. | |