

# PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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WEDNESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2017

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker:

#### **Appointment of board members of Western Cape Nature Conservation Board**

The following persons have been appointed by the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning to the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board in terms of section 3 of Western Cape Nature Conservation Board Act, 1998 (Act 15 of 1998), with effect from 1 March 2018 until 28 February 2023:

Prof G Maneveldt  
Ms M Bond-Smith

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **1. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL IN GRABOUW.**

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to St Michael's Primary School in Grabouw on 12 September 2017, reports as follows:

#### **The delegation**

The delegation comprised of the following Members:

Kivedo, BD (DA) (Chairperson and the leader of the delegation)  
Botha, LJ (DA)  
Max, LH (DA)  
Olivier, RT (ANC)

Parliamentary official:  
Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Committee Co-ordinator

## **1. Introduction**

As part of its oversight mandate, the Committee requested to be kept updated regarding progress with the maintenance of infrastructure, broadband access, upgrades, learner transport and the daily management of all schools in the Province.

The purpose for conducting an oversight visit to the St Michael's Primary School was to assess the dangers learners face when crossing the N2 when walking to and from school. The oversight visit to the school during the Social Cluster Visit Week in May 2016 was cancelled following reported security concerns in areas near the school. The decision was made based on information provided to the social cluster delegation by the SAPS an hour prior to the planned visit to the school. The delegation was however informed by the Western Cape Education Department's Overberg District office during the course of the week ending 20 May 2016 that learner transport was allocated to the St Michael's Primary School. In this regard, learners no longer needed to cross the N2 by foot en route to and from the school. The allocation of the transport facility significantly minimised the dangers associated with learner mobility to and from the school.

The Social cluster delegation recommended that the Standing Committee on Education embark on an oversight visit to St Michael's Primary School to assess the learner transport at the school.

## **2. Overview**

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to St Michael's Primary School on Tuesday, 12 September 2017. The visit started at 15:00 with a meeting with the Principal, Mr R Smith, and the Departmental officials. During the oversight visit, the principal briefed the Committee on the status of the school. After the meeting, the Committee conducted a walk about on the school premises.

## **3. Findings**

- 3.1. St Michael's Primary School in Grabouw was established in 1960 to service the community of Grabouw.
- 3.2. Currently the school has reached its capacity with regards to classroom space and is in dire need of three prefabricated classrooms. The school still needs to apply to the Western Cape Educational Department (WCED) for these additional classrooms.
- 3.3. The infrastructure and maintenance of the school is consistently being maintained by the farm owners as part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the school and the farm owners.
- 3.4. The School Governing Body (SGB) is functional at the school and assists in the management and governance of the school. According to the principal, Mr Smith, the SGB's role is commendable, however the members lack the necessary levels of education, skills and aptitude to perform their duties. He further reported that the school assists SGB members with the necessary training.
- 3.5. The teacher-learner ratio is 1:47, with a staff complement of six.
- 3.6. Academic performance of the school is between 70% and 100% pass rate.
- 3.7. Most learners experience learning barriers.

- 3.8. The school requires an upgrade of the girls and boy's ablution blocks (toilets).
- 3.9. Learner transport had a negative impact on the school during the winter months as learners are reluctant to attend school.
- 3.10. The school together with the District office has made provision for learner transport and also started the learner transport application in April 2017 for the 2018 academic year.
- 3.11. The school highlighted the challenge of proper fencing as they had to deal with baboons entering the school.
- 3.12. The school requires a proper sports field in order to support learners with sporting activities.
- 3.13. The computer lab of the school is non-functional and requires upgrades as most of the equipment is outdated.

#### **4. Recommendations/Requests for Information**

- 4.1. The Committee recommended that the District office considers building another school in the area, given the growing need in the community of Grabouw.
- 4.2. The Committee requests that WCED provides its academic results (of all its grades) for the period 2014 to 2017 and submit by 15 January 2018.

#### **5. Conclusion**

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the situation at the school.

#### **6. Acknowledgements**

The Chairperson thanked the school for its willingness to share valuable information with the Standing Committee.

## **2. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE BISHOP SCHOOL OF SKILLS IN BISHOP LAVIS.**

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to the Bishop School of Skills in Bishop Lavis on 26 September 2017, reports as follows:

#### **The delegation**

The delegation comprised of the following Members:

Kivedo, BD (DA) (Chairperson and the leader of the delegation)

Botha, LJ (DA)

Christians, FC (ACDP)

Max, LH (DA)

Olivier, RT (ANC)

Parliamentary official:

Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Committee Co-ordinator

## **1. Introduction**

As part of its oversight mandate, the Committee requested to be kept updated regarding progress with the maintenance of infrastructure, broadband access, upgrades and the daily management of all schools in the Province. Taking this into account the Standing Committee on Education undertook an unannounced oversight visit to the Bishop School of Skills in Bishop Lavis.

The purpose of the visit was to engage with the school given the incident that happened in April 2017 in which the school principal, Mr W Abrahams, was stabbed on the school premises. The Standing Committee intended to assess the impact this incident had on the entire school.

The Committee envisaged the oversight visit would provide in-depth insight into the condition learners, teachers and other staff deal with on a daily basis. The Committee also envisaged to assess the impact of gang violence at the school.

This report discusses the Committee's findings gathered during the oversight visit.

## **2. Overview**

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to Bishop School of Skills on Tuesday, 26 September 2017. During the oversight visit, the Acting Principal, Mr Q Newman, together with his management team briefed the Committee on the events that led to the stabbing of the previous school principal. They also briefed the Committee on the current operational status of the school.

## **3. Findings**

- 3.1. The Deputy Principal, Mr HW Ismael, Heads of Departments, Mr BJ Williams and Mrs HM Adams gave an account of events which led to the stabbing of Mr W Abrahams.
- 3.2. According to these staff, the suspect who stabbed the principal was linked to a shooting incident that took place at the school in March 2017, where a 15-year-old learner shot another learner in the leg. They reported that Mr Abrahams was stabbed several times on the school premises before the school was due to start on the morning of Wednesday, 12 April 2017. Mr Abrahams was in a serious but stable condition. Following this incident, Mr Abrahams requested not to return to the school. The vacancy left by the principal indicated the dire need for the vacancy to be filled. The District first approached the deputy principals and then the heads of department within the school, who declined as a result of still being traumatised, despondent and concerned about their own safety. The stabbing triggered many requests for relocation from teachers at the school. It has also made it difficult for the school to fill vacant teaching positions. This has further led to a drop in the attendance of both learners and teachers.
- 3.3. Learners at this school experience learning barriers such as mild intellectual and emotional barriers.
- 3.4. The school is situated in a gang infested area. According to the teachers a school of skills should not be placed within a community but rather on the outskirts in order for the school not to be influenced by the socio economic dynamics of the community.

- 3.5. It was reported that the school faced the following challenges:
- 3.5.1. There is no fixed curriculum.
  - 3.5.2. Teachers reported that 60% of learners enrolled at the school had not received proper foundation phase training.
  - 3.5.3. The school experienced many problems associated with discipline, as there are many reported cases of fighting amongst the learners.
  - 3.5.4. The school cannot accommodate the growing number of learners at the school as the classrooms can only accommodate 17 learners out of a class of 35 which leaves the remaining 18 learners outside during lessons.
- 3.6. Learners excel in the workroom activities.
- 3.7. The teacher-learner ratio is 1:40, with a staff complement of 11.
- 3.8. The school feeds about 298 learners daily through the feeding scheme.
- 3.9. The School Governing Body (SGB) is functional at the school and assists in the management and governance of the school.
- 3.10. The school spends funds on security but it's not adequate, as the security personnel employed at the school's gate are afraid of the gangsters in the area and are at times overpowered.
- 3.11. Phase one of the building infrastructure has not been completed, which has left the facilities of the school in a state which is not conducive to learning.
- 3.12. The school further informed the Committee, according to the District office, that the construction of two welding workshops was planned to start in March 2017. To date nothing has happened.
- 3.13. Staff including learners are in constant need of counselling in order to overcome the trauma of Mr Abrahams' stabbing.
- 3.14. The necessary tools to assist with teaching are not adequate.
- 3.15. The school is in need of a playground and sports field.
- 3.16. The acting principal, Mr Newman, wrote to President J Zuma following an anti-crime Imbizo held in Elsie's River on 30 May 2017, outlining the challenges and crisis at the school.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The Committee recommends that the Department provides an intervention plan for Bishop School of Skills. The plan should take cognisance of the findings/challenges raised during the oversight visit and that it be submitted to the Committee by 15 January 2018.

#### **5. Conclusion**

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the situation at the school.

#### **6. Acknowledgements**

The Chairperson thanked the school for its willingness to share valuable information with the Standing Committee.

### **3. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO SILVERSTREAM PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MANENBERG.**

The Standing Committee on Education, having conducted an oversight visit to Silverstream Primary School in Manenberg on 27 June 2017, reports as follows:

#### **The delegation**

The delegation comprised of the following Members:

Kivedo, BD (DA) (Chairperson and the leader of the delegation)

Botha, LJ (DA)

Christians, F (ACDP)

Max, LH (DA)

Olivier, RT (ANC)

Parliamentary official:

Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Committee Co-ordinator

#### **1. Introduction**

As part of its oversight mandate, the Committee requested to be kept updated regarding progress with the maintenance of infrastructure, broadband access, upgrades and the daily management of all schools in the Province.

This oversight visit formed part of the Committee's programme after the Chairperson, Mr B Kivedo, alerted the Standing Committee about reports of gang violence around the school. The Committee envisaged the oversight visit would provide in-depth insight into the situation learners, teachers and other staff cope with on a daily basis and how gang violence affects this school. This school was built as a multi-functional school in order to assist the learners of Manenberg.

This report discusses the Committee's findings gathered during the oversight visit.

#### **2. Overview**

The Committee conducted an oversight visit to Silverstream Primary School on Tuesday, 27 June 2017. The visit started with a meeting with the Principal, Ms VI Ward and the departmental officials at 14:00. During the oversight visit, the principal briefed the Committee on the status of the school. After the meeting, the Committee conducted a walkabout on the school premises.

#### **3. Findings**

- 3.1. Silverstream Primary School is a full-service/multi-functional school with a curriculum co-ordinator and a learner support official.
- 3.2. The newly built Silverstream School is being maintained by cleaning staff, learners and administration staff of the school.
- 3.3. The principal, Ms Ward, has been with the school for more than 25 years and was appointed as the principal in 2016.

- 3.4. The teacher-learner ratio is 1:43, with a staff complement of 23.
- 3.5. The School feeds about 713 learners daily through the feeding scheme.
- 3.6. The School Governing Body (SGB) is functional at the school and assists in the management and governance of the school. According to the principal, the SGB's role is commendable.
- 3.7. The School spends most of its funds on night security and employs parents to assist in guarding the entrance of the school.
- 3.8. The School experiences a challenge in the form of transporting learners to and from school activities. As the area is situated in a "Red Zone" and due to the gang violence, at times it makes it difficult for learners to get to school.
- 3.9. The recently built library at the school requires books and has become a challenge to operate since it is not adequately equipped.
- 3.10. The School has experienced difficulties in attracting educators due to the negative image Manenberg has garnered.
- 3.11. The School experiences high late coming by learners and has implemented a strategy that will assist learners to arrive on time. The School has adjusted its starting time to accommodate for those learners who arrive late.
- 3.12. Academic performance of the school does not reflect the desired results but with the School Improvement Plan that has been set in place by the School, this intervention would assist in improving the academic results of the school.
- 3.13. Most learners experience learning barriers such as mild intellectual barriers and therefore the learner support staff official assists with this at the school.

#### **4. Concern**

- 4.1. The Committee raised a concern that the school has requested an office for their Learner Support official but has not received any response from WCED. This function has become an important part of the school, given that learners at the school struggle academically and are in need of this additional support.

#### **5. Recommendations**

The Committee recommended that the District office by 30 November 2017: -

- 5.1 Engages with the Department of Community Safety and requests that, as part of the funding provided to accredited neighbourhood watch members, this service/funding should be utilised by the school, to address the high cost of security services required by the school.
- 5.2. Follows up on the filling of the Deputy Principal post that had become vacant in 2016.
- 5.3. Engages with WCED with regards to the After-School Game-Changer that makes provision for funding to be utilised so that learners can be transported to various sporting activities. The funding can also assist to obtain security for those learners that participate in MOD Centre activities in order to provide a safe environment for learners.
- 5.4. Engages with WCED to obtain a mobile classroom to be utilised by the Learner Support official.

## **6. Resolution**

The Committee Resolved to engage with the Department of Community Safety so that Silverstream Primary School form part of the Walking Bus initiative of the Department.

## **7. Conclusion**

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit and took cognisance of the situation at the school.

## **8. Acknowledgements**

The Chairperson thanked the school for its willingness to share valuable information with the Standing Committee.

## **4. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON OVERSIGHT VISITS TO THE SUNBEAM CRECHE IN WESTLAKE AND MASAKHANE CRECHE IN MASIPHUMELELE ON TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2017.**

The Standing Committee on Community Development (Social Development) having conducted oversight visits to the Sunbeam Crèche and Masakhane Crèche on 26 September 2017, reports as follows:

Delegation

The delegation included the following Members:

Democratic Alliance  
Botha, LJ (Chairperson)  
Mitchell, DG  
Wenger, MM  
African National Congress  
Makeleni, P

Additional Members  
Gopie, D (ANC)  
Lekker, PZ (ANC)

The following Parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:

Ms. N Jamce, Committee Co-ordinator

### **1. Introduction**

The Standing Committee as part of its oversight mandate over the Department of Social Development and complying with its Committee programme resolved to undertake oversight visits to the Sunbeam in Westlake and Masakhane ECDs in Masiphumelele.

Following the Committees' briefing meeting by the Department of Social Development on 31 January 2017, on the special pilot project that aims to improve English and cognitive development in the Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) in the province. The Committee resolved to visit the ECDs that benefited from the project to assess the progress made by the Department of Social Development on this project. The Committee visited the Sunbeam ECD in Westlake, which

has not benefited from the project and visited the Masakhane ECD in Masiphumelele, which benefited from the project. The reason for the visits in the two different ECDs was to make a comparison on the conditions and the quality of the educational outcomes in the abovementioned ECDs.

## **2. Overview**

The main objective of the oversight visit was to gain first-hand experience on the progress made by the Department on this project, assess the activities of the facilities, and get an overall status of these selected ECD facilities.

The presentation on the establishment of a special ECDs programme at 100 sites in the province to improve English and cognitive development was led by Mrs Flynn. She informed the Committee that the programme aims to design and develop a quality model of ECDs that has been scaled to 100 sites in the Western Cape, with a focus on the quality of educational outcomes in ECDs in the province for better school preparedness to improve long-term educational outcomes. The first phase of the project commenced from July to December 2016 and the second phase of the pilot project is underway. Since the inception of the project, a total of 50 ECD sites had been identified after the quality control assessments were concluded, and 14 ECDs benefited from the project thus far.

Mrs Flynn reported that a team of professionals that include social workers, psychologists, and occupational therapists have a direct contact time with children in a small group of six, on a rotational basis. A total of 1072 children were screened and 757 children were identified as at risk and were all identified as one standard deviation below the norm. In addition to this, 208 children had ear screening done, 939 parents attended workshops and 53 ECD practitioners participated in a transfer of skills workshop. The highlight of the project has been the development of the Mobile Application CareUp. The application was developed as a communication tool for parents and practitioners. It allows them to consistently engage through the exchange of messages.

Ms Flynn indicated that the Department of Social Development is working closely with the Department of Health, Education and the City of Cape Town in this project. These Departments are able to use the CareUp Mobile Application for the dissemination of information to communities and to give feedback to the parents. For example, the Department of Health is able to use this Mobile Application to share information about immunisation and the first 100 days while the Department of Education utilise the Mobile Application for Mathematical Literacy and other subjects.

The Department reported that for the 2018/19 financial year, the Department is planning to reach 100 ECDs sites. The rollout of this pilot project is dependent more on the number of beneficiaries available. The budget allocation for the pilot project is as follows:

- (a) The Reach Trust has been allocated R2, 994,415, approximately R181 per child per month. Next year it will be reduced to R147, according to the Department's scale, which will further be reduced to R99 per child.
- (b) The Learning Initiative has been allocated R7 245 000. R695 per child per month, which includes a three year programme development cost. This will be completed by 2019/20. The costs will drop substantially.
- (c) The Knysna Education Trust has been allocated R2 61 200.00, R 272 per child per month.

## **3. Findings on the activities of the Sunbeam ECD in Westlake**

- 3.1 The Sunbeam ECD in Westlake is operating in an impoverished community and the structure of the building is informal.
- 3.2 The ECD is not registered and the teachers do not have the required ECD training qualifications.
- 3.3 The ECD caters for 40 children, six babies and the youngest is six months old.

- 3.4 The ECD is not getting funding from the Department of Social Development due to non-compliance with norms and standards. The rezoning requirements by the City of Cape Town are also a challenge.
- 3.5 The operating hours of the ECDs are between 06:30 in the morning and 17:30 in the afternoon and parents pay R200 per month for each child.
- 3.5 The infrastructure is inadequate and more space is needed.

The Committee proceeded to the oversight visit to the Masakhane ECD in Masiphumelele.

#### **4. Findings on the activities the Masakhane ECD in Masiphumelele**

- 4.1 The Masakhane ECD in Masiphumelele is one of the ECDs that benefited from the ECD pilot project to improve English and cognitive development in ECDs in the province.
- 4.2 During the visit, the Committee observed the therapy session that was conducted by Therapist Jana for a group of six children.
- 4.3 The children participated in group activities that were conducted in English by the Therapist and translated into Xhosa by the translator.
- 4.4. The Committee was informed that some of the children in the therapy could not talk before the therapy sessions, now they are confident to speak English and Xhosa.
- 4.5 Some of the benefits for children that are participating in the pilot project include the executive functioning that includes thinking, reasoning and developing critical, flexible thinking and problem solving.
- 4.6 The project also taught children skills, such as impulse control, verbal, listening to instructions, managing frustration, planning, socio-emotional development and empathy.
- 4.7 The parents' workshop had a significant impact on the relationship between children and their parents, parents are asked to stimulate their children, to play a role in their children's education and to be the best teachers in their children's lives.

#### **5. Challenges**

- 5.1 The ECD registration is a major challenge in Westlake. Currently, 20 ECDs are unregistered with a total of 600 children.
- 5.2 The dropout rate for Grade 1 students is on the rise at Westlake Primary School.
- 5.3 Funding for the rollout of the project in all ECDs in the province is insufficient.
- 5.4 The children in ECDs are not socialised to think and rote learning is rife.
- 5.5 The results of children screened for this project show that the children in ECDs have low reasoning, a low self-image and cannot follow 2-3 step instructions.

#### **6. Resolutions**

The Committee RESOLVED that:

- 6.1. The Department should clarify whether the special ECD pilot project would be included as a performance target of the Department; if not, why not. The Department should provide reasons.

#### **7. Recommendations**

The Committee RECOMMENDED that the Department:

- 7.1 Should consider introducing an accredited train the trainer programme that will allow community members to roll out the programme in their communities.
- 7.2 Revise its indicator for the registration of ECDs in the province. The indicator should focus more on the quality of the educational outcomes in ECD centers.
- 7.3 Should put pressure on parents to ensure that parents are aware of what to expect regarding the educational outcomes from the ECDs.

## **8. Conclusion**

The Government prioritised Early Childhood Development since 1994. It has been recognised as one of the most powerful tool for breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty in South Africa. Overwhelming scientific evidence confirms the tremendous importance of the early years for human development and the need for investing resources to support and promote optimal child development from conception. Lack of opportunities and interventions, or poor quality interventions, during early childhood, can significantly disadvantage children and diminish their potential for success.

Early Childhood Development can help drive the transformation which the Department and the government hope to achieve in future, because Early Childhood Development reduces inequalities, poverty, provides decent work and economic growth, quality education and gender equality.

This requires investments and interventions to reach children that are at greater risk of being left behind, recognise interdependencies between nutrition, healthcare and education.

The Committee successfully concluded its oversight visit to the ECDs in Westlake and Masiphumelele.

## **5. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE DIABETES SOUTH AFRICA SUPPORT GROUP, IN MITCHELLS PLAIN ON TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2017.**

The Standing Committee on Community Development (Health) having conducted an oversight visit to the Diabetes South Africa, Support Group in Mitchell Plain on 22 August 2017 reports as follows:

### **Delegation**

The delegation included the following Members:

#### **Democratic Alliance**

Botha, LJ (Chairperson)  
Mitchell, DG  
Wenger, MM

#### **African National Congress**

Makeleni, P

#### **Additional Members**

Gopie, D (ANC)  
Lekker, PZ (ANC)

#### **Apology**

Gillion, MN (ANC)

The Parliamentary official accompanied the delegation:

Ms. N Jamce, Committee Co-ordinator

## **1. Introduction**

The Standing Committee as part of its oversight mandate over the Department of Health and complying with the Committee programme resolved to undertake an oversight visit to the Diabetes South Africa, Support Group in Mitchells Plain. The Mitchells Plain Diabetes Support Group (the Group) started 17 years ago, is based at the Mitchells Plain Town Centre library and meets every second Thursday of the month.

## **2. Overview**

The delegation visited the Diabetes South Africa, Support Group in Mitchells Plain on Tuesday, 22 August 2017. The main objective of the visit was to get a better understanding of the programmes and activities of this support group and to ascertain whether this initiative can be rolled out to other communities.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body's ability to produce or respond to the hormone insulin is impaired, resulting in abnormal metabolism of carbohydrates and elevated levels of glucose in the blood. In South Africa, around 7% of people (1 in 14 adults) have diabetes. It is further estimated that more than two-thirds of people with diabetes are undiagnosed. With the increasing prevalence of diabetes in South Africa, the need for knowledge on how to manage the condition has become significant.

## **2. Committee findings on the activities of the Diabetes South Africa, Support Group in Mitchells Plain**

- 2.1. The main objective of the group is to educate diabetics patients about the dangers of diabetes. The group also aims to assist people with diabetes to understand their condition so that they can look after themselves and live a healthy active life.
- 2.2. The Group consists of 120 members and is empowering all those affected by diabetes through support, education and information. It also provides awareness by highlighting risk factors associated with diabetes and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- 2.3. The work of the support group includes informing, educating and supporting all people who have diabetes and their families. The group acts as an advocate for people with diabetes, lobbying for better facilities, cheaper medication and better services.
- 2.4. Community members that are diabetic join the support group, free of charge but donate on monthly basis for refreshments which are provided during their sessions.
- 2.5. Ms C Hendricks, the founder of the support group reported that she started the support group after realising that the diabetic patients in her community were defaulting on their medication and were not eating a balanced diet.
- 2.6. The activities of the support group are publicised in community newspapers, on notice boards in the public libraries and by word of mouth.
- 2.7. There are several types of diabetes, namely, type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes.
- 2.8. Early detection of diabetes is important. The longer the body is exposed to high blood glucose levels, the more damage it could cause. Some people with type 2 diabetes have no outward signs associated with high blood glucose levels, so testing the blood glucose level is the only way to be sure. A finger-prick blood test is utilised to screen for diabetes.
- 2.9. The signs of diabetes include feeling very thirsty, sores and boils that do not heal, always feeling tired, poor eyesight and loss of weight.

- 2.10. If diabetes is not treated it can lead to blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, strokes and amputation of limbs.
- 2.11. Diabetes can be managed by exercising regularly, eating healthy, conducting regular blood tests, and taking the tablets or insulin injections as prescribed by the doctor.
- 2.12. Ms Hendricks also indicated that the group conducts regular blood pressure and glucose level checks, health talks and physical exercises.
- 2.13. It was further reported that people who are at high risk of developing diabetes are those who are overweight, inactive, hypertensive or have a family history of diabetes.

### **3. Resolution**

The Committee resolved to find out whether the Department has pamphlets with educational information on diabetic, if yes, the Department should provide the Committee and the Diabetic Support Group in Mitchells Plain with these pamphlets if the pamphlets are not available, the Department to create infographic pamphlets to raise awareness about diabetic.

### **4. Conclusion**

The Committee successfully concluded the oversight visit at the Mitchells Plain Diabetes Support Group and thanked Ms Hendricks and the other members of the support group for the good work they provide in their communities.