

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

THURSDAY, 10 MAY 2018

COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT OF THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE ON ITS FACT FINDING VISIT TO RIVERSVIEW INFORMAL SETTLEMENT IN CITRUSDAL

The Petitions Committee, having undertaken a fact finding visit to Citrusdal on 28 July 2017, reports as follows:

1. The delegation

The delegation of the Petitions Committee included the following Members:

Mr RD MacKenzie, (DA) (Chairperson)
Ms S W Davids, (ANC)
Mr B D Kivedo, (DA)
Mr N E Hinana, (DA)

WCPP Officials

Ms W Hassen-Moosa, Committee Co-ordinator
Mr A Barends, Driver

2. Account of visit

On 18 March 2015 the Petitions Committee received a petition from the Citrusdal Community Policing Forum (hereafter the Petitioners) stating that an illegal tavern named “Alaska for Ever” had been established in the Riversview Informal Settlement that was being used for the illegal peddling of drugs within the Citrusdal community. The tavern was established by an individual who was in the country illegally. The Petitioners requested that the illegal tavern structure be demolished.

Following the letter from the Department of Local Government indicating that the illegal tavern had been demolished, the Committee resolved to undertake a site visit to Citrusdal. The aim of the visit was twofold. The first objective was to meet with all the relevant role-players in the Cederberg Municipality to check if the Alaska Forever Tavern had indeed been demolished. The second objective was to further investigate the extent of the concerns raised by the Petitioners.

3. Introduction

The first item on the agenda was for the Committee to engage with the Cederberg Municipality on the status of the demolished structure. Thereafter, the Committee met with the Station Commander of Citrusdal SAPS and the rest of the Petitioners.

The Committee concluded its fact finding visit with a tour of the erf in Riversview Informal Settlement on Friday, 28 July 2017, where the tavern had been demolished. During the visit, the Committee gave all petitioners and the Cederberg Municipality a platform to voice their concerns following the demolishing of the tavern.

4 Findings and Challenges

4.1. The following issues were raised by Cederberg Municipality:

4.1.1 Demolishing the structure of the Alaska Forever tavern was a major challenge as finances needed to be raised in order to utilise an independent security contractor from Cape Town.

4.1.2. Reports showed that 12 more shabeens/taverns were erected in Riversview Informal Settlement, which could become as challenging as the Alaska Forever tavern had become.

4.1.3. Raids on the shabeens/taverns by Citrusdal SAPS were ineffective as this information was leaked to tavern owners before the raids could take place.

4.2. The following issues were raised by the Station Commander of Citrusdal and the Petitioners:

4.2.1. Citrusdal SAPS was commended for the excellent relationship it has with the Citrusdal Policing Forum, and for its willingness to assist the Citrusdal community.

4.2.2. There is a lack of commitment from the Cederberg Municipality to make decisions, particularly those pertaining to the shabeens/taverns in Riversview Informal Settlement.

4.2.3. Information about the demolishing of the Alaska Forever tavern was leaked to the owners, resulting in the owners removing their machines and stock before the demolition was due to take place.

4.2.3. Mr S Leputha, Mr L Makwoetlane, Mr T Makoetlane and Mr Maroeti including the owner of Alaska Forever Tavern, Mr Maroeti, are all illegal immigrants and owners of erfs in Riversview Informal Settlement, which is against the law, as illegal immigrants are not allowed to own erfs.

4.2.4. The site where the tavern was situated is now being utilised as a parking garage for the owner of the shabeen/tavern. Mr Maroeti has now moved the Alaska Forever tavern to a new site.

4.2.5. Many people that are residing in Citrusdal are unable to obtain property now, as properties are sold to foreigners.

5. Resolutions

The Committee RESOLVED that letters be sent by 31 July 2017:-

- 5.1. A letter be sent to the Provincial Minister of Local Government, Mr A Bredell, and the Head of the Department for Local Government, Mr G Paulse, and requesting assistance in demolishing the additional 12 illegal taverns/shabeens in Riversview Informal Settlement in Citrusdal.
- 5.2. A letter be sent to the Minister for Home Affairs, Prof H Mkhize, requesting that the owner of Alaska Forever tavern, Mr SL Maroeti, as well as Mr S Leputha, Mr L Makwoetlane and Mr T Makoetlane, be found. These individuals to be categorised as high-risk, and that they be deported with immediate effect.
- 5.3. A letter be sent to inform the Minister of Police, Mr F Mbalula, informing him about the allegations that information was being leaked to tavern owners beforehand when taverns were going to be raided, which made it difficult for Citrusdal SAPS to carry out these organised raids, and to request that Minister Mbalula investigate these allegations.
- 5.4. A letter be sent to the Chief Executive Officer of AGRI Western Cape, Mr C Opperman, requesting that AGRI Western Cape scrutinise the criteria used by farmers to employ immigrants to work on farms, and to put stricter measures in place to curb the recruitment of illegal immigrants to work on farms in the Citrusdal area.
- 5.5. A letter be sent to the Cederberg Municipality requesting them to develop a programme or erect a structure that could be utilised by the Riversview community on the vacant land where the tavern was built.

6. Conclusion

The Committee successfully concluded its fact finding visit and took cognisance of the urgency of the challenges experienced in the community. The community requires support in their endeavors to succeed against the backdrop of the challenges noted in this report.

7. Acknowledgements

The Chairperson thanked the community and petitioners of Citrusdal for their willingness to share valuable information with the Petitions Committee.