

HIGH LEVEL PANEL REPORT

Working Group (WG) 3 on Social Cohesion and Nation Building Public Hearings Report: Northern Cape Province

1. BACKGROUND

This is a report of Working Group 3 on Social Cohesion and Nation Building capturing the public hearings in the Northern Cape Province. The public hearings session was convened on 21 August 2016, in Kimberley, and was chaired by the Chairperson of the High-Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change, Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe. High level panel members in attendance were:

- **Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe** (Chairperson of the Panel)
- **Dr. Yvonne Muthien** (panel member and member of Working Group 3);
- **Prof. Olive Shisana** (panel member and member of Working Group 1);
- **Dr. Aninka Claassens** (panel member of member of Working Group 2).

2. OVERVIEW OF ISSUES RAISED

- **Poor quality of public schools:** refers to the lack of facilities and teacher development, as well as low pass rates.
- **Unemployment:** lack of coordination between educational qualifications and employment opportunities; inadequacy of Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) which only offers short-term employment; lack of employment opportunities provided by the mining and agricultural economic sectors.
- **Inadequate health services and facilities:** few available doctors and nurses; need for skills development of nurses; inadequate ambulance services; short clinic operating hours.
- **Inaccessible justice system (police and courts)**
- **Inadequate services delivery:** inadequate water, electricity and sewerage services.
- **Misuse / inadequacy of social grant system:** many households solely dependent on social grants; social grants misused; social grants misused for drug and alcohol dependency.
- **Inadequate housing:** many people inhabiting one RDP house.
- **Land:** need for development of vacant land: for residential and agricultural production purposes.
- **Language / identity / cultural marginalisation:** members of the LGBTI community receive inadequate public services.
- **LGBTI:** marginalisation and discrimination.
- **Griqua marginalisation and discrimination**

- **Domestic violence:** high levels of domestic violence; the need for a specific category for domestic violence on police dockets.
- **Corruption.**
- **Mineral economy:** Lack of beneficiation for communities.

3. THEMATIC AREAS

THEMATIC AREA	DETAILS
Poor quality of public schools	-Public schools are inadequately-funded, as this reflects in the poor quality of facilities ins schools. -There is also inadequate and / or ineffective in-service development for teachers in public schools.
Unemployment	Unemployment persists as a result of: -Low pass rate at schools; -Lack of absorption of youth with adequate educational qualifications and skills; -Inadequate number and opportunities of learnerships available; Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) offer short-term 'work' (not employment) opportunities. -Need for more learnerships.
Health facilities and services	-Healthcare facilities available in communities are inadequate. There are few clinics available, with few doctors and nurses available. Public clinics also operate hours that do not accommodate individuals who work. There is also a need for more research to be conducted on cancer and tuberculosis (TB). There is a need to train doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers. -Medical schemes are fast exhausted by general practitioners.
Justice system	Police and courts are inaccessible, and are not service-friendly to victims, particularly the victims of domestic violence and gender-based sexual violence.
Services delivery	-Disabled members of communities are not properly catered for in public and municipal institutions. Braille and computers with audio instruments are not available in public services institutions to aid disabled members of the community.

	-Inadequate sewerage services and are hazardous.
Social grant system	-Social grant misuse / inadequacy, leads to alcohol and drug abuse. -Need for provision of social grants to deserving older women who have not yet reached the age to qualify for the elderly grant system. -Over-dependence of families on the social grant system.
Housing	-RDP houses over-inhabited / overpopulated. Sometimes there are ten people living in one RDP house.
Land	-Need for development of vacant land.
Languages	-Afrikaans marginalised and discriminated against in favour of English. -Neglect of Khoi-San language. The Khoi-San was last taught in schools in 2012.
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Intersex (LGBTI) discrimination	-Discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex (LGBTI) communities in public institutions.
Griqua people	-Landlessness. -The Griqua continue to be inappropriately referred to as Coloured, leading to continued marginalisation and discrimination.
Domestic violence	-Rate of domestic violence very high in the Northern Cape province. -Need for separate and distinctive classification of domestic violence as a crime category by the South African Police Services (SAPS).
Corruption	Corruption is very high in public institutions and public services.
Mineral economy	Little beneficiation from the mineral economy of the Northern Cape province. Communities not effectively consulted by government or traditional authorities when discussing mining/exploration rights with private companies.

4. EXISTING POLICY PROVISIONS IMPACTING ON LEGISLATION

- Legislation processes and institutions are considered removed from communities in language and attitudes of the state towards communities.
- Communities regard the lack of use of Afrikaans by officials in municipalities and other public service institutions as creating misunderstandings and lack of understanding in the relaying of information.
- Lack of understanding on policy provisions regarding the relationship between the authority and mandate of traditional leaders and the granting of the rights to the use of land.
- Teaching of Khoi-San language in schools.
- In-service development of teachers (skills development / upgrading of teachers, already in place employment at schools, as per curriculum / students' development needs).
- SAPS intervention in domestic violence cases.

5. LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

- Registration of domestic employees by their employers for the availability and access to benefits.
- Beneficiation of the minerals economy to benefit the communities living in the vicinity of mined land.
- Relationship between the mandate and authority of traditional leaders and the apportioning of land to mining companies without consulting mining communities.
- Processes relating to the allocation, use, and development of vacant land.
- Ensuring the Constitutional injunction that South Africa is a multi-lingual nation.
- Relationship, authority, and forms of interactions between Traditional/Khoisan leadership and the existing tiers of government.

6. ISSUES TO REFER TO OTHER WORKING GROUPS

- Development and use of vacant land (Working Group 2).
- Availability of learnership opportunities. (Working Group 1).
- Social grants misuse / inadequate availability (Working Group 1).
- Social security net for older women but not yet eligible for elderly grants/pension system. (Working Group 1).
- Public health facilities operating inadequately. (Working Group 1).