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PROPOSED FOCUSED INTERVENTION STUDY TOPICS

**EMANATING FROM THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS' BUDGET (VOTE 8) REPORT OF THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL
YEAR (FY)**

In line with the Oversight Model of the South African Legislative Sector

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1. INTRODUCTION

Focused Intervention Study (FIS) is one of the methods that the Committees can use to evaluate the effectiveness of the Departmental programmes. According to Programme Evaluation and Budget Analysis (PEBA) oversight model of the GPL, Committees can conduct an independent assessment of any of the Departmental programmes based on various reports to assess its effectiveness. The Sector Oversight Model (SOM) states that a committee has to undertake two FISs per financial year. The main aim of these FISs is to provide the drive and strategic direction for Committees' oversight visits.

The first FIS takes place after the budget process. The focus of the first FIS is to determine whether or not a specific sub-programme or project is sufficiently funded to ensure that it meets its objectives at the end of the financial year¹. This will ensure that the Committee focuses on where it can assist a department in the task of service delivery directly, where it can be assured of having a positive impact. At this stage, the Committee would be in a position to advise if the budget provided to the Department is sufficient and if the Department would be able to achieve its mandate with the allocated budget.

The second FIS takes place after the Auditor General's and the Annual Report processes but before the arrival of third quarterly report. During this FIS, the Committee assesses the actual outputs and the implementation processes against what was presented at the start of the financial year and therefore assesses the actual state of service delivery². The Committee is allowed to conduct FIS based on the following:

- Be convinced that a specific sub-programme or project is not sufficiently funded and therefore may likely fail in its objectives,
- May want to give priority to a certain programme perceived to be a priority or that the one not adequately resourced in relation to other issues,

- Concerns that are not addressed satisfactorily by the Department during the Budget/Annual report deliberations,
- A wish to inform the implementation of a priority as soon as possible into the financial year to influence such implementation.

The Sector Oversight Model (SOM) prescribes that the focus and subject matter of the second Focused Intervention Study (FIS) should be informed by the Department's annual report and that, the Portfolio Committee may, during this stage, make a determination to confront concerns that are not sufficiently addressed.

In line with the above background, the proposed topics below emanate from the analysis of the 2023/24 FY budget vote 8 report.

2. PROPOSED FIS TOPICS

Topic 1: An assessment of the plans in place to upgrade informal settlements by the GDHS.

Background information

Provincial Budget Speech

On financing the Human Settlements development projects, the MEC for Finance Honourable Jacob Mamabolo in his speech mentioned that:

- **With regard to informal Settlements:** They will improve the basic infrastructure services within the informal settlements in the province with an amount of R3.8 billion which has been allocated to upgrade the following informal settlements – Kwa Brown, Mamello, Piel's Farm, Thabong, Pangoville (Munsieville), Bergsig Informal Settlement and Ratanda.

State of the province address

About the **informal settlements** in line with the provincial budget speech, the premier said "*we need to begin a process of managing, formalizing and ending informal settlements. As part of ensuring that informal settlements do not escalate in our*

province, we are concluding the establishment of a 24-hour anti-land invasion tactical unit. This unit will be fully equipped and backed by legal brains to stop the lawlessness of invading other people's land easily".

"Furthermore, Honourable Premier explained "we are intervening in 731 informal settlements in our Province. Of this, we have mapped and enumerated 639 and we are upgrading 179 informal settlements at a budget of R3.1 billion. Today, we have released 482 number of service stands. This is our new way of speeding the building of houses in our communities. This means instead of people waiting for a RDP house we will release fully serviced stands with roads, water and electricity".

According to the 2023/24 FY budget vote 8 report, the 2023/24 financial year will see the implementation of the ISUPG gaining momentum because of the considerable amount of work that has already started on this Programme. For example, the Department plans to upgrade a total of 3 informal settlements by the end of the financial year, with this target significantly increasing during the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period.

It is in line with the above background that the Committee proposes to conduct an FIS in order to explore the strategies put in place by the Department to upgrade informal settlements.

Topic 2: Evaluating the implementation of hostel redevelopment programme with specific reference to the six Johannesburg inner city hostels.

Background information

On financing the Human Settlements development projects, the MEC for Finance Honourable Jacob Mamabolo in his speech mentioned that:

- **Hostels:** A total of R322 million will go towards the renovation and improvement of conditions of hostels. Some of the hostels planned for the upgrade includes George Goch; Denver; Jeppe; LTA Rethabile, Kwama-Siza, Dube, Orlando, Diepkloof and Orlando West.

- **Moreover**, Premier in relation to the hostels, clarified that *“Already, all the 6 hostels under our care have been installed with free WiFi and data. We have appointed service providers who will clean these hostels frequently. We are repairing all broken windows, roofs, toilets, doors, etc., in these hostels”*.

Furthermore, Premier mentioned the following:

- *We will install showers, toilets, reconnect electricity, collect refuse frequently with cleaning services by personnel from the Gauteng Government.*
- *From the 1st of April all the 6 hostels will have weekly mobile health clinics with doctors and nurses.*
- *We will introduce new Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in the hostels and provide women living in hostels with privacy and support.*
- *All the 6 hostels will have CCTV cameras to manage crime as well as a 24-hour patrol to ensure that our hostels are safe”*.

The Department has report during the 2023/24 FY budget report that whilst the GDHS is only directly responsible for 6 hostels (i.e., George Koch, LTA Rethabile, Denver, Jeppe, MBA, and Murray & Roberts) in the province, it has been made clear that 59 hostels in the province will benefit from the bulk infrastructure assessment exercise that the Department will be undertaking in the 2023/24 financial year. This is in line with the latest re-prioritization of hostel re-development, among other programmes, that seeks to upgrade hostels into habitable family units.

To that end, detailed planning work (i.e., Environmental Impact Assessment, Revised Township Layout Plan, Geotech 1, and Preliminary Engineering Designs) will be undertaken as part of upgrading the 6 Johannesburg inner city hostels. The development of these hostels would be guided through the implementation of the inner-city hostel precinct development. The 6 inner city hostels in Johannesburg will also benefit from the major repairs that will be affected therein, including their daily maintenance and environment upkeep, which would ensure that they are habitable. Against the above background, the Committee proposes to carryout and FIS in order to examine the implementation of hostel redevelopment programme with specific reference to the six Johannesburg inner city hostels.

Topic 3: Assessing the provision of interim services (sanitation and water) to informal settlements in the Sedibeng region.

Background information

The Department during the 2023/24 FY plans to provide interim support services (basic services such as water and sanitation) to a total of 69 informal settlements in the same financial year. The provision of these services to informal settlements is done on a need basis, which keeps fluctuating.

By the end of the third quarter of 2022/23 FY, 62 informal settlements were provided with interim support services in the form of sanitation services, resulting in 77 756 households having benefitted from these interim support services. Water services were still outstanding as at the end of the reporting period.

It is against the above backdrop that the Committee proposes to undertake an FIS to assess the provision of interim services to the informal settlements located in Sedibeng region.

3. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Portfolio Committee will have to choose one topic to pursue. The Committee Researcher will then produce a full FIS proposal which will clearly stipulate the objectives and how the Committee can go about in pursuing the study based on the chosen topic.