

Minister to open multimillion-rand park

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ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs Minister Edna Molewa is expected to officially hand over a multimillion-rand Kgoroshi Recreational Park in Ga-Kgoroshi, Matlala, to the Polokwane municipality today.

The R12m park which boasts an educational centre, a storage building, water and sewer reticulation, braai areas and general landscaping, was funded by the department's environmental protection and infrastructure programme.

The department spokesperson, Albi Modise, said the aim of the programme included job creation, skills development and empowerment of small businesses while addressing the mandate of the department.

"The Kgoroshi project was executed using labour intensive methods as per requirements of the expanded public works programme (EPWP)," Modise said. "It created work oppor-

tunities for at least 171 local people of which 99 were women, 95 youth and four people with disabilities. The commencement of implementation date of this project was December 2014."

The project had transformed the previously open space into a recreational area for the communities to relax and enjoy the natural environment and improving the well-being and aesthetics of the area.

The park will also contribute not only to the integrity of the natural environment but also play a significant role in the biodiversity conservation, the department said.

The park was in line with the Polokwane municipality's smart city concept, which aimed to utilise available spaces, in the urban and rural areas in an environmentally friendly manner.

Municipality spokesperson, Matshidiso Mothapo said: "We are on the path of upgrading parks in all our clusters."

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GIVING: Minister Edna Molewa will hand over the R12m park.