

Health MEC intervenes in Richie clinic protest

TIISETSO MANOKO

HEALTH MEC Lebogang Motlhaping has called for calm and patience as he intervenes in the conditions of the clinic in Richie.

This comes after residents went on a rampage last week and brought the facility to a standstill over the filthy conditions.

Health spokesperson Lebogang Majaha said the conditions were caused by the passing of the personnel responsible for the daily cleaning of the clinic two months ago.

"The department had placed temporary cleaners at the Richie clinic to ensure cleanliness of the facility until the extended public works workers' appointment process has been finalised.

"Two employees will be appointed

and expected to resume duties on July 1," he said.

Majaha urged the community not to resort to violence whenever they wanted to raise their concerns.

"The MEC apologises to the community for the inconveniences this may have caused in relating to the compromised quality of healthcare service at Richie, however he does commit to resolving all other issues pertaining to telephone lines, emergency services, medication and security services," he said.

Majaha said primary healthcare services was of importance to the MEC and he was working around the clock to ensure all the issues and concerns raised by the community were given special attention.

"During the departmental budget

vote last week, the MEC announced that a process is under way to appoint 500 people from the extended public works programme to ensure the cleanliness of healthcare facilities," he said.

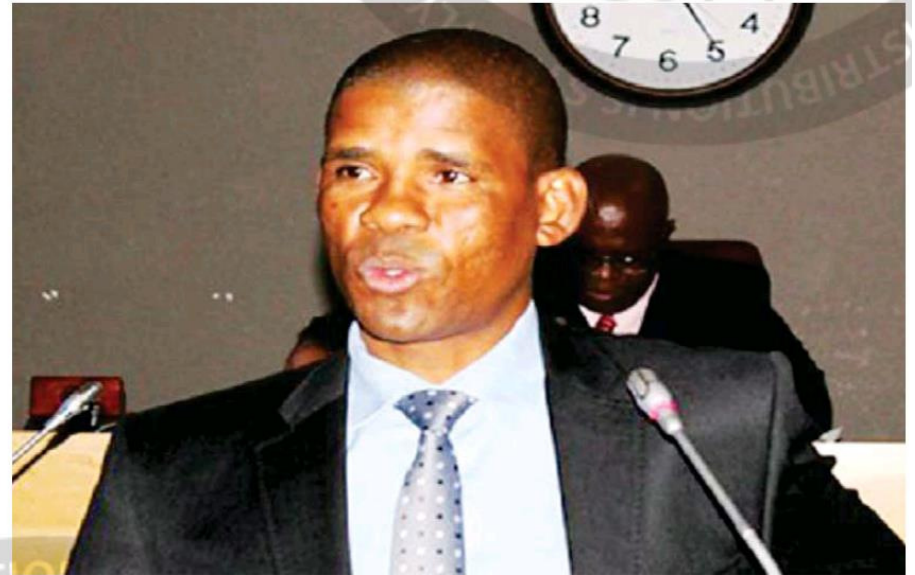
Majaha said the MEC also encouraged communities to raise issues at an early state and not wait until they were unbearable.

"They can also directly call his office to ensure the speedy resolution of resolving their complaints," he said.

Community members in Richie closed the clinic down calling on government to intervene on their call for cleanliness in health facilities.

Patients were turned away as members of the community wanted a speedy resolution to the matter.

tiisetso@thenewage.co.za



APOLOGY: MEC for health Lebogang Motlhaping has apologised to the community for the state of the Richie Clinic.