

No peace until we have roads

By **REGINALD KANYANE**

PROTESTS erupted in Molelema, North West, on Monday and Tuesday.

Shops were looted and a community hall was torched during the chaos.

The angry residents vowed to ramp up the protest until their grievances were addressed by the department of public works.

Protest leader George Tong said last year the department promised to put aside money to revamp two gravel roads.

“The government said the contractor would be introduced to us in January and construction would begin on 1 April but nothing has happened.”

Community leader Makoro Mothibi said: “We want public works and roads MEC Mmule Maluleke to tell us what hap-

pened to the money.

“We have closed shops, clinics and schools. We will not budge until we get satisfactory answers.”

Police spokesman Sergeant Tebogo Thebe said nine people were arrested for public violence.

Public works’ spokesman Tsholofelo Mathibedi said the department could not build the roads because of budget constraints.

“The MEC will visit the affected community and give them an explanation.

“The department will also make sure the gravel roads in question are graded.

“That will make them accessible and easier to tar when the money to do so becomes available.”