

Roads budget is empty — MEC

By MASEGO SENOSI

THE road will not be built soon.

This was the honest answer of MEC for Roads and Public Works, Johanna Maluleke at a meeting with the residents of Segakwaneng Village in Moruleng outside Rustenburg, North West on Friday.

The meeting comes after violent protests about the road they have been complaining about for years.

Maluleke said it was an issue facing the whole province. There is no money to build roads in all the province's villages. "I will ask the mines in the area to help us," she said.

Residents told Maluleke they had to walk long distances to get to clinics and schools because the gravel road damaged vehicles and the dust was unbeara-

ble. Buses also get stuck when it rains and the roads are muddy.

Angry villagers said they were tired of a government that failed to take them seriously.

Community leader Morena Thale said money for the road was there when the 2008 budget was tabled, but they still didn't have a road.

"We want to know what happened to that money," said Thale.

"We were expecting the MEC to give us hope but instead she came to give us excuses and that's unacceptable. We want the premier to come and tell us when we will get our road. That's all we want to hear."

The MEC had to leave without any agreement from residents, who vowed to continue to protest.