

New bridge for Lwamondo residents

By Elmon Tshikhudo

The community of Lwamondo Ha-Mugomeli outside Thohoyandou is a community at work.

The community that settled in the area many decades ago is still under-developed and residents cannot show much as the fruits of democracy. To turn the tables for the better, this rural community has embraced former South African president Thabo Mbeki's *Vukuzenzele* philosophy, which is working to their advantage.

Not long ago, the same community, with the help of local business Vhavenda Bricks and Munna Ndi Nngi Men's Forum chairperson Mr Bardwell Mufunwaini, managed to construct an access road that reduces the walking

distance to the main Thohoyandou road by almost five kilometres.

They have thereby also reduced the chances of crime by de-bushing the area, which used to be notorious as a fertile hunting ground for criminals; many people were mugged on their way to work and to the shopping complex.

Their efforts to improve their lives did not go unnoticed and the Department of Public Works promised them pipes to construct a small bridge that would allow even vehicles to pass to the village.

At the weekend, the area was a hive of activity, with community members constructing their own bridge.

Mr Bardwell Mufunwaini, who initiated the project, was all smiles at the construction site. "As a community, we are very grateful for what is happening

here today. This is the culmination of our long-cherished dream that we would one day have a bridge here that would cut the travelling distance to Thohoyandou."

He added that they started their own project and government would join them on the way. "We heartily thank businessman Pieter Lordan of Vhavenda Bricks, who has been there for us all along. This project would not have materialized, had it not been for Public Works, who supported us with pipes," he added.

He also applauded local business people and individuals for their assistance in the project. "This is not the end; we still have many projects in the pipeline to improve the lives of our people," he said.



Community at work: Lwamondo residents apply the finishing touches to a bridge they constructed themselves at Dzin di River.