

MEC Gaoage Molapisi engages with community of Moretele

MAHIKENG MAIL – MORETELE: In response to the memorandum submitted by the community of Lebalangwe village in Moretele Local Municipality in January, MEC of Public Works and Roads, Gaoage Molapisi accompanied by the Administrator, Sam Thobakgale visited the community of Lebalangwe to address issues raised.

The brick-making project and the road construction projects remain a bugbear to the community of Lebalangwe. This brick-making plant which was established about six years ago, was intended to produce paving bricks which would eventually be used to pave part of the main road, other internal roads, schools and graveyards, among others. Addressing the community, MEC Molapisi acknowledged that the department was aware of the issues raised in the memorandum and that processes are underway to resolve those issues. “We have come as the department to inform you that in March we will advertise a tender for construction of the first 5km of the 26km of road D634 from Swartdam to Jonathan. This project will start from Swartdam and end at Lebalangwe village,” said Molapisi. He pleaded with the community to refrain from taking drastic decisions and actions in an attempt to get attention from government. “We have learned that you are threatening to boycott the elections but we ask you not to do that as we will ensure we deliver on our commitments,” Molapisi said.

The Administrator went further to explain on the delay to commence with the project. “I assure you that I will personally come back in three weeks time to give feedback on progress made,” said Thobakgale.

Granny Zikhali, one of the community representatives acknowledged response from the department. “As the community, we understand that the department will not be able to do all the roads at the same time.

Our plea is that the department must always communicate if there are challenges with starting with the project,” said Zikhali.

She pleaded with the department to respect communities by delivering on their promises and ensure constant communication with communities. She said this may eliminate any unnecessary protests and vandalism of state property. With regards to the brick-making project, Molapisi also mentioned that an appointed service provider who will train and build capacity

of the beneficiaries, is expected to move on site by end of March 2019. “The service provider will oversee the production of bricks to meet the

required South African Bureau of Standards,” said Molapisi. The department resolved to investigate an ownership model which will assist in outlining who from the community will receive the plant to the benefit of the community at large. *Meanwhile, MEC Molapisi also engaged with Lebotloane community, a village about 45km

from Lebalangwe, where discussions regarding the outstanding 10km phase two of the road between Lebotloane and Tlholoe took place. “The department is currently preparing to go out on tender for phase two. We will give progress report to the community leaders in three weeks,” said Molapisi.