

KURUMAN

Positive twist on Joe Morolong roads

Victor Mulangisi



The Road Forum chairperson Mr Kagiso Gaborokwe, head of department Public Works and Roads Mr Kholekile Nogwili, MEC honourable Abraham Vosloo, Joe Morolong mayor councillor Dineo Leutlwetse, Ga-Segonyana mayor and ANC regional chairperson councillor Neo George Masegela and district manager Public Works and Roads Ms Modise attended the decisive meeting at the JTG district municipality chamber.

The echoes of the new Northern Cape Premier's gospel that spell the Batho Pele principles are reverberating and trickling into service delivery. Yes, it is too early for the rains, but clouds are showing.

This is evidenced by the new Northern Cape MEC in the Department of Public Works and Roads, Abraham Vosloo, who has completely changed the *modus operandi* in dealing with the mind-boggling subject of the Joe Morolong roads and openly besmirched the tendency of lying to the expectant communities by some leaders.

Taking the bull by its horns, the MEC attended the normally explosive meeting on the sagacious roads and toned down all stakeholders admitting that the subject was being erroneously attended to and at most, sandwiched with false promises.

On August 02, 2019, in the presence of SIOC-cdt chief executive

officer Mr Vusani Malie and his officials, the road forum committee, Joe Morolong mayor councillor Dineo Leutlwetse, Ga-Segonyana mayor and the ANC regional chairperson councillor Neo George Masegela, the MEC accompanied by his head of department Mr Kholekile Nogwili and the district manager Modise, outlined the rejuvenated roadmap by the department and its partners that they are taking an emphatic stance towards the completion of the colossal project that is tentatively distancing communities and government.

The Dithakong road will have the contractor on site in two to three weeks as from the date of the meeting. He said that the department has inadequate funds however the available R10-million has to kick-start the project while negotiations with the treasury are underway. He said that the delay in the completion of the project has a retro-effect because costs keep soaring.

He said solid leadership must be in place to minimise expenses incurred in the previous project. The Laxey road and Laxey Samsokolo road consultations with the premier's office are yet to be done. He said this avoiding being pre-emptive but that construction of the roads in contention is now.

The MEC offered to attend meetings on a monthly basis with stakeholders to understand the whole road puzzle faced by the Joe Morolong communities. Two steering committees (administrative and political) have been set and these must expedite communication between communities and stakeholders.

The meeting also resolved that while there is need for the completion of roads within the time frames, shoddy work should not be an excuse. The road forum committee members said that the new MEC has brought a new twist on the roads surrounded with optimism.