

'No road, no school!'



Learners from different schools march along with the community members for the tar road...

By Rodney J. Mashego

'No road, no school' these were the words of angry residents of Ga Motibidi near Ga Bereta in Bushbuckridge who marched peacefully on the R40 road on Monday, the 19th of August 2019. Residents gathered and went on a march in search of answers about the road project which is on standstill till today. As early as the 6th of March this year, the municipality's MMC for technical services Cllr Bhu-nu Malandule along with the

ward councillor Themba Nxum-alo accompanied by members of the public works department officially introduced the contractor as Klus Civils JV for the construction of the D3960 and D4442 tar road (from Ga-mo-tibidi to Rainbow) that was set to begin within a month from the announcement date. In an earlier response to Bush-buckridge News on the 26th of June, the public works department said; "There have been slight delays, as the necessary paperwork was put in place

(construction permit, environ-mental approvals), and confir-mation of the project budget. The Department's original plan was to commence the con-struction in the next financial year, however the project has commenced". Despite the department con-firming that the project had already commenced, the com-munity say they are running out of patience. They say the department has given them the impression that they want to push the project into the

next financial year, which is not what was agreed upon during the handover. "As residents of Ga-motibidi we are concerned. We were told that the project would begin in March but then even now there hasn't been any action, hence, we have decided that 'no road, no school' because they hand-ed over the contractor here, but till this day they say there's no money, how did they appoint a contractor if there is no budget for it?" said Director Malatjie, one member of the community.

"All we're asking for is for the government to come back to us with answers before things get out of hand because the com-munity is angry, therefore we don't want a situation where-by things get violent," another member of the community Si-mon Maoko said. The department of public works said they would hold a meeting to address the community on Friday.