

DPWR Madikwe service point employees urged to improve services

MAHIKENG MAIL-MADIKWE: The Public Works and Roads Madikwe Sub-district service point was expected to offer an improved service to the client department and communities based in the town of Swartruggens and the villages of Seshibitswe, Vrede, Tlokweng as well as Phela and other nearby villages.

These were the sentiments expressed by MEC of Public Works and Roads, Gaoage Oageng Molapisi during the official opening of new offices at Madikwe last week. This followed years of staff at the service point being crammed in a space that was initially a workshop and was later converted to makeshift offices. Molapisi said the improved working environment should serve as a motivation for the 23 employees at the offices to up their game and improve on the services expected by the nearby communities. The service point also offers plumbing, electrical and other artisan services to

departments based in Swartruggens and other villages. Also based at the offices are the department's eight Expanded Public Works Programme beneficiaries.

Construction of this service point started in 2015 and entailed the removal of three portable blocks and some structures to accommodate the construction of a new office block. The R15m project was supposed to be completed in 10 months but took 3 years to complete. The delays were caused by the scarcity of water and the passing of the initial contractor in the middle of the construction, amongst others. The scope of work included the construction of a single storey office block, gate house, boundary fence, covered and open parking, sinking of borehole and other external works such as paving

and landscaping. MEC Molapisi told community members present at the official opening of the facility that the building belongs to them, not employees who work in it. "The premises are built on your land, your village and with your money as tax payers. I therefore urge you to look after these premises and never allow them to be vandalized nor should you turn your anger on these offices and destroy them when you protest to get other services," said Molapisi. He said by constructing these new offices, the department intended to make sure that services are easily accessible to communities and client departments. "We can only count on you to look and take ownership of this service point while government plans to roll out other critical service related needs for the surrounding

communities and others in the province," he said.

The MEC made an undertaking that some of the concerns in the area including adverse road condition would receive attention. He said the department would roll out pothole patching, re-gravelling and de-bushing along the roadsides projects in the area.

Speaking on behalf of Bakwena-ba-Morare under whom the villages of Madikwe, Vrede, Seshibitswe and Phela fall, Morare Mosomi reiterated Molapisi's request and urged community members not to copy the wrong behaviour and be influenced by communities who were often seen destroying the only facilities available to them whenever they protest.

"You heard the MEC saying that this facility is for our own benefit and I encourage you to submit any service delivery related complains you might have to government offices or to us as the tribal council. Do not try fix one wrong with another wrong doing but rather take pride in the facilities government has constructed for your benefit and guard them jealously," Mosomi said.