



Ward 79 Clr Zwelibanzi Ngwenya shows the African Reporter new stalls at Majola Taxi Rank.

Taxi Rank handover delayed after disputes

Sharon Mdaka
sharon@caxton.co.za

KwaThema – The Vuk’uphile Programme was awarded R4.5-million to improve the Majola Taxi Rank infrastructure, which started in March 2018 and was meant to be completed by October the same year, this is according to Ward 79 Clr Zwelibanzi Gift Ngwenya.

He says the company has failed to live up to expectations with few improvements being made since the project began.

“We were promised new paving, which was not done.

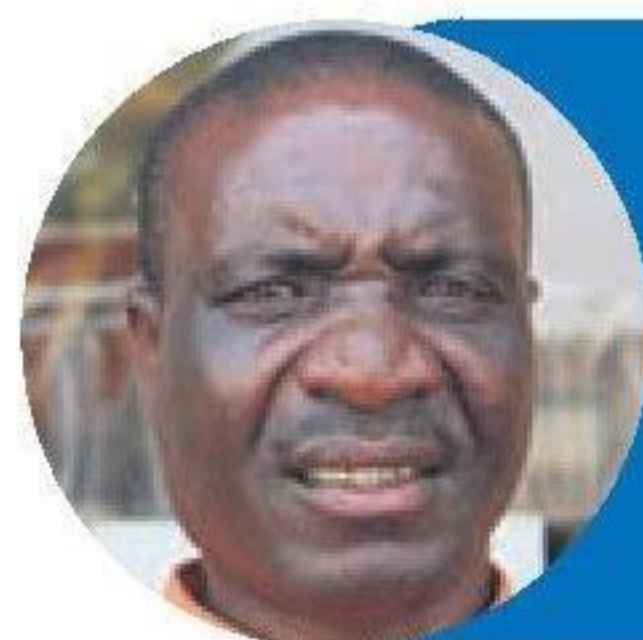
“The new doors on the stalls cannot be closed properly, which means vendors are going to have a problem with rats.

“They also promised to create a car wash area for the township’s economic development, which was also not done,” says Ngwenya.

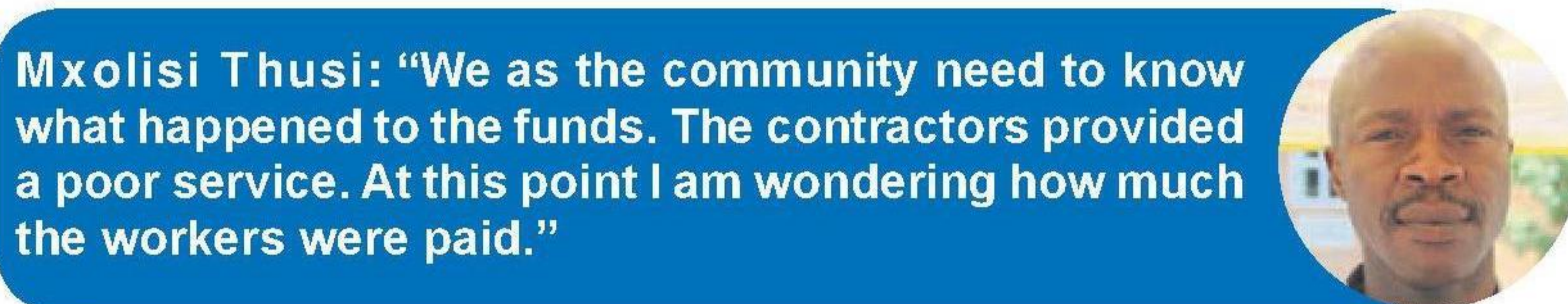
He adds the decision to reject the handover was mainly due to the community outcry about the poor quality of the job done by the subcontractors.

Vuk’uphile Contractor Development Programme is a national public works programme aimed at transforming the construction industry by giving small black-owned companies training and support.

The contractors are being accused, by employees, of mismanagement and outstanding pay-



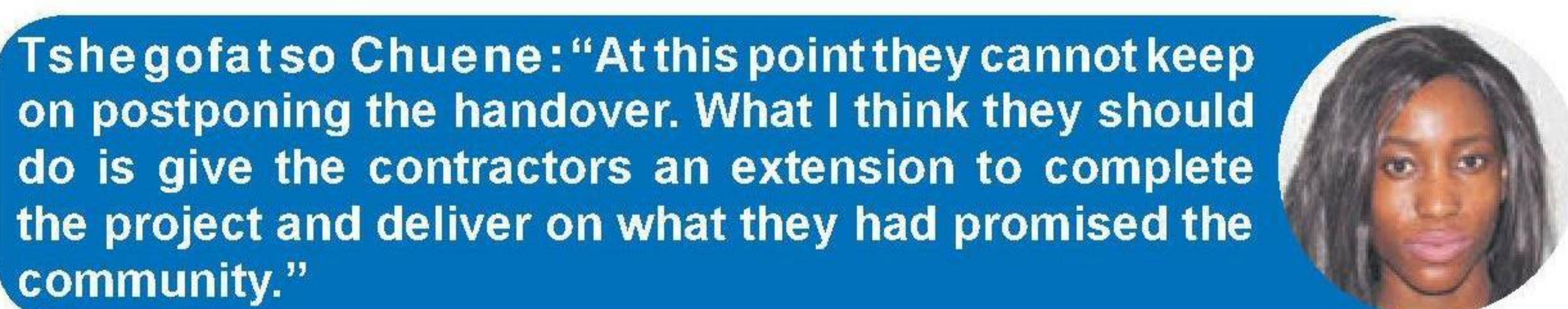
Isayah Mokgoga: “We cannot allow for them to hand over an incomplete project. They started working on the project last year. I support the councillor’s decision to reject the handover.”



Mxolisi Thusi: “We as the community need to know what happened to the funds. The contractors provided a poor service. At this point I am wondering how much the workers were paid.”



Nathi Mawele: “There is a bit of improvement. It isn’t wow, but the shades and the stalls will help our entrepreneurs.”



Tshogofatso Chuene: “At this point they cannot keep on postponing the handover. What I think they should do is give the contractors an extension to complete the project and deliver on what they had promised the community.”

ments.

Thulani Mahlangu, a subcontractor, says they have done their job.

“The prevention of the handover is politically motivated.

“We have done our job and have made arrangements to pay for the outstanding fees owed to workers.

“If we keep on postponing the handover, it gives criminals the opportunity to invade these stalls and create more damage,” says Mahlangu.

A resident and worker at the Vuk’uphile Programme, Saki Koaphola, says: “I have been working

without pay.

“Promises were made but there are no follow-ups and if the contractors hand over the facility now we are never going to get paid,” says Koaphola.

Vuk’uphile Programme mentor Dimpho Taunyane says they are aware of the outstanding payments which are yet to be tallied and are in communication with the necessary people.

She advises the ward councillor to formally send through his grievances regarding the infrastructure.