



Publication: The Rep - Main
Title: Village residents demand services
Publish date: 14 Jul 2023
Page: 7

Reach: 4600
AVE:R 45266.10
Author: UVIWE JARA

Village residents demand services

Housing, electricity, roads top list of grievances

UVIWE JARA

Tsitsikamma Village residents in Whittlesea, which falls under Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality (EMLM), handed over their list of their grievances to the municipal technical services portfolio head Mhlangabezi Mangcotywa on Thursday July 6.

The ward 22 residents, led by councillor Florence Duda, gave Mangcotywa seven days to respond to the memorandum.

Community leader Sonwabile Duda said they were complaining about the state of roads which were last revamped under the Ciskei homeland administration.

"It used to have gravel but that gravel was washed away and the road turned into dongas."

Residents also complained about the electrification of all houses that do not have electricity.

The residents wanted the municipality to build them RDP houses and have sustainable and uninterrupted water supply.

"We have given the municipality seven days to tell us when they will start fixing the issues that are tabled in our memorandum," he said.

Duda said construction



PUBLIC ACTION: Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality technical services portfolio head, Mhlangabezi Mangcotywa signs the memo.
Picture: UVIWE JARA

workers used to be stationed at Lahlangubo and Didimala, who used to maintain Hewu roads.

"They got merged into the department of public works and roads have been neglected due to that.

"We have been forgotten by the government when it comes to RDP houses.

"There are places like McBride and Fani who have RDP houses, whereas they were only established in the '90s, way after us," he said.

Ward 22 has about 16 villages where some residents still don't have electricity after they were promised that after a minimum of 10 houses were available to have electricity installed, the municipality would start the process but they claim that never happened.

"This is not the first attempt to convince the municipality to

render services in our ward but they never went to attend to any," he added.

Malizole Mapeyi from Lahlangubo said: "We have a bridge that is used by school kids when going to school but that has not been fixed.

"The bridge was damaged during the flooding that happened early this year."

He said they buy oil for the engine that pumps water into their village.

"Our engine has not been working for two months and we are suffering because it has we have gone two months without water," Mapeyi said.

EMLM technical services portfolio head Mhlangabezi Mangcotywa accepted and signed the memorandum after the community was told to wait for him outside the gate as he was still in a meeting inside.