



17 January 2023

## **BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN AT MARAPONG TOWNSHIP AND SHONGOANE VILLAGE**

The Honourable Mayor of Lephalale Local Municipality, Cllr Aaron Mokgetle, together with Councillors has accompanied the Honourable MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Basikopo, visited Nelsonskop Primary School in Marapong Township and Matshwara Secondary School Shongoane in Lephalale on 17 January 2024. The visit is part of the provincial government's back to school campaign. This campaign is meant to ensure that learning and teaching start on the first day. The visit is also a platform for the school management to share information regarding challenges that hampers effective learning.

The MEC has vowed to return to the school as an intervention to address challenges which were outlined by the school principal at Matshwara School. Amongst the challenges raised was the high number of learners who failed last year, lack of parental involvement, learner absenteeism, substance abuse etc. The presentation by the principal revealed that around half of the 1199 learners failed in the last academic year. As a resolution the MEC together with the Mayor will come back to give the school support in an effort to assist in addressing the challenges experienced.

At Nelsonskop various issues which include social issues were amongst challenges identified by the circuit manager, Ms Henrietta Mabotja, who further requested for an intervention by the Mayor and the MEC for allocation of land for the construction of a new school. According to Mabotja, Previously there was budget allocated by the Limpopo Department of Education for the construction of new school but due to unavailability of land, the project never materialized. In their closing remarks, the Mayor and the MEC have vowed to follow the matter up to ensure that all the challenges experienced at the school are addressed.

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