



Lephalale Municipality

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Press Statement

Official handover of Sethula Secondary School, Tshukudu Primary and Marapong Health Care Centre

Public Enterprise Deputy Minister, Ben Martins together with Lephalale Local Municipality Acting Mayor, Cllr William Motlokwa and Eskom representatives officially handed over two refurbished schools and Marapong Health Care Centre to local communities of Lephalale on Monday 19 June 2017.

The initiative by Lephalale Municipality Local Mayor, Cllr Moloko Jack Maeko, Private Public Partnership (PPP) between, the Municipality, Exxaro and Eskom yielded positive results to the people of Lephalale.

Through Eskom Medupi' s Corporate Social Investment (CSI), R11.4m has been invested in Tshukudu Primary School and Sethula Secondary School located at Shongoane and Bangalong respectively as well as Marapong Health Care Centre in Marapong Township.

The investment was for the refurbishment of existing infrastructure, construction of new infrastructure, provision of new furniture for newly built classrooms as well as drilled borehole with water reticulation, a tank and stand. Through this CSI project the schools will be able to increase learner enrolment and provide a better more convenient safer learning environment.

At Marapong Health Care Centre, an amount of R4.5 million rand was invested for refurbishment and new infrastructure. The work done include: partitioning of bigger rooms to accommodate more consulting rooms, upgrade of two kitchen rooms with built in cupboards, provision of office furniture, IT installation of CAT network cable to all buildings and network equipment and a fire system.



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The Health Centre which was welcomed by Marapong residents will assist in addressing the challenges which were faced by Marapong Clinic. According to information from the Health Department about 4,500 patients were consulting at the clinic monthly. It consisted of three consulting rooms and an additional Wendy house used for HIV counselling services. Due to space constraints, the clinic could not provide crucial services for the community as more spacious building was required.

These three projects created business opportunities for 13 SMME's and job opportunities for 77 local people.

The Deputy Minister said it is the responsibility of local residents to look after the schools and Health Care Centre. He strongly condemned the behaviour of people damaging and burning schools and other government infrastructure during protests and marches.

"The destruction of property during protests by some community members is a serious setback, waste of government funds and will not take the country forwards".

He also encouraged the learners to focus on their studies in order to have a brighter future.

"After this handover, your responsibility is to study hard, be successful and make your parents and communities proud. All the efforts by the Municipality and Eskom are meant to ensure that you become educated and end poverty in your communities".

Eskom Group Executive, Abram Masango, said Eskom has already spent R1.2 billion in Corporate Social Investments and infrastructure. He said Eskom will continue to support communities and better the lives of people of Lephalale but it is their responsibility to look after the infrastructure and also to prioritize the education of their children.

"I am appealing to the people of Lephalale to take care of the refurbished infrastructure and always remember that our kids are the future and education comes first" Masango said.



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Local Municipality acting Mayor Cllr, Motlokwa, said the Municipality appreciates the contribution made by Eskom and Exxaro. The two refurbished schools is a clear indication that Eskom prioritises the education and future of local children. He added that the refurbishment of Marapong Health Centre is a gesture that shows that health is a basic human right enshrined in the constitution of South Africa and will assist in addressing health related challenges in Marapong “The Community Health Centre will assist our fight against TB. Health statistics revealed that the rate of HIV infection in Lephalale, Marapong in particular is too high. A Health Centre that operates 24/7(24 hours, seven days a week) is what we need when we face such challenges”.

Queries:

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