

## **ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR DURING SOD TURNING CEREMONY OF SEFIHLOGO – LETLORA ROAD.**

Protocol observed.

Let me start by saying that the timing of this sod-turning is very right as it takes place during National Transport month. The National Transport Lekgotla of 2005, declared October as National Transport month. Every year, October month is used to raise awareness on the important role of transport in the economy and to encourage participation from civil society and business, including the provision of a safe and more affordable accessible and reliable transport in the country.

Department of Transport mentioned four (4) Pillars as focus areas from last year, 2015, they are :

1. Job created through infrastructure and other service delivery programme.
2. Major Infrastructure development improvements linked to Local Economic Development.
3. Special programmes aimed at Youth and Women.
4. Rallying all sectors of society for road safety with an opportunity to market programmes to be implemented by the Road Safety Council System.

The road that we are about to start constructing in partnership with Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) and our private strategic partners, Exxaro; will contribute in realising the four (4) transport pillars. It is a major infrastructure development programme, as this road will link the previously disadvantaged rural villages with our local town, Lephalale, which will soon become a city. Beside linking us with Lephalale town it will also link us with the city of Polokwane and Africa, through Botswana.

Construction of this road will obviously create jobs for our people. A contractor has already been appointed and our expectation is that he will sub-contract local entrepreneurs, especially those companies that are owned by women and youth.

This project is another example of the good relationship that our municipality enjoys with our strategic business partners, especially Exxaro and Eskom. This road is a product of years of negotiations between our municipality and our private partners. Many opportunists tried to use construction of this road for cheap political point-scoring. Some claimed that it will never start as money to construct it has been stolen while some claimed that it was only used to campaign for elections.

Today we stand here to say loud and clear that construction phase is beginning. We turn this sod during Red October as a symbol of beginning the transport revolution in our area.

TOGETHER WITH OUR PRIVATE PARTNERS WE WILL MOVE SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD.

I THANK YOU

CLLR MJ MAEKO

MAYOR