

FEEDBACK BY THE MAYOR OF LEPHALALE MUNICIPALITY, CLLR MOLOKO MAEKO DURING THE LAUNCHING OF IMBIZO FOCUS WEEK ON 04th APRIL 2016.

Protocol observed.

It is a great honour for Lephalale to host this important occasion of launching Imbizo Focus Week officially.

I commend the honourable minister for having decided to come back to Lephalale after the previous Imbizo that was held here, at Ga Seleka on Monday 30 November last year. This is a clear indication that last year's Imbizo was not just a talk-show, today we will check progress of what was agreed upon last year.

Your presence here is a clear indication that in deed the ANC-led government is the government of the people, by the people, for the people. It proves that the late leader of the South African Communist party and chief of staff of Umkhonto we Siswe, comrade Chris Hani was correct when he said :

“ Popular involvement is the essence of democracy.”

Remember that this month, April, is the month in which comrade Chris Hani was brutally assassinated by cruel apartheid regime in 1993 because of his interest for the poor and the working class. The memory of Chris Hani will always remind us that the freedom that we are enjoying today did not come on a silver plate- some brave patriots lost their lives for this freedom. While Chris Hani was assassinated on April, another operative of Umkhonto we Siswe, Solomon Kalusha Mahlangu was executed on 6 April 1979.

We must dedicate these projects to these comrades because the tree of freedom that we enjoy today, was watered by the blood of these patriots. As comrade Solomon Mahlangu said when he faced the gallows:

“ My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom.”

In deed the projects I am going to give feedback on are the fruits of freedom that were watered with the blood of comrades like Chris Hani and Solomon Mahlangu.

As we provide progress report let me indicate that there were three major issues raised :

1. Progress of the road from Sefihlogo to Letlora villages.
2. How we assist Home Based care groups ; and
3. Community Social Investment of Enel Solar Plant

I shall give a detailed report of these three issues and the progress of the three houses for the three needy families. After providing you with that update I shall continue and give updates on other projects completed since the Mister's visit last year.

HOUSES FOR THE THREE FAMILIES

One challenge that touched the Minister was the housing challenge. Three families were found in difficult housing conditions and we promised that we will make sure that each of the three families receive proper shelter in line with the Freedom Charter clause that says:

“There Shall be Houses, Security and Comfort.”

Indeed, there is progress on construction of those houses and beneficiaries of those houses are with us here today.

However, there has been some delays as the service provider had transport challenges to transport material from Lebu village where he stored his material. But two of those houses have been completed and the third one will certainly be completed.

ENEL GREEN POWER – TOMBURKE SOLAR PLANT PROJECT.

Honourable Minister.

During your visit last year we took you to Enel Green Power plant, which is a solar plant project at Tomburke. Let me take this opportunity and provide you with progress so far.

Enel Green Power (EGP) has the following two projects :

1. **MOTHER –to – Mother (m2m)** which addresses health issues, with more concentration on the prevention of HIV from pregnant mother to the unborn child. This programme employs and trains women who are living with HIV; in particular those women who were already HIV positive during their pregnancy but avoided transmitting the virus to their children. These Mentor mothers serve as role models to pregnant women who are HIV positive. The Mentor mothers provide education and psychological support to infected pregnant mothers.

This is a rare programme as there are only four (4) of such health facilities in Limpopo, namely: Dzumeri clinic and Giyani community Healthcare in Mopani District as well as Ramokgopa clinic and Nkhensani Hospital in Capricorn District..

Progress since its inception in August 2015:

- It created a total of 25 jobs for HIV infected women.
- m2m participated in World AIDS day at Moong village on 04 December 2015 where they conducted one-to-one session as well as group health education talks. They covered 120 young mothers on that day.
- m2m continues to participate actively in targeted outreach campaigns like “ Condom Week”, Pregnancy Week” and other campaigns outlined in the Health calendar.

2. EGP FREE WiFi

Progress so far :

So far EGP has done the following :

1. They have finalised the establishment of Project Steering Committee. (PSC)
2. Site of installation has been identified through the PSC.

Challenge : The initial implementing partner, Isizwe, is not in a position to implement. This challenge has forced EGP to look for another implementing partner. The process of looking for another implementing partner is still on.

3. ENEL PROJECTS THAT ARE STILL IN THE PIPELINE

Let me indicate that besides the two projects mentioned above, Enel has also promised to build a community clinic at Sefihlogo at the cost of fifteen to twenty million rand (R15 to R2m). They are just waiting for specifications.

Enel has also made commitment to refurbish Tomburke Police station.

CONSTRUCTION OF TAR ROAD THAT LINKS ROAD D3114 AND D3102.

Honourable Minister.

Another project that was discussed during your Imbizo last year is the upgrading of the road that links road D3102 and D3114. This 33.5km tar road will pass through nine (9) villages, starting from Sefihlogo and ending at Letlora.

In addition to this road, there is another road which will be upgraded. This 14.1km road will link four(4) rural villages with Road 3114.

This project is expected to provide at least forty (40) jobs during designing phase. (10 unemployed local graduates will do job-shadowing which will give them experience, skill transfer and development; 01 Project Secretary, 03 Community Liaison Officers and 26 Pedestrian Safety Officers who will be trained to educate community and school

learners about pedestrian road safety laws as traffic is expected to increase once the two gravel roads have been tared).

Progress so far :

LEDET was invited to do Road Basic Assessment Report (BAR). They conducted site visit on 10 March 2016 and concluded that no application is necessary. Minor road alignment changes to accommodate sharp bends were not deemed to have any environmental impact .

Ecology and heritage studies have been completed.

Application for the borrow pits is in process and is expected to be given to relevant authorities by 08 April 2016.

Physical survey has been completed.

Drainage master plan has also been completed.

Community Awareness campaigns have been completed in all the 13 villages.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO HOME BASED CARE GROUPS

These non-profit-making organizations are doing excellent job for orphans, vulnerable children and outside patients. Fortunately, we have five organizations that are funded by either Department of Social Development or Health. We can proudly say that Department of Social Development is currently funding five organizations that cater for orphans and vulnerable children. Those organizations are at **Sefihlogo**, here at **Seleka, Mokuruanyane, Shongoane** and **Marapong**.

Department of Health funds four organizations that cater for outside patients. Those four organizations are organizations mentioned above except the one at Sefihlogo.

We will continue to give these organizations any assistance they may need.

Honourable Minister and Premier

Besides the projects mentioned above, let me indicate that we have the following projects that were completed since the previous visit :

1. MEC for Health officially opened the following projects:

Community bakery,

Kauletsi access road

Ditlounge access roads and

Matniqua Community hall.

2. Deputy President officially opened the multi million rand clinic at Marapong.

3. Community hall at Shongoane 1 (Setateng) is complete and only waits to be opened officially.

4. We have provided Ditlounge, Kgobagodimo 1 and 2 with electricity.

5. Today we have switched on electricity for households here at Seleka wyk 4. and

6. We have opened a new tarred road here at Ga Seleka.

Besides those completed projects we have the following projects that are still on :

1. The access road at Ga Monyeki is at construction phase.

2. Process of relocation of Mamojela Informal settlement is on. Discussions with Department of Public Works are at an advanced stage. The presence of the honourable MEC here today gives us hope that he may make commitment today.

3. The process of formalization of Leseding settlement at Steenbokpan is also at advanced stage. Progress report has been presented to council and we hope the process will be completed within the next two months.

Honourable Minister and Premier

This is a service delivery feedback on the process since the visit of the minister of Communications last year. I must emphasise that we are able to complete these projects because of a healthy relationship that we have established with private companies, especially Eskom and Exxaro.

Ke nnete gore mo Lephalale moshomo o tshaba diatla!

TOGETHER WE MOVE SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD.

I THANK YOU