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Department:
Community Safety & Transport Management
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Tirelo Building, Albert Luthuli Road
Mafikeng, 2745
P/Bag X 19 Mmabatho 2735
[Tel:087 630 8710](tel:0876308710)

Media Statement

MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane had his fair share during Setsokotsane in Ratlou

MEC Motlhabane took Setsokotsana activities of his Department to Ratlou Municipality. He was met with serious challenges and concerns during his interaction with the communities and during his unannounced visit to the Police Station. At the apex of issues were, stock theft, usage of drugs at schools, domestic violence and formation of gangs within Ratlou Local Municipality.

MEC visited the Barolong Boora-Tlou-Boo-Seitshiro and Boithaopo Secondary school respectively in Kraaipan where the elders echoed their concerns about the foreign behavior.

"We are experiencing a problem with our learners who using drugs particularly dagga and coming to school with weapons. We try our best to implement different strategies of discipline and safety measures but all these seem not to be enough," said the school headmaster, Mr Norman Phiri.

He told MEC and the departmental delegation that the school has tried on several times to repair the school security fence but the learners keep on damaging it for uncontrolled access to school.

"We repair the fence to try keep them within the yard during the school hours but surprisingly you will find them loitering around the streets in the village. They keep on damaging the fence especially at the backyard where we are unable to see them getting out of the school," he told the MEC.

The chief of Barolong Boo-Ratlou- Boo-Seitshiro, kgosiebonya Letsapa complained about the late response of police on reported incidents of crimes in the area. Talking to challenges experience at schools, Kgosi Letsapa appealed for integrated approach on building the future of children. "These are our children and with this kind of behaviour their future is doomed and it is worrying because here we are talking about our future leaders. We need to work together as the tribal, community and School Governing Body (SGB), to see how best we can build the better future of our for our children," said Kgosi.

Of serious concern during his visit in the evening and midnight hours of the morning, when he arrived the Tshidilamolomo Police Station, MEC Motlhabane was disturbed by the non attendance of the Community Service Centre (CSC), which is expected to at least have two police officers at all times.



"Together we move Bokone Bophirima forward"



On his assessment at the stations visited to date, MEC found that there were serious challenges on resources and proper management. He said the resources might be minimal, but it is expected that the station managers and senior management of SAPS must be able to properly manage what they have.

“Some of issues at these police stations are resources, particularly personnel and vehicles but my worry is that there is no proper management on the little that they have. However, I was impressed by the standard of service at Makgobistad Police Station, given the small office they operate within,” he said.

In response to the Boithaopo situation, MEC called for establishment of the Adopt A Cop, which is the school safety crime prevention programme established under the protocol which was signed by the Department of Education and SAPS in 2011. The protocol aims to promote safer schools and prevent the involvement of young people in crime.

With regard to the delay of response on criminal incidents reported to the Atamelang Police Station, MEC Motlhabane said his department will conduct an internal investigation on the matter. He further requested the Tribal Council to invite SAPS during their community meetings to make presentations on how best they can work on an integrated approach. “We don’t need guns to fight crime but Saamtrek, Saamwerk approach can take us far, crime is a societal thorn which needs the participation of everyone, ” he said.

The police unannounced visits are intended to assess the level of service delivery provided by the stations and compliance towards improving frontline service delivery. The visits are intended to determine the extent of service delivery and ensure that government principles of Batho Pele are adhered to. These are part of the Setsokotsane programme which is currently implemented in all four districts of the province.

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Enquiries : **Shuping Daddy Sebolecwe (Media and Communication)**
Cell : **072 2918 630/083 302 6318**
Email : **ssebolecwe@nwpg.gov.za / nwcommsafety@nwpg.gov.za**

Facebook : **Communicators CommSafety**
Twitter : **@nwpgCommSafety**

