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Department of Public Works
Departament van Openbare Werke
Lefapha La Ditiro Tsa Setshaba

OFFICE OF THE MEC

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LEBALENG CELEBRATES PUBLIC WORKS DELIVERY

Thousands of Lebaleng township residents near Maquassi braved the cold winter to witness and celebrate the handover of the newly built R7, 4 million Atlareleng Primary School by North West MEC for Public Works, Honourable Howard Yawa on Tuesday.

The 26 class roomed Primary School has brought much relief to over thousand primary school learners who had to platoon for the past ten years due to classroom shortage in the area.

In his keynote address, MEC Yawa said that the denial of adequate classrooms to children in historically disadvantaged areas by successive apartheid governments was an attack on their dignity.

MEC Yawa said that the handover of the school was a celebration of the new age of hope and a celebration of the People's Contract between government and the community of Lebaleng. He said that delivery serves as a demonstration of government's seriousness and commitment in meeting President Mbeki's call to ensure that no learner learns under trees.

MEC Yawa emphasised that the construction of the school did not just ensure that children of Lebaleng learn in decent environment, but also contributed to the alleviation of poverty as R1, 1 million in wages was paid to local labourers during the implementation of the school building project.

The project created one hundred and sixty-eight job opportunities for locals. These include ninety-six youth, eighty women and four people with disabilities.



According to the school principal, Mr. Simon Mohapi, platooning and five hour learning and teaching limited the provision of quality education and denied learners participation in extramural activities.

“We wish to thank the community of Lebaleng for your patience and for believing in your government to address the infrastructure backlog we have inherited. Together we have made great strides. Despite the challenges that we face, the future is brightening daily, giving us new possibilities. Indeed, yesterday you had nothing to hope and live for, but today things are better and tomorrow things will even be a lot better.” said MEC Yawa.

The occasion was graced by among others, Councillors of the Maquassi Local Municipality and the Southern District Municipality, the Head of the Department for Public Works, Mr. Obakeng Mongale and senior officials from various government departments.

The Acting Mayor for Maquassi Local municipality, Councillor Sammy Duffy received keys for the school from MEC Yawa on behalf of MEC Tselapedi.

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