

MAYOR THAMAGA HANDS OVER SITES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MOCHEMI AND LETHALENG TO PICKUM ACCESS ROADS

The freezing weather couldn't stop the residents of Mochemi, Lethaleng and Pickum villages to join Her Worship the Mayor of Blouberg Local Municipality, Cllr Maria Thamaga when she handed over two access roads projects. The Council has, in this financial year, 2023/24 set aside budget for the construction of Mochemi Access Road in Ward 14 and Lethaleng-Pickum Access Road in Ward 11. This comes after concerns were raised by the community members, that children are unable to access schools during rainy seasons and that in cases of emergency ambulances are unable to access the areas among other challenges.

The Mayor conducted sod-turning ceremonies marking the official commencement of the construction of the two projects and also introduced the consulting engineers and contractors to the community.

Scores of Mochemi residents converged at Mphateng Tree, while Lethaleng and Pickum residents gathered at Mankgakgatla Secondary School to welcome their projects.

The Mochemi Access Road project has been budgeted for R29.9 million and will cover 4.5 kilometers of road with construction works scheduled to run for a duration of eight (08) months.

Meanwhile, the 6 kilometers Lethaleng to Pickum Access Road project will cost the municipality R42.6m to construct with a twelve (12) months construction schedule.

Peggy Ramafemo from Pickum said she is happy that the municipality has heard their plight and was able to bring the road project in their area. "I'm happy that our access road is going to be upgraded. Our children will be able to go to school during rainy season without any challenges like it was the case previously, I am also happy that the project is coming with job opportunities for us".

On behalf of Kgoshi Maleboho, Mr Dan Leboho, welcomed both projects, indicating that they are happy as the traditional authority about development the municipality is bringing to the community which comes with temporary job opportunities for locals. He further called on the communities to cooperate with the contractors and whenever there are challenges engage the ward councillor instead resorting to protest actions which may delay the completion of the projects.

Mayor Thamaga indicated that the municipality is delivering services to communities as mandated. The Mayor further indicated that, she is pleased the projects will bring relief to some families without income as temporary employment will be created.

"Our communities have been complaining about bad roads and the Council of Blouberg has set aside the budget to address those challenges. Your Ward Councillor, the late Cllr Hlengani Baloyi called us here (Lethaleng and Pickum) to see for ourselves the challenges children and residents go through during rainy seasons. Children couldn't go to school, ambulances couldn't access the areas, it is also difficult for them to bury their loved one hence the Council took the decision to implement the projects. Our Ward Councillor is no more and I want to assure you that we can't change the decision and take away the project from you. We are also happy that, the municipality has done wonders in terms of Municipal Infrastructure

Grant (MIG) spending thus, receiving additional funding to carry other service delivery projects".

Mayor Thamaga further called on members of the community to refrain from organizing protest marches as that will delay the completion of the projects and delivery of services in general.

The Mayor was accompanied by members of the Executive Committee(EXCO) , councillors, the Municipal Manager and his team.

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