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Masilonyana launches ground-breaking project



(Above picture): Mr Steve Koalane, mayor of Masilonyana Municipality (centre) with volunteers during the launch EPWP in Tshepong, Verkeerdevlei, last Friday.

(Left) Mr Koalane and his councillors put aside their fancy clothes in exchange for overalls during the launch in Tshepong.

Last Friday the Mayor of Masilonyana Local Municipality Mr Steve Koalane launched a ground-breaking Extended Public Works Programme at Tshepong Community Hall in Verkeerdevlei. Mr Maja explained that the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) was one of the national government's tools to combat unemployment at local level. He added the programme was also aimed at delivering vital services to communities and not just providing the much-needed employment. Mr Kagiso Mokae of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) said they were part of the launch and were in partnership with Masilonyana Local Municipality. Mokae said August is Women's Month and that Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was banished to Brandfort in Masilonyana Municipality during apartheid years.

"Masilonyana Municipality is here to provide skills and employment to the youth of Tshepong and we are here to sign a partnership with them. We don't have sufficient resources and Masilonyana Municipality will assist us with offices. Now you can get information about NYDA at these offices. EPWP, NYDA and Public Works will provide small business support EPWP sector programmes to enhance service delivery and beneficiaries of this launch," Mokae said. Mr Steve Koalane, mayor of Masilonyana Local Municipality, said: "On May 31 this year when I was delivering the budget speech of Masilonyana together with new councillors, we took a decision to come up with programmes of fighting unemployment by helping small businesses of our people and also

encourage the formation of cooperatives of women and youth. Operation Hlasela is a programme which came up with Premier Magashule to speed up service delivery." Koalane said in Tshepong they have triple challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment. The mayor said the people of Masilonyana needed to learn to save water. He indicated that the programme would start in September and would create about 200 jobs in Masilonyana through Extended Public Works Programme. "They will learn to install meters, clean water and stormwater drainage systems and graves, fix potholes and address the problem of illegal dumping. Our roads are full of potholes and it is time that we hire youth and women that really need jobs; and do so in fair manner to avert nepotism," Koalane said.

The mayor explained that there were many pipe bursts between Theunissen and Winburg; and it was because of the asbestos which was caused by a combination of heat and coldness. "Masilonyana Municipality has a vision and we will train people to gain skills. We need to take contractors to take our people to dig holes and also encourage the Water Affairs to come up with plans. We need R12 million to clean dams and replace pipes in order to provide clean water and in all of these endeavours we need the support of our residents," Mr Koalane said. The mayor said the area was surrounded by mines, but the youth were not benefiting from mining operations in Masilonyana. The launch was concluded by a door-to-door campaign by the mayor and his councillors in Tshepong.