

The Weekly

MATWA LIGHTS UP PHALISO VIEW

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Power at last ... Phaliso View resident, Makopano Taole, is happy that she will have access to electricity very soon

Residents of Phaliso View near Trompsburg will finally get electricity after relying on paraffin, wood and candles for about four years.

In January this year, the mayor of Kopanong Local Municipality, Xolile Matwa, made announcement during the community meeting, about the developments which will be taking place among the community members. Matwa promised the residents of Phaliso View that they will soon receive reliable electricity and has now delivered on the promise.

According to Kopanong Local Municipality communication officer, Solly Phama, the project started in December last year. Phama told The Weekly that the project is worth R2, 6-million.

“The project which has employed 10 workers is expected to end in March this year. So far, the poles and meter boxes have been installed.”

One of the residents, Makopano Taole, said she had been waiting for the electricity for a very long time. She had been using wood for fire to cook food and warm water; and said she could not afford to buy paraffin on a daily basis.

According to Taole, she used to spend most of her money on paraffin and candles and believes she will now save more money now that there is electricity in her home. She makes a living by doing odd jobs to survive.

She is delighted that she would finally be able to watch her television set and also use her fridge to store food. Taole said it is difficult for her to buy enough groceries to last for especially because perishable such as meat and milk rot within few days after buying them.

“What I fear mostly is that, when it is raining, the wood gets wet. And sometimes my husband and I are forced to go hungry on days like that. I could not stand to watch my kids wash in cold water when

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I did not have money to buy paraffin. And again, as we had a wet winter last year, the wood was also in a bad condition.”

Thabiso Mokone, who has always dreamt of running a spaza shop, said he has waited for a long time for an opportunity like this. He told The Weekly that it is sad to see people take journeys to go buy simple necessary things like salt at the Madikgetla location, which is a far from their area.

He said what also made life unbearable was the fact that they could not charge the batteries of their mobile phones and would R5 to vendors to get them charged.

Mokone said he was forced to spend a lot on groceries.

“ I would like to thank our leaders for making life easy for us here in Phaliso View although we waited at least four years to have proper lights so that we can watch TVs like other people,” said Mokone.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]