

## **Pipe burst floods Lekhaloaneng**

Several homes, business establishments and street vendors' spots flooded following a burst water pipe at Lekhaloaneng on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016. The burst according to the network and distribution manager, at WASCO Mrs. Ponts'o Tau happened as a result of a rupture of a plate welded to an air releasing valve assembly along one of the biggest Metolong pipes (1.66m diameter) that transmit water to the Avani Lesotho reservoir that supplies most of Maseru with water.

Families living along the main south 1 road said that the burst pipe really got in the way of their normal morning routine as some were called to get back home whilst they were to work while others did not manage to leave their homes.

One man, Tjamela Tjamela, who was preparing to go to work when the burst happened, said he heard noises like hailing, but when he looked through a window, the sun was still shining. He said as he wondered, gushes of water entered his home from the roofs and streams entered from the door and some parts of the ceiling fell off. "In no time the house was completely flooded," he said this as he was dragging wet furnisher outside while his neighbours were putting clothes and blankets out to dry, at some of the rental houses at Lekhaloaneng.

"The burst happened in a spectacular fashion, shooting gushes of water high into the air, but we realised this after we had fled a few meters from our work stations." Mr. Bokang Kholo, a street vendor at Lekhaloaneng said this when recounting the incidents of that Friday morning.

He said they were just unpacking their goods into their stalls when this happened. For a few minutes, everything stood still even traffic flow as people watched the water as it sprouted many meters into the air. He indicated that the whole area was flooded and some of the goods that they sell such as airtime vouchers and cigarettes were destroyed, even some stall covers were torn to pieces.

Repairs were undertaken within a short time following the burst hence water shortage was not experienced in the capital city. The incident is most unfortunate but WASCO is thankful that no one was injured. The cause of the failure is under investigation, once established necessary steps will be taken to avert any recurrence elsewhere along the pipeline.