

## **Minister 'Mokose Launches Water Supply for Villages along the Metolong Pipeline Route**

The Minister of Water Mr. Ralechate 'Mokose on 16 January 2016 launched water supply for villages along the Metolong pipelines as part of drought relieve measures. The pipes distribute water to the designated towns of Roma, Maseru, Mazenod, Morija and TY. The launch was at Makhoathi, the first village to benefit from this project.

Speaking at the event minister 'Mokose explained that, delivering water supply services to the villages surrounding the Metolong dam and along the pipeline route, is a long standing project which was to be implemented at a later stage as it entailed expanding service coverage within these benefiting villages. He said however, now the implementation was fast tracked to address water shortage crisis as a result of severe drought that hit the Country from 2015 into 2016.

Nevertheless, the Minister spoke strongly against acts of vandalism on the Metolong infrastructure which communities along the pipeline undertake to get water. He reprimanded the people of Makhoathi for being party to these acts and said the water supply initiative is not to reward vandalism but it is a clear indication that the Ministry is committed to making good, the promise of the Lesotho Government to Basotho. Mr. 'Mokose appealed to other communities to stop any acts of vandalism against the Metolong water supply infrastructure or any other development projects. On his part he pledged that, his ministry continues to intensify efforts to bring water supply services to these areas and others affected by the water shortage crisis. He said, the pipeline has been vandalised at a number of points such as Thaba-Bosiu near LECSA, ha Jobo, ha Mosalla, two points at Makhoathi, Makhalanyaane, Motlohelo, Moruthoane and 'Mantšebo. This has cost the government over M500,000.00, which could have been used to advance water supply services to other areas hardest hit by drought.

Chief of Makhoathi, Mrs. 'Malentsoe Makhoathi, when speaking at the same event, explained her gratitude to the government as the initiative came at an opportune time when the people were in dire need of clean water. She was adamant that, it is the responsibility of each community member to guard this development against any acts of vandalism. She said it would be appalling if the people of Makhoathi could continue to vandalise the Metolong water supply infrastructure. Councilor for the area, Mrs. 'Makeneuo Rabolinyane shared similar sentiments and said the people of Makhoathi should strive to root any acts of sabotage against water supply infrastructure.

The Chief Executive Mr. Mathealira Lerotholi, explained to the community the system that will be used to serve the community; which is a prepaid public standpipe accessible through the use of vending token. He explained that 20l of water will cost 20 lisente. The token can be recharged through local business outlets like supermarkets. The water supply project for areas along the Metolong pipeline route is being implemented by the Department of Rural Water Supply in collaboration with WASCO.