

A promise to end struggle for every drop ha Foso

Residents of ha Foso came in numbers despite the winter chills on the morning of 26th June, 2016 for a public gathering held by the Minister of Water Mr. Ralechate 'Mokose. The purpose of the gathering was to brief the community about a government of Lesotho financed drought relief program which is aimed at providing water for Foso, Marabeng and other areas which do not have access to clean water services.

When addressing the Foso community, Minister Ralechate 'Mokose explained that he is aware of the dire need for water supply services at the area and that his Ministry which is mandated to serve the needs of Basotho with water is keen to ensure that the Foso community get access to potable water services. He indicated that the area will benefit from a drought relief program financed by the government of Lesotho to the tune of M131 million, M20 million of which will be used to provide basic water supply services at Foso as a short term measure. The project will see construction of public stand pipes at strategic points across Foso while piped water supply for households will be expected to be carried out by the long term project, greater Maseru Water supply.

The acting Chief Executive of WASCO Mrs. 'Mamathe Makhaola explained that the short term project is part of the Greater Maseru Water Supply project which will see among others, Foso, Marabebeng and Maqhaka get water supply services. However, under the short term drought relief project one peripheral pipeline network will be set up and areas along the line will get supply from public stand pipes. Mrs. Makhaola also indicated that this will have to be a collaborative effort between WASCO, community leaders, and other community representatives to select areas where these stand pipes will be constructed. She cautioned the residents that a project of this nature requires accurate planning of the area and that people will need to shift positions of their sites to create space for the water infrastructure and many other future developments.

Speaking at the occasion, one of the residents, Mr. Ranku Moerane pointed that lack of access to clean water services is one of the greatest challenges of the community for a long time. He said this has led to poor implementation of development projects which include farming. Chief Majara Masupha echoed similar sentiments saying that for years, community

leaders had knocked on doors in an effort to get commitment from relevant departments to provide water supply services at Foso, but in vain. He expressed gratitude over the promise made by minister 'Mokose saying the planned water supply initiative is a long awaited solution to the many ills of the community.

The project once allotted is expected to be completed within four to five months from July, 2016. Meanwhile, WASCO is working closely with the government of Lesotho in sourcing funds to implement the long term Greater Maseru project.