

The going gets tough for the blind

For the blind people life has not been easy during lockdown period. For them social distancing has been a serious challenge as they have to rely on the next available person for assistance in some of their daily duties or activities. To move from one point to the other. To cross the street. To get hold of whatever item. In all these instances, and many others, the blind rely on someone else to achieve them.

It is for this reason that some of the regulations and preventative measures introduced by government during lockdown to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 have been difficult to live by. "It is difficult for us blind people to maintain social distancing, we rely on help from someone to get things done and in many instances we hold a person by his hand, elbow or the shoulder to help us cross the road or walk with us and remember we are not allowed to do so" said the Chairperson of Tello Association for the Blind, Tello Manoto.

According to her, wearing a mask has also become difficult as they are relying on their other senses, hearing, smell, taste and touch to do execute some of their activities. "Because we can't see we rely on our senses and we are unable to in some instances. And now, because of the mask we must wear and we have realized that people are now reluctant to help us due to some of these



issues" added Manoto. Tello Association for the Blind was formed in 2011 in Zamdela, Sasolburg and has about 58 members presently. The association was formed to bring the blind people together and help them to do things for themselves. According to Manoto the lockdown has also affected the association and its members badly financially as well.

The association was involved in various handwork projects to help its members financially such as beading, cleaning agents such as soap, sta-soft, handy-andy, pine-gel, and they have since stopped producing. Members of the association also participate in sports such as goalball and music. Manoto said most of them rely on government grant, which is not enough as they spend a lot on

the medication they use for their condition and also on their families. "I have 13 family members that rely on my grant and since we can't make extra income through our work at the association it is very difficult, our chemicals that we use to make most of our work has also now expired, we are appealing for any assistance" she said.

Metsimaholo tables Municipality Budget for 2020/21

Metsimaholo Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Lindiwe Tshongwe has tabled the municipality's 2020/21 budget, on the 26th June 2020. Mayor Tshongwe said the 2020/2021 Budget, being presented comes against a backdrop of an increasingly dire economic situation in the country, because of the Coronavirus which has disrupted not only our lives, but also the health and economic systems, and Metsimaholo Local Municipality was not immune to this situations. "However, as Metsimaholo we remain committed to ensure that basic services such as water and electricity are delivered to our people. Operating Revenue for the 2020/2021 financial year amounts to 1,522 billion rand and it increases over the medium term to 1, 673 billion rand in 2022/2023. Based on the aforementioned figures, it is evident that our Operating Revenue has increased by 3.2 percent or 47 million rand for the 2020/2021 financial year compared to the 2019/2020 financial year" said Mayor Tshongwe. The Municipality has also key priority projects that will be rolling out for the 2020/2021 financial year which includes, the construction of a 2 kilometer road in Ward 3, Refenggotso, upgrading of Waste Water Treatment Works in Ward 5, Oranjeville and installation of new

water pipes in Zamdela. The free basic services programme currently supports more than 13 thousand indigent households with 6 kiloliters free water, 50 kilowatt free electricity, free sanitation and free waste removal, as well as a 50 rand subsidy on property rates.

On Integrated National Electrification programme the Department of Energy has allocated an amount of 60.8 million rand and this allocation of money will mainly be utilized for the installation of bulk electricity supply services and also electricity connections at Themba Khubeka in Refenggotso.



Metsimaholo Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Lindiwe Tshongwe

SACP e tletleba ka maemo a mabe a BoMmasepala ba Free State

Mokgatlo wa South African Communist Party Free State o hlalositse ho ngongoreha ha wona ka maemo a sa thabiseng a tsamaiso ya ditjhelete ho bommasepala ba Free State kamora hoba Mohlahlobi e moholo wa Dibuka a phatlalatsa sephetho sa ho hlalohjwa ha dibuka tsa ditjhelete tsa bommasepala tsa selemo sa ditjhelete sa 2018 / 2019.

Mokgatlo o boletse hore o kgathatsehile haholo kamoo maemo a ditjhelete bo mmasepaleng a ntse a tswela pele ho putlama ho e na le ho ntlafala. Tlalehong ya dikateng tsa kopano ya boleshome le motso o le mong ya Lekgotla la Bosupa la Profensi, Boetapele ba SACP Free State bo boletse ha kamoo ho putlama ha ditjhelete kahare ho bommasepala e le ketsahalo ya ka boomo ya baetapele ba sepolotiki le botsamaisi ya ho hloka maikarabelo. "Sena se re tshwentse haholo re le mokgatlo, ho kenyeletse le bommasepala ba sa romelleng ditlaleho tsa bona ho mohlahlobi e moholo wa dibuka. "Komiti kakaretso ya profensi e dumellane ka hore ho hlokeha boetapele bo nkang diqeto tse hlakileng le ho kenya tshebetsong mehato ya ho batlisisa sesosa sa maemo ana a sa jeseng ditheohelang kahare ho sebaka sena sa puso.

"Ka ho etsa jwalo re tla be re betlile tsela ya hore meralo ya ntshetsopele ya ditereke e atlehe. Boetapele ba SACP bo tla hlalisa taba tseba sebakeng sa mahata-mmoho."

Boetapele ba SACP Free State bo boetse bo hlalositse tlhokeho ya diqeto tse tsepameng tsa mmuso o nang le tjhebelopele le bokgoni bakeng sa kaho ya moruo o thefutsweng ke Covid-19.

Hape boetapele bo re bo kgotsofatswa ke ho bona matshwao a bontshang hore dikamano di ntse di e ba ntle ho mekgatlo ya mahata-mmoho kahara profensi ya Free State. Tlalehong ya sephetho sa ho hlalohjwa ha dibuka tsa ditjhelete tsa bo Mmasepala eo Mohlahlobi e Moholo wa dibuka, Kimi Makwetu, a e ntshitseng bekeng ena o boletse kamoo bo Mmasepala ba Free State ba ntse ba tswela pele ho se sebetse hantle kateng.

Makwetu o boletse ha kamoo bo Mmasepala ba ka hodimo ho halofo ya bo Mmasepala kahara Free State ba hlolehileng ho ikarabela kamoo ba sebedisitseng tjhelete ya balefi ba lekgetho kateng selemo sa ditjhelete sa 2018/2019.

