



POVERTY: The much anticipated poverty alleviation programme begun.

Mayor helps destitute families

Ba- Phalaborwa Municipality for the first time since the dawn of democratic dispensation has embarked on a massive poverty alleviation programme with the integral aim of fighting the triple challenges facing the Ba-Phalaborwa communities such as poverty, unemployment and equality.

The much anticipated poverty alleviation programme begun when the Mayor Pule Shayi visited and donating Christmas food parcels to destitute families and old age homes from five different traditional authorities (Makhushane, Maseke, Mashishimale, Selwane and Majeje) across the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality on December 21. The mayor was accompanied by his entourage, Municipality's speaker Meriam Malatjie, Chief Whip Eric Hlugwani and executive committee members, Sophia Magomane, Mavis Malesa and Thompson Nkuna.

Speaking at the official handover, Mayor Pule Shayi said fighting poverty is one of the key social components the municipality will be gearing and focusing at in the next year five years. "The Municipality, traditional leaders and ward counsellors from different wards methodically identified only five poor families per village within the entire Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality in order to assist them with food for Christmas and beyond", Said Shayi.

Shayi has also appealed to local business people and supermarkets to aid those that are in need of basic necessities thus Ba-Phalaborwa can be the better place to live." As the municipality we would like to express thanks

to the local pick n pay's management and Mathebula Dry Cleans for their unwavering support and ensuring that we "feed" the communities," explained shayi.

Some of the residents were thrilled by the Municipality's initiative for showing support and caring for the poor while some viewed it as a path to consolidating ties between the Ba- Phalaborwa traditional leaders and the communities. "You will remember that for the past few years the relationship between Ba-Phalaborwa traditional leaders, Communities and the Municipality were harrowing and unpleasant, hence the mayor intends to demonstrate to the public that this is the Municipality of all kinds of people, poor or rich, said one of the residents Richard Malatjie from Makhushane village.

Chief Gabriel Malatjie from Selwane Royal Council has extended his heartfelt gratitude to Ba-Phalaborwa municipality for looking after poverty stricken families." This is what we wanted and it was long overdue for many years from our municipality and great course from the mayor Shayi, explained Chief Malatjie.

The 56 year old Margret Seemela from Makhushane Village, one of the beneficiaries out of 25 poor families showed appreciation to the municipality since there was no food let alone salt in her house." Even if you can go with me to my house now there is nothing, said the single mother of four kids who is also diagnosed by HIV/AIDS since 2004.

Ba-Phalaborwa Traditional leaders has wished Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality best of luck in the year 2017.



ALL FOR THE SPCA: Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi and External Affairs and Communications Manager, Lydia Radebe.

Surprise visit helps the animals of Phalabas

Staff, volunteers and animals from Phalaborwa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) were graced by the surprise visit from the Mayor of the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, Cllr Pule Shayi and officials from Palabora Mining Company (PMC), represented by the External Affairs and Communications Manager, Lydia Radebe. The surprise visit happened a day before Christmas. The objective of the visit was to embrace the work done by the SPCA, show compassion for animals and donate much required necessities for the SPCA to continue doing its job of caring for vulnerable and abused animals.

Speaking at the event, the Mayor of the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, Cllr Pule Shayi said that PMC collaboration with his office to assist the

SPCA was much appreciated. "PMC plays a critical role in Phalaborwa and contributes significantly to community development issues. PMC's contribution to community development and the SPCA presents a challenge to my office to work with other businesses in Phalaborwa to encourage them follow the PMC route", said Cllr Pule Shayi.

The External Affairs and Communications Manager for PMC, Lydia Radebe indicated that the CEO of PMC, Han Jinghua and his Executive care a great deal about the communities and socio-economic development of Phalaborwa thus will continue to work closely with the office of the Mayor and relevant government departments to ensure that this ideal is achieved.