

# The Weekly

## MATJHABENG ATTENDS TO HENNENMAN RESIDENTS' COMPLAINTS

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Dealing with grievances ... Municipal manager of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, German Ramathebane(right), met with community representatives of Phomolong

The Matjhabeng Local Municipality has promised to provide the community with three temporary mobile clinics; assess job opportunities at the Masimong 5 shaft; and develop new sites for housing in Phomolong in Hennenman.

This following a meeting a between the municipality and community representatives last week to discuss a memorandum of demands handed over during service delivery protests in the area three weeks ago.

The Matjhabeng Local Municipality, together with the department of provincial cooperative governance and traditional affairs (Cogta), has met with the protesters of Phomolong in Hennenman for a third time last week in order to come up with solutions for the communities dissatisfactions.

The municipal manager of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, German Ramathebane, cautioned community representatives who led the protests three weeks ago not to expect their demands to be met immediately.

“There is no way that you can expect any government or municipality to deliver on each and every demand simultaneously after receiving it. There are rules to be followed and procedures to go through. We have read through the memorandum you handed over. You must give us time to process all the information,” said Ramathebane.

The community complained about shortage of primary and high schools, lack of a clinic that operates 24 hours and high rate of unemployment.

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One community leader, Santos Phukuntsi, said the high rate of unemployment was a major problem in the area.

“We know of various positions in Hennenman that are vacant but nobody from that town is considered for employment. Locals are only employed in the fire department. We would like to be the first to be considered when there are vacant positions at the Masimong 5 shaft since the mine is situated in our area,” said Phukuntsi.

In the meeting that took place on January 25, the community demanded that Harmony Gold Mine representatives attend follow-up meetings. Harmony Gold corporate affairs manager, Lebohang Shabe, and Kelipa Kewuti from the department of mineral resources were invited to the meeting.

“Because we only work through the municipalities of an area, a forum will be established whereby unemployed and qualified individuals from the Phomolong area in Hennenman will be registered in the database to be set up by the Matjhabeng Local Municipality. The list will be regularly updated and people in the database will be first to be considered whenever people are hired at the Masimong 5 shaft,” said Shabe.

Three weeks ago shops were looted and road signs were destroyed with broken curbs and burning tyres were used to barricade streets when approximately 2 000 residents from Phomolong became riotous on Monday.

Police had to stop the enraged residents, who were armed with sticks and stones, at the entrance of Phomolong before they could succeed to block the R70 between Ventersburg and Hennenman.

The situation was so bad that the executive mayor of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Sebenzile Ngangelizwe, had to be escorted out of the Phomolong Stadium with an armored police vehicle when his motorcade was stoned.

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]