



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

Date: 24 October 2018

Premier Mathabatha to open two clinics in Bela-Bela and meet the people of Bela-Bela Township

Premier of Limpopo Mr Chupu Stanley Mathabatha will officially cut the ribbon and unveil the plaque of Pienaarsrivier and Bela-Bela Township clinics as part of the Executive Council Imbizo Programme on the 26 October 2018. The Premier will be joined by the MEC for Department of Health Dr Phophi Ramathuba, Waterberg District Mayor Cllr Morris Mataboge and Mayor of Bela-Bela Cllr Jeremiah Ngobeni.

Pienaarsrivier is about 40 kilometers outside Bela-Bela town. Pienaars has a population of 5 484 people according to Stats SA 2011 and is surrounded by farms and villages which will be receiving services from the clinic. It also service patients from neighbouring provinces of North-West and Mpumalanga. At the moment the average headcount is 850 to 1000 patients per month and the number is predicated to rise due to the clinic increasing its operation to 24 hours and provision of maternity services.

The Premier and MEC will then proceed to open the Bela-Bela clinic. The clinic is located with will the Bela-Bela Township Extension 6B. Both clinics will provide primary health care services to the residents. They will also ensure that Health Care Services are brought closer to the community where they live. This clinic serves a population of about 28 000 people, it operates 24 hours and it has a dental section. The average headcount per month is estimated around 5000. Surrounding farming areas and informal settlements that will receive services are Sunvalley, Bospoort,

Tshakane, Eersbewoond, Tweefontein and Thawoomba.

The Premier and his entourage will proceed to Sunfa Sport Ground for EXCO Outreach Programme. He will also be joined by other MECs. The Executive Council has during its seating on the 26 September 2018 approved the hosting of this EXCO and many other to come until next year. This is done to deepen the programme and ensure that it reaches as many communities as possible. The Imbizo is designed to strengthen communication between the Provincial Government and the people.

Prior the visit, the Office of the Premier's Provincial Communication Services conducted a research at Vingerkraal, Masakhane and Bela-Bela Township to assess state of affairs in terms of service delivery.

Amongst other issues raised and observed is the use of drug and substance abuse which is enormous, a need to revamp the Raeleng Secondary School (the school is dilapidated), no storm water drainage system (during rainy season the area become flooded), shortage of staff at Warmbaths clinic and it doesn't operate 24 hours.

The community requests that SASSA should continue to provide food parcel to indigents in the area, they also allege that there is nepotism in the allocation of RDP houses, they requested for extension and proper maintenance of the R101 road between Bela-Bela and Thabazimbi. It was mentioned that the road is used by many trucks which makes it very dangerous because it is narrow and riddled with potholes. On RDP houses, it's known that some beneficiaries sell their houses after allocation and go to re-apply again but the Housing Subsidy System (HSS) rejects them while some use them for business.

Those are few issues raised and preliminary findings picked up during the research. Various MECs will address issues raised that affect their portfolios while Executive Mayor of Waterberg and Mayor of Bela-Bela will also respond to municipal issues. Members of the media are invited to cover both the opening of clinic and EXCO scheduled as follows:

Part One –Opening of Pienaarsrivier Clinic

Date: 26 October 2018

Time: 09h00

Venue: Pienaarsrivier Clinic

Bela-Bela Municipality, Waterberg District

Part Two –Opening of Bela-Bela Clinic

Date: 26 October 2018

Time: 10h40

Venue: Extension 6B

Bela-Bela Township

Part Three –EXCO Outreach Programme

Date: 26 October 2018

Time: 11h15

Venue: Sunfa Sport Ground, Extension 6

Bela-Bela Municipality, Waterberg District

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