

## MUNICIPALITY SPENDS MILLIONS ON DEVELOPMENT

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The Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality has urged residents to protect infrastructure and report any delinquency of people trying to sabotage development in their communities.

The district handed over a half kilometre of paved road and a total of 150 solar street lights to the Mantsopa Local Municipality last weekend.

The construction of the paved road in Ladybrand, which took six months, employed labour-intensive methods and the EPWP model, which saw local labourers benefitting from the project while. The 150 solar street lights installed in Thaba Patchoa, Hobhouse, Tweespruit were also completed through a similar scheme.

Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality member of the mayoral committee (MMC) for agriculture and rural development, Tjhere Makhoba, said the district municipality spent R12-million on both projects and a total of 79 local community members were employed in both projects since April this year.

“In order to stimulate growth and reduce poverty, it is essential to improve the supply, quality and affordability of infrastructure services. Poor infrastructure impedes economic growth. We also wanted to see members of the community benefitting from the projects.

“We are proud that at least people from these townships were able to benefit from this project,” said Makhoba.

He urged residents to look after the roads and stop burning their own resources whenever they embark on a service delivery protest.

“This is your hard work. However, if you burn tyres and vandalise things, you have to remember that one day you will need them. There are many ways of expressing your anger, but destroying what you have is even worse, as it takes you another few steps back instead of going forward,” warned Makhoba.

Residents of Hobhouse have welcomed the installation of the streets light which they believe will reduce crime in the area.

“The lights will not necessarily protect us, but they will help reduce nocturnal crime because there will be more visibility at night.

“We have had two robberies in the last year which happened in the middle of the night; no one saw what happened and to this day, we still haven’t recovered our stolen belongings. I would like to thank the municipality for erecting these street lights close to our houses,” said community members, Moses Dlamini.

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