

## **NEW ROAD BOON FOR NKETOANA**

*By Palesa Lekeka*

**PIETER STEYN – Repair work on the 46 km Heilbron to Peter Steyn road has proved a boon to the Nketoana community where some 230 jobs have been created, since the R300 million project was launched.**

“As part of the national Transport month and the United Nations’ resolution for ‘a decade of road safety’, we are here to make an awareness of the initiatives the department is taking to improve the country’s infrastructure and public transportation,” the MEC for Police, Roads and Transport in the Free State, Butana Komphela said.

Komphela and the delegation including councilors from the four towns that make up the Nketoana Municipality and the provincial chairperson of South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) Daki Qumbu visited Pieter Steyn on Tuesday, October 11.

The delegation was assessing progress on the construction of the road and it coincided with the celebration of Transport Month 2011. The theme for the commemoration is: “Year of job creation and service delivery in Transport”.

The road construction falls in line with the department of transport’s goal to create over 68 000 jobs with the R6.4 billion budget that has been set aside for 2011/12 as part of the S’hamba Sonke nationwide initiative dealing with road maintenance and construction of secondary road infrastructures.

“This road will not be racing grounds where people will test drive their cars. What happened on the Harrismith road where four learners and five teachers died pains us as a department and we say, enough is enough when it comes to road accidents,” Komphela said.

The road stretches from Pieter Steyn road which is a kilometre away from Lindley intersection and ends at the Heilbrone entrance.

“I am very happy with the road because it looks like a legacy that will last for years to come. I am even happier with the fact that some of the community members have been employed by the construction company considering the fact that unemployment is extremely rife in the municipality,” said the executive mayor of Nketoana Municipality, Matsukulu Molapisi.

The Pieter Steyn and Heilbrone road forms part of the high order route of the R 57 situated between the Eastern Free State and Gauteng province. It is one of the busiest roads in the province. The project started in 2010 and is due for completion in March 2013.

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