

## EXPRESS EASTERN FREE STATE

### COMMUNITY TO BE MOVED

#### **Selahliwe to be thing of the past**

Tladi Moloi – 23 May 2012

THERE are 1 842 people living in Selahliwe, an informal settlement in Bohlokong, Bethlehem, who have been sharing 118 toilets and who at times have to queue to relieve themselves. This has been the situation for 21 years.

Tjhetane Mofokeng, Dihlabeng mayor, said after the first democratic elections in 1994, previous Free State premiers who visited Bethlehem promised to formalise the informal settlement in Bohlokong. He added that this never happened. However, the new government, under Ace Magashule's leadership is saying enough is enough and soon Selahliwe will be a thing of the past.

Olly Mlamleli, MEC: Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), revealed the entire community of 546 households would be moved to the Vogelfontein area near Baken Park. These developments were revealed during the Operation Hlasela media tour organised by Magashule's office last week in the Thabo Mofutsanyane district to highlight the flagship programme's successes and challenges since its inception in 2009.

Residents told Express Eastern Free State (Express EFS) that living in the area was very difficult with residents having to share 11 taps. They also told Express EFS they did not want the place to be called Silahlwe anymore because the name, which means we were thrown away, had brought them misfortune.

Mlamleli confirmed during the media tour's visit to Selahliwe on Wednesday that all people from Selahliwe would soon be moved to the new site named Vogelfontein near Baken Park. The tour included almost all the MECs in Magashule's cabinet, various mayors from across the province as well as many top-ranking government officials including heads of department. Mlamleli requested people in Selahliwe not to move and erect their shacks at Vogelfontein until they were told to do so. "Don't move. We'll come to fetch you when we are done," she ordered.

During this year's Freedom Day provincial celebrations held in the town, Magashule said he was touched by the living conditions in the area following a visit. He then promised to be back with a solution soon. He said they visited Selahliwe to give the residents hope. "We are the people's government and we'll make sure that our people have a quality life. I trust our councillors and I know that they will do their best to make all of you happy," he said. Magashule urged the community of Bethlehem to support the mayor because he had fought for the ANC. "We are indeed going to take all the people to the new place and after that we don't want to see any houses in Selahliwe before we have developed it for others," he said.

[Source: <http://152.111.11.6/argief/berigte/volksblad/2012/05/23/QQ/1/QQTSELAHLIWE.html>]