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**THE RESPONSE TO THE PETITION 102 – 2019 BY RESIDENTS OF DRYHARTS VILLAGE,**

The Petition 102 – 2019 of Residents of Dryharts Village, Calling on the Assembly to investigate the re-opening of the Molehabangwe Middle School, submitted in terms of Rule 347 (Mr I S Seitlholo).

The report below was sourced from the North West Provincial Education Department:

Molehabangwe Middle School, was closed down in December 2015 when it was merged with Sekate Mahura Middle School as part of rationalisation.

1. ***CLOSURE AND MERGER OF MOLEHABANGWE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SEKATE MAHURA MIDDLE SCHOOL.***

Sekate Mahura and Molehabangwe Middle Schools were identified for rationalisation in 2012, because of the following factors which were taken into consideration during this process:

1. Both the schools were middle schools and had to be phased out through rationalisation.
2. Both schools could not be allowed to introduce FET Phase because they were considered not to be viable and functional.
3. The enrolment of both middle schools could not reach 450.
4. The infrastructure capacity of the two schools could not enable the Department to introduce FET Phase in either of the two.
5. Sekate Mahura Middle School did not have full Management compliments.
6. ***CONSULTATION PROCESS.***

Extensive consultation to merge these two schools was conducted. The following stakeholders were consulted:

1. Educators and Teacher Unions
2. The SGB’s
3. Parents
4. Local Chief (Kgosi)

 What emerged out of the consultation with the community of Molehabangwe Middle School was that the parents were divided. The larger part of the community supported the closure of Molehabangwe Middle School and its merger with Sekate Mahura Middle School while the minority view was that the school must not close down, but must be allowed to introduce the FET Phase. The proposal from the Department was that the school must downgrade to a primary school as a compromise. This proposal was rejected with contempt by those opposing parties. The school was eventually closed, and the staff and learners were relocated to Sekate Mahura Middle School. A new proposal was subsequently tabled that Sekate Mahura Middle School and Boijane High School must also merge and create a new school by the name of Sekate – Boijane Mahura Secondary School

1. ***RE – OPENING OF MOLEHABANGWE MIDDLE SCHOOL***

Around June 2019 the District received correspondence from the community represented by the Tribal Authority of Ba Ga Phuduhucwana wherein they resuscitated the initial proposal by the Department to re-open Molehabangwe Middle School as a primary school.

The District, viewed the proposal in a positive light, in that:-

1. The infrastructure condition of Molehabangwe is still intact and will require renovation.
2. There are five classrooms that can be utilized for this purpose but would require renovation.
3. There’s an administration block which is still intact (3 offices and a staffroom).
4. The toilets are also in a usable condition, and will only need to be converted to suit the primary age.
5. There is electricity and water in the premises.
6. The village population growth also supports the notion of the re-opening of Molehabangwe as a primary school.

The financial year 2020 is set aside to attend to all the matters that relates to the re-opening of the school, including amongst others:-

1. Re-registration of the new primary school.
2. Renovation of existing building and procurement or relocation of mobile classes if necessary.
3. Identification of learners to be relocated from the neighbouring schools to Molehabangwe Middle School.
4. Registration of new learners.
5. Provisioning of Human Resources.
6. Procurement of LTSM.

It is recommended that the report from the Provincial Education Department be noted and accepted as correct.