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09 December 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELECTRICITY DISRUPTION AT GROOTLVEI - DIPALESENG

The community of Grootvlei was adversely affected when a feeder transformer unexpectedly burnt, causing an electricity blackout to the whole Mine section of Extension 1 in Grootvlei.

The municipality then commenced procurement processes to remedy the situation, of either fixing the transformer or procuring a new one.

Fixing the said transformer proved to be difficult and really not feasible as it was an old model transformer installed back in 1976. The municipality could not find a service provider that could do any refurbishment and/or calibration on the parts.

The next option was the procurement of a new transformer of the same kind and magnitude to replace the old and broken-down one. That process also proved a bit tricky but one eventually was located in Kimberly.

The installation readiness was always on point but the challenge was that the delivery of the transformer took longer than anticipated. The transformer finally arrived on Thursday, 08th December 2016 and installation commenced soon thereafter.

The ward councilor, Cllr. Kent Nyamade together with Cllr. Willem Davel was there on site till 03H00 in the morning on Friday 09th December to oversee the process. The same councilor started community engagements with the affected community members on Sunday, 4th December where he explained the whole situation to them and kept the community abreast at all times.

The technicians worked around the clock to ensure that it gets connected as soon as possible to allow residents to have access to electricity. The said transformer then also

blew cables which resulted in another blackout. Currently the municipality is dealing with fixing it and re-instating the services as soon as possible.

On another matter of service delivery, the municipality also experienced a slight challenge with refuse collection in the Grootvlei area. This was due to one of its compactor trucks being sent in for servicing then the other one suffering a mechanical breakdown. The refuse was then effectually collected on Thursday, 08th December 2016.

The municipality regrettably apologizes for the huge inconvenience that all these challenges caused the residents of the affected area. In the same breath want to assure them that appropriate steps were taken to avoid the recurrence of such an incident.

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