

ABOUT THIS SERIES:

The intention of Voices of the People is to create a platform for members of the community to interact with the city's administration and for management to directly hear the views of residents on a variety of issues.

THUMBS UP FROM TAXI DRIVERS



As Mangaung Metro continues with intensive roadworks across the city, the Communications Unit recently visited Botshabelo to see some of the roads that have been upgraded in the area, and hear from taxi drivers how the upgrades have contributed to them working more effectively. Before the road in M Section was paved and the tar road in N section was constructed, taxis were not available along these routes, living commuters to get off in other areas. This is what the drivers had to say:



Taxi driver, Teboho Mokgosi said the straight-line road which runs from the M section to the N section was in a terrible condition. Mokgosi said all taxi drivers started avoiding the route because of the damages it was causing to the taxis. "We couldn't give our commuters the full services, we had to drop them off far from their destination. Even when they had a lot of groceries with them, they couldn't even pay for the delivery fee so they can be dropped off just by their house," said Mokgosi.

He said he is happy that the road has finally been upgraded, adding that they have struggled for a very long time and no driver was willing to take a chance driving on that road. "This means that now we have access to the route, and we can drop off commuters closer to their homes," said Mokgosi.

Moruri Setlai said there was a lot of competition amongst taxi drivers because they were all using the same route to find commuters. "The taxi driver who was in the front would get all the passengers; but now since the road has been upgraded, we use it as an alternative and we are able to pick up passengers from their gates," said Setlai.



Thulo Maseng said he was always fighting with the owner of the taxi he drives regarding the condition the taxi was in. "The owners believed that we were damaging their vehicles on purpose and didn't want to understand that the damage was due to bad roads," said Maseng. He added that before the road was fixed, the taxi was always at the mechanic but now, even when it rains, the taxis are still able to use the road because during upgrading, stormwater drains were installed.

