



MULATI ROAD UPGRADE FINALLY UNDERWAY

Mulati is a community of almost 2000 people living in 701 households, this is according to Statistics South Africa household survey. The vehicle population in Mulati is way below average and public transport ratio is one mini-bus per 900 people. According to sources, only two mini-bus taxis operate in Mulati. These taxis transport residents to and from the village to the R529 or Letsitele.

“The people of Mulati literally struggle” this according to Josta Banyini, the ward councilor of Ward 25, which Mulati falls under along with Sedan, Mafarana, Ntsako, and Bonn Village. Banyini says whenever it rains the road there is slippery and unusable. “It is the only road into the village, and when it rains everything stops, you cannot go to the clinic, you cannot go to the library and there is no school” Said Banyini

In 2018, the GTM approved a budget for the upgrading of the road from gravel to interlocked bricks paving. The project is estimated to cost R37.2 million over a three year period. “This is a multi-year project funded by the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).” Said John Matlala, the Project Management Unit Manager in the GTM. Matlala said the Mulati project entails the paving of a 5.8 km road with two lanes. “Each lane will be 3.6m wide and there will be a 600mm shoulder on each side,” said Matlala.

Alfred Ramaano, a resident of Mulati said that the road will improve access to the three schools in the

area.

He said access to Jack Mashamba Primary, Mlunglisi Primary and Scotch Maboko High School will improve. The Mulati Library will also become more accessible to local communities.

Matlala said that the scope of work also includes all road signs, markings, and roadside furniture. Matlala added that adjoining roads will be given access and surface bellmouths.

In January 2019, the municipality handed over the road to a contractor, who has already started with preparations which include site establishment and hiring of labourers.

By Neville Ndlala