

Motlanthe visits Northern Cape

During his visit to the Northern Cape as part of his 'War on Poverty' campaign, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe said the only way to eradicate poverty in the country is through encouraging young people to go to school and learn skills.

Addressing people in Phillipstown near De Aar, the deputy president said that the young people in the area who dropped out of school require immediate intervention: "The children must be taken back to school after the winter. An educated society is key to winning the battle against poverty."



Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe visited Phillipstown as part of government's 'War on Poverty' campaign

The War on Poverty campaign aims to fight poverty by raising the profile of the government's anti-poverty initiatives, reach out to more people, make maximum impact on the poor in the shortest possible time and ensure that the broader community appreciates and joins the fight against poverty.

Renosterberg local municipality mayor, Arthwell Kwinana, appealed to the national government for money to help alleviate the plight of the mostly impoverished small farming community and to make sure that they succeed in the fight against poverty. Many people in Phillipstown are unemployed and dependent on government grants, the mayor told Mr Motlanthe.

"The municipality (Renosterberg) is the largest employer in the area. The grants we receive from government are not sufficient to sustain the municipality and to deliver services," he said.

"The Renosterberg local municipality is the smallest and the poorest municipality in the Pixley ka Seme region. A lot of people in Phillipstown, Petrusville and Vanderkloof-Keurtjiekloof are still living in shacks and low-cost houses with big families.

"The situation puts us in a very difficult position with regard to service delivery backlogs. Our roads and infrastructure development leave a lot to be desired," the mayor said.

He said when he took over the municipality in 2006, it had a lot of savings, as funds allocated for service delivery were not used for rendering services, but rather were saved for the municipality to be rich.

For more information of the campaign, log on to www.ruraldevelopment.gov.za. 