**MEDIA STATEMENT**

 **REFENGKGOTSO GETS THE GREEN FACELIFT**

The small community of Refengkgotso, Dennysville in Metsimaholo Local Municipality received a green facelift from MEC Limakatso Mahasa when she revisited the community on the 28th September 2018. This was to deliver on commitments and promises she made during her first visit at this town after deployment as MEC for Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

As part of celebrating arbor month, about 100 trees were planted at a revitalized park. The MEC and Mayor did a ceremonial planting of four (4) trees. The MECs tree was named after the honourable and stalwart Ms Edna Molewa, who recently passed away, and who contributed immensely to environmental issues such as climate change, and animal poaching. She was a true reflection of “Thumamina” spirit. As she was planting the tree, MEC said, “A tree is like a small business that you start and nurture until it is sustainable and thereafter you are able to enjoy the profits of the business. Similarly as the tree grows larger, you will be able to enjoy the shade.”

To give hope to the people, and ease the burden of unemployment and encourage economic activities in the area. The second part of the programme was the handover of SMME equipment to the identified beneficiaries in the community. MEC Limakatso Mahasa gave four small businesses equipment to grow and sustain their businesses.

High unemployment rate especially amongst young people was MEC Limakatso`s main concern during her last visit in Refengkgotso. Other evident socio economic matters were; poverty, lack of running water, lack of housing, lack of environmental greening in the area. Her conclusion was that, the Refengkgotso community will be assisted by the department in terms of SMME and cooperatives business equipment.

The MEC was accompanied by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Lindiwe Tshongwe, departmental officials and councillors. The day started with a briefing session and then the entourage moved to a cleaning campaign.

Businesses that were supported include, a hair salon, shisanyama, and tuck shop and waste pickers’ cooperatives who were given a baler machine to help them compress waste and recycle in bulk to major recycling companies such as Consol, SAMetal, PETCO and Mpact.

**Issued by the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs**:

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