

GEORGE/THEMBALETHU COMMUNITY FORUM



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PRESS RELEASE

The Community has been in very fruitful engagements with the National Department of Transport, Provincial Department of Transport and Public Works and the George Municipality.

The rolling out of phase 4 includes Thembaletu, Lawaakamp, Borchards, Parkdene and Maraakamp.

The issue of infrastructure development, economic spinoffs, taxi permits, is all part of our engagement with government.

As a forum we have also highlighted the need for better planning and budgeting in order for our communities and the taxi industry to benefit from this grant for the people of George.

As part of our engagement we have put forward the issue of how infrastructure development is allocated and how our communities should be better consulted about these projects and towards the roll out of phase 4 in this project.

It has also come to our attention that the provincial government and the municipality is spending millions of rands in consultancy fees, all of which is being driven by the provincial government with very few or no resistance from the municipality. In our opinion this has worked negatively for our township areas.

If we now looked at how the George areas has developed versus Thembaletu and Lawaakamp and so on then we are worried that this project from the national government are being driven to fail our people on the ground.

We have to deal with joblessness and other social ills while this project is only benefitting a hand full of people.

We came to learn about the Brasika report which is highlighting irregularities within this project which the municipality and the province tries to hide, hence it has taken more than 2 years to bring this report to council.

If the municipality is serious about service delivery, why is it still hiding this report and why is it trying to shelve the report without calling a forensic so that the truth can come out.

As a forum for the community we will make it our action plan to get to the truth of the matter as our communities is being robbed by the municipality in trying to hide the report.

We have even brought the author of the report to come and explain what is happening inside this report, but was blocked by government.

It is sad that we must now report to the community that we were blocked at the negotiations by the government to allow this person to present this Brasika report.

The community has a right to know what is happening and why our infrastructure within the George areas of the disadvantaged communities is not going forward.

There is a special council meeting of council where this report will be tabled with a view to bury it. Let us watch this space to see what council is doing about a document that they paid for and is now trying to hide it.

As the Forum we will continue to keep the community updated on these issues

Our engagement with government is continuing and will do so until we are happy for this phase 4 to be rolled out.

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Chairperson
