Madienyane Community receives Sustainable Energy Tokens

The darkness which used to cover the Madienyane Village of Mashashane area in Limpopo has soon been forgotten. Villagers who used to collect fire woods to boil water and to prepare supper daily, have been rescued by Aganang Local Municipality, even though the village is not yet connected to national power grid. Sustainable alternative energy is now the answer for this Mashashane extension.

The Municipality on Friday provided residents with tokens of alternative energy to villagers in the Municipal indigent register. A total of about 500 people registered as indigents in Aganang Municipality are going to benefit from this programme. "We have been running this programme as a pilot project for the past 7 years, and we saw it being able to eliminate risks of health hazards and house fires. We are only Municipality in Limpopo which managed to successfully run this programme" says Municipal Spokesperson Peter Moruthane.

Her Worship Mayor of Aganang Municipality, Cllr Maria Mokobodi says the Municipality is committed to provide all residents with electricity, she says 105 villages has been electrified so far. The Mayor says as the municipality they have a responsibility to take care of villages which are not yet electrified, but indicated that the municipality has a priority list of all extensions to be electrified. A budged of R6Million has been put aside to electrify extensions this financial year.

Madinyane Village which is a new settlement in Ga-Mashahane, do not have electricity and villagers received Gel Stoves, Gel Fuels, and Sola lights. Sola Lights are being rolled out for the first time as a replacement to Oil Lights which were being used in other villages in the past years. Although those Oil Lights do not use Gel-fuel, these lamps provide a safe, smokeless, odourless and economical alternative lighting source. The new Sola Lights will create sustainably and risk free environment.

A Community leader Jack Bruintjies says they are very proud of Aganang Municipality. "We never thought that the municipality cares about us, we did not even believe gore they know us, but here they surprised us with these alternative energy tokens", he added.

Madinyane community will be provided with up to 8 hours of safe light with a single day's charge, no more looking for candles and lamps or struggling with torches and flat batteries. This tough, splash proof, virtually indestructible lantern has been fitted with Lithium-Ion-Phosphate battery for longer burn life and a superb light LED. The Municipality will further distribute the lights to people who are currently using the oil lights in other villages. R4.8 million has been put aside by Aganang Municipality this financial year to distribute free electricity to those accessing electricity and basic alternative energy to those without electricity.