

## **Worries turned into joy as municipality electrify village**

Months of uncertainties and worries turned into a jubilant celebration in Nkotokwane, Ga-Mphahlele on 18 November 2005. On the day the Capricorn District Municipality officially launched a R1,2 million electricity project that will initially benefit 250 residents.

The people of Nkotokwane had waited to know whether the promises made by the district and the local municipalities last year would come to pass.

In 2004 the community had received news that their village would get electricity. After initial confirmation from Eskom and the municipality it was discovered that the village that appeared on Eskom's list was Nkotokwane in Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipality. What followed thereafter was months of meetings to see how the confusion may be resolved.

"We have had our problems and struggles in the past. Out of sheer commitment to the people and after various interactions the municipality went back to look at how they would assist us. Electricity is here today and our lives will get better," said Wesley Mphahlele, a community member.

Responding to the mood of the people on the day the Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Clr Motalane Monakedi said: "We responded to the people here because expectations were created earlier and we are here to give the feedback that we promised we would give. Our setting aside R1,2 million for this project is an indication that indeed we work with communities."

Clr Monakedi further said that a consultant has been appointed and is on site. A local project steering committee has as well been elected to guarantee that maximum participation of the community in the project. The project is expected to be completed by March 2006, a date which the community is comfortable with.