

## **The Street Project that Empowers the Unemployed of Motsoaledi**

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Motsoaledi informal settlement is a small township just behind Baragwanath Hospital, in Soweto. This informal settlement is still underdeveloped, and it has been like that since 2016. Different projects have been established to end poverty and they end without achieving any purpose.

This year there is a current ongoing street project, that fixes the street and puts concrete on the road. This project has brought so much joy and excitement to the residents.

Mr. Lunga Tshabalala a project leader said, “This is a project that everyone in the community was hoping for, and it brought so much to the community, mostly jobs, especially to the youth and some members of the community that were unemployed.”

Tshabalala also explained that the current project will be well taken care of because the previous project leaders left without completing the main purpose of the project.

“These projects are too exposed to corrupt people, but the leadership of this project is very strict and careful,” emphasised Tshabalala.

Ndumiso Zulu, a 22-year-old school dropout who was unemployed before the project also said, “this project is very helpful to the unemployed youth in the community, because this project employment criteria was not too focused on educational levels and experiences, but it provided much-needed training to everyone.”

Zulu also said that these kinds of projects are mostly needed in and around our community because they cater to the needs of people staying in this township by bringing jobs and it’s helpful especially to him because he now earns a salary that helps him take care of himself and his family.

“This project is very helpful it saves money for [the] car wash, and it saved him by not having to buy gas like before”, said James Ngoveni, a motorist.

He is also happy that his son also got a job in the project because it has been years since he completed basic schooling and had not found any job to do, he also wishes that the government can create more of these kinds of projects so that the youth will benefit and not get involved in crime, drugs, and other wrong activities.

This project shows how big and loved our community is, the community is so happy and also wishes that once this project is done the street must be well taken care of.

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