

**BIG BOOST FOR HEALTHCARE**

5 November 2012



TOUR OF DUTY: MEC for public works, Sisi Mabe, centre, during a visit to the site where a new state-of-the-art hospital is being built in Ladybrand.

**Maryna van Wyk**

The new state-of-the-art Mantsopa Hospital complex in Ladybrand is nearing completion and will not only create more than 900 jobs but also empower local SMMEs.

During a visit to the site of the hospital last week, MEC for public works Sisi Mabe said the hospital was part of the Free State government's massive infrastructure programme that will be rolled out across the province.

Mabe was in Ladybrand on Wednesday to inspect the facility, which is almost 90% complete. The hospital will be opened to the public in January 2013. The hospital with its 72 beds and two operating theatres, will have some of the most sophisticated equipment and IT systems.

Mabe said she visited the site to see that the project, which provided work to approximately 1000 people during its several construction, would be finished on time.

On completion, the hospital will consist of an administration block, staff housing for doctors and nurses, male and female wards, specialist services such as obstetrics, pediatrics, emergency medical services, rehabilitation and occupational therapy, a pharmaceutical service, X-ray department and a mortuary. Mabe said the construction of the hospital had created 374 permanent jobs.

She pointed out that the maternity ward would be a great relief for the community in Ladybrand who had to travel to nearby towns in during emergencies. Patients who acquired specialist care would no longer have to travel long distances to Bloemfontein. "The quarters for doctors and nurses are important to ensure we draw professionals with the right skills to the hospital," she said.

Mabe said she was happy with the progress of the hospital and that her department would be proud to hand over the facility to the department of health. "This hospital means we can deliver with pride and will do so when the department of health needs other facilities in the province," she said.

The mayor of the local Mantsopa municipality, Sello Ntsepe, urged people in the province to have faith in the government.

[Source: [www.thenewage.co.za](http://www.thenewage.co.za)]