

# The Weekly

## MABE DELIVERS JOBS TO MANTSOPA RESIDENTS

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Delivering healthcare infrastructure ... Public Works MEC, Sisi Mabe, inspecting the construction site of Matsopa Hospital

**The building of the state-of the-art hospital has created hundreds of permanent and temporary jobs while expanding access to quality health care to local residents**

The MEC for public works, Sisi Mabe, has reiterated the Free State provincial government's unwavering commitment to creating thousands of jobs through its massive infrastructure programme that will be rolled-out across the province.

Mabe's pronouncement follows the construction of the new multi-million rand state of the art Mantsopa hospital at Ladybrand which has created jobs for more than 900 people and empowered local SMMEs.

The MEC undertook an inspection tour of the facility, which is nearing completion, on Tuesday this week. The R264-million state-of-the-art hospital, which is expected to be opened to the public in January next year, will accommodate 72 inpatients and boasts some of the most sophisticated equipment and IT systems.

Apart from an administration block, staff housing and male and female wards, the hospital will provide sophisticated medical services such as obstetrics, paediatric care, emergency medical services, rehabilitation and occupational therapy, as well as pharmaceutical, X-Ray, and mortuary services. The hospital also boasts the best operation theatres in the country. Mabe said the construction of the hospital has created 374 permanent jobs.

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“It is particularly gratifying that a lot of work was done by the members of the local community through sub-contracting. This project is an example of the provincial government’s commitment to fighting poverty and creating jobs. It also demonstrates our commitment to achieving the ANC-led government’s five top priorities which include providing our people with good health care services,” said Mabe.

According to Mabe, the hospital will now provide quality health services to local residents who had to travel long distances in the past to access healthcare. She said local residents will no longer have to travel as far as Bloemfontein for specialised operations.

“The hospital will be one of the biggest and beautiful health centres in the district and the province. The hospital is part of government’s plan to improve availability of health services in the Mantsopa Local Municipality, and to create jobs.

“The community of Ladybrand will no longer endure the inconvenience of travelling long distances to access medical attention because everything will be close to them,” said Mabe.

The MEC said she was happy with the progress on the construction of the hospital. “I had to come and see the progress myself rather than be briefed, and I can boldly say I am really happy with what I see here. I am certain that I will be back in January to officially hand the hospital over to the community and the department of health.”

Meanwhile, Mabe’s department is currently renovating the multi-faced-government-precinct that houses the departments of public works, social development, health and education in Bethlehem.

The project includes the conversion of the old warehouse and workshops into offices for the Fleet Management Section, construction of a palisade fence and the upgrading of the doctor’s accommodation facilities. The department is also building a secure centre in QwaQwa that will serve as the rehabilitation centre for young offenders.

Mabe was accompanied by Mantsopa Local Municipality mayor, Sello Ntsepe, who expressed his gratitude to the provincial government for building the hospital in his area.

“This is really something that members of the community will not turn a blind eye to, especially people who accuse the government of non-delivery of services. We are happy that the hospital will provide good quality health services to our people and provide jobs to many unemployed in the area.

“Our people must have faith in the ANC-led government and trust it when it says it will deliver because it does. The building of this hospital is a clear example of that,” said Ntsepe.

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