

Thumbs up for hospital

New Trompsburg hospital will help raise the town's profile when it is completed this year

KAMOGELO SEEKOEI

THE progress made on the construction of the Trompsburg District Hospital in the Xhariep district municipality, south of Bloemfontein, received the thumbs up from public works MEC Sisi Mabe.

Her visit this week was meant to get first-hand information on the progress made at the R28.5m hospital.

According to the senior architect from the firm overseeing the construction, the hospital is 75% complete.

About 6708 job opportunities were created on the site since construction started in 2011.

"I am quite pleased and satisfied by what I am witnessing here today," said Mabe from the construction site.

She said the oversight visits on behalf of their client, in this case the health department, were to ensure quality standards were met and that the stakeholders involved were speaking with one voice.

She said such visits were important because they made it possible for challenges to be averted in time.

"I want to emphasise that the department of public works will live up to its mandate and responsibilities at all times, that of providing sustainable infrastructure to the community," Mabe said.

The Trompsburg District Hospital is classified as a 24-bed hospital and houses a number of facilities like an administration block, male and female wards, maternity section, paediatric ward, emergency medical services, rehabilitation and occupational therapy, OPD, pharmacy, X-ray, mortuary, linen bank, kitchen, theatres, staff housing, roadworks and landscaping.

Xhariep district mayor Mongi Ntwanambi said the hospital was



WORK IN PROGRESS: Public works MEC Sisi Mabe and officials inspect the work done on the construction of the Trompsburg District Hospital, giving it the thumbs up.

well placed because it was along the national road.

Trompsburg is located along the N1, which links the province with the Northern Cape, Western Cape and Eastern Cape. The town is just 122km south-west of Bloemfontein.

"Apart from rendering the much needed health-care to the citizens of Xhariep as a whole, the hospital will

bring relief to travellers in health-related emergencies, including accidents," Ntwanambi said.

"This development will also help raise the profile of Trompsburg and surrounding areas. It is one of the best decisions made by our government," the mayor said.

Ntwanambi also raised hopes that job creation, which began when con-

struction started in 2011, would be sustained in some sectors when the hospital is finished later this year.

The town, which was founded 1891 and attained municipal status in 1902, never had a public hospital before.

It is named after the owners of the farm on which it was founded, Jan and Bastiaan Tromp.

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Department, university set to meet in court

PETER RAMOTHWALA

THE Department of Higher Education and Training's appeal against a Bloemfontein High Court ruling against Minister Blade Nzimande's intention to place the Central University of Technology (CUT) under administration, is still underway, said department spokesperson Vuyelwa Qinga.

This was after the department was granted a leave to appeal by the Supreme Court in Bloemfontein late last year. The legal wrangle between Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande and CUT erupted after CUT's vice-chancellor and principal, Prof Thandwa Mthembu, challenged Nzimande's decision in court to place the university under administration.

The recommendation was included in a report filed by independent assessor, Juliana Smith, who was appointed by the Nzimande.

Smith's report found allegations of abuse of power, graft and financial mismanagement and recommended that an administrator should run CUT.

However, Judge Johann Daffue found in favour of the university, which had brought an urgent review application and sought an order declaring invalid Nzimande's decision to place it under administration.

Meanwhile, chairperson of the portfolio committee on higher education and training Ishmael Malale said they had recommended that auditor-general Terence Nombembe audit the university's financial affairs.

"However, our intervention will not affect the legal implications as the matter is still sub judice. We are not certain as to when the auditor-general will resume with the probe but we view the matter as a priority," he said.

Mthembu said albeit the rumours of maladministration and financial mismanagement, the university had never been in a more stable financial state.

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