

Public works invests in skills base

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THE department of public works said it's been investing in its skills base to accelerate infrastructure delivery. It said it would continue to pursue recruitment to address skills' needs.

Speaking in Allanridge during the budget speech of the department of public works, MEC Sisi Mabe said significant improvement in socio-economic conditions required much more than marginal expenditure on peripheral activities hence large numbers of decent employment opportunities must be generated in the economy.

Mabe said the task to transform the province has been a collective effort of government, the private sector and communities in the province.

"The provincial Operation Hlasela initiative is a clarion call to our social partners and civil society. We want everyone to work with government to eliminate duplication, wastage, poverty, tackle under-development and stimulate the economy.

"This will enhance the quality of life of the people of the Free State," she said.

Mabe outlined the projects for the financial year and said the department will continue with its multi-year projects like the social development office in Kroonstad, the testing station in Harrismith, the Hamilton regional offices in Bloemfontein and Lebohang Building lifts upgrade.

"Work is set to start at the provincial government building, the Lengau testing station, Sand Du Plessis lifts and the Thaba Nchu public works offices," she said.

Mabe said as part of the departmental revenue enhancement, the Revolving Restaurant is going to be upgraded.

This is going to be with the intention of renting it out to a qualifying service provider at a market related price.

She said the department's review of leased office space was



WORK CUT OUT: Public works MEC Sisi Mabe shows the way with the shovel.

in line with the property sector funding scheme and property transformation charter.

"The department will be implementing Phase 2 of the property transformation goals.

"This will comprise of a BEE decentralisation plan commencing with three municipalities in three different districts," she said. Mabe said a mammoth task lay ahead but they were up to it.

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