



The once fenced entrance to the decommissioned GF Jooste Hospital in Manenberg. No immediate decision has been made on the site's redevelopment.

GF JOOSTE

# Laid to waste

**EARL HAUPT**

 @EarlHaupt

**W**hat was GF Jooste Hospital is just a bare shell of what it once was. Now, 14 security guards patrol what is left at the site. When *People's Post* visited the site last week a number of them were sitting in the shadows of one of the remaining walls while a lurking shadow approached the opposite end of the building, unseen by those meant to guard the perimeter. The perimeter, while devoid of any guard, is without a fence.

The once prominent building has been taken away piece by piece and the area laid to waste. Almost four years after its closure, grand plans to first upgrade, then build a new hospital, are as apparent as the missing roof. No "immediate decision has yet been made by relevant authorities" on the future development of the site, according to the provincial department of public works and transport. "The department of transport and public works is preparing the necessary documentation to ensure a resolution to the future of

the site at the earliest possibility," states Byron la Hoe, department spokesperson. The building is currently under the jurisdiction of the department. After new plans to upgrade the site along with the Mayoral Urban Regeneration Programme (MURP) plans for Manenberg, the City of Cape Town sought to take transfer of the site, but that too has fallen by the wayside. "There is a service provider on site attending to security. The Department of Transport and Public Works aligns itself with law enforcement agencies to prevent

these activities from occurring but, to date, attempts have not yielded sufficiently positive results. Given the current climate in the Manenberg area security personnel are fearing for their lives," adds La Hoe. He says that the department is planning on securing the site by erecting fences and lighting. "Securing the site and improving safety measures on site will require a mandatory procurement process. We are therefore unable to disclose an exact time frame for these interventions," he says. **► Continued on page 4.**