

MEC hosts walkabout at new mental hospital

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THE roads and public works MEC, Mxolisa Sokatsha, will host a walkabout today at the new mental hospital facility in Kimberley.

Sokatsha will also engage with the media on the construction of the hospital and how far away they are from opening it.

Department spokesperson Crystal Robertson said the aim of the visit to the construction site was to also update the community about the hospital and how it is going to serve the people of the province.

Sokatsha will be joined by the government officials and community leaders in the province.

Recently, the health department urged the provincial government to do over site work on the mental patients to avoid the incidents of Life Esidimeni in

Gauteng.

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said it was important that mentally ill patients needed to be in a place of safety and needed to meet the government criteria.

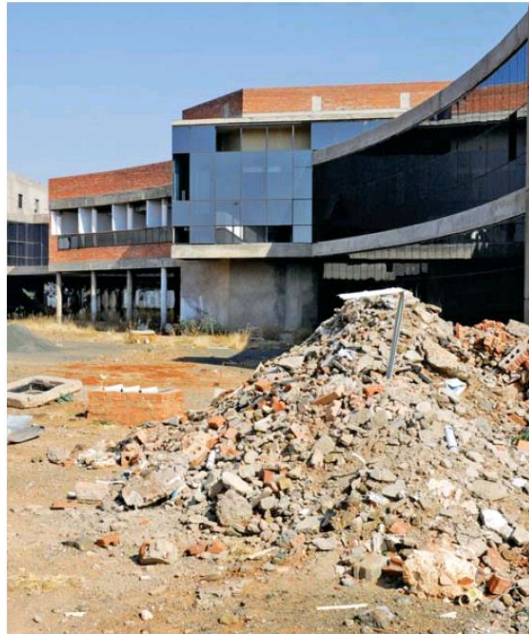
Motsoaledi said the report by the health ombudsman pointed out the national department needed to be in control of all the medical facilities.

The medical ombudsman found that the provincial department of health in Gauteng was reckless in moving the patients from the Life Esidimeni hospital to different NGOs across the province.

Meanwhile, the mental hospital facility in the province is expected to accommodate as many patients as possible in the province.

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WORK IN PROGRESS: Construction of a mental hospital in Kimberley is ongoing. PICTURE: GALLO IMAGES