



PERFECT TIMING: The opening of Bambanani Mall could not have come at a better time as it coincided with Black Friday.

Diepsloot mall sells out

The new shopping mall got off to a flying start with its opening day on Black Friday

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THE new shopping mall in Diepsloot got off to a flying start with its opening day coinciding with Black Friday which plunged several retail outlets around Gauteng into chaos with shoppers making a mad rush for whatever bargains they could lay their hands on.

For the people of Diepsloot, the R250m Bambanani shopping centre could not have come at a better time as they enjoyed a double whammy of opening and Black Friday specials.

Fortunately, unlike the Checkers outlets in Sandton and Midrand's Mall of Africa where there were reports of skirmishes between bargain hunters, the Diepsloot shoppers appeared to have escaped such a melee.

The new mall, which according to the developers has created about 600 jobs, has come with a promise of other spin-offs for the area.

"The development will be beneficial to Diepsloot and a number of surrounding areas," managing director of Nthwese Developments Seabelo Theledi said at the opening of the Bambanani Centre. "Our aim was to develop a place with an identity that will resonate with the culturally diverse population of Diepsloot and needs to be robust and strong but also warm, welcoming and festive while still being cost-efficient."

Theledi said the company had made use of local businesses and employed members of the community during the development phase of the centre.

"The shopping centre itself will con-

tinue to provide long-term employment with just more than 120 jobs for the local community," he said.

The Bambanani shopping centre is an 18 000m² single-level semi-enclosed mall on the corner of the R114 and Apple Street.

It is connected to the N14 highway.

"The design of the shopping centre for the residents of Diepsloot gave us the opportunity to enrich the community with a family-friendly shopping experience with the potential to build a new communal heart for residents," Theledi said.

He said they took into consideration the moderate climate of Johannesburg and opened up the walkways to the sky, to flood the interior with natural light and fresh air, which in turn also lessens the energy demand of otherwise

mechanical systems.

"The tenant mix and anchors are a 3 000m² Shoprite, with an 800 m² OBC, 1200m² Cashbuild, 600m² Medizone, Nizams, furniture, fashion, food outlets with a KFC drive-through, pharmacies and basic services and more.

"Residents are now ever more connected, alleviating them from long-distance travel for access to basic day to day services, transport and entertainment," Theledi said.

He said the company fully supports sustainable economic development and job creation throughout the value chain of the projects, with methods that are in line with the Department of Public Works strategy on black economic empowerment and poverty alleviation.

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