

Department happy with construction

VINCENT CRUYWAGEN

THE Department of Public Works (DTPW) is making steady progress with a new state of the art morgue at the entrance to Groote Schuur Hospital.

The R281m project, which is expected to be completed by mid-2019, will replace the forensic pathology services laboratory in Salt River.

Once completed the larger purpose-built modern forensic pathology facility will provide Level 4 forensic services aimed at extracting, analysing and preserving the integrity of evidence for the use of the criminal justice system.

The Salt River facility has become outdated and limited in terms of capacity and earlier this year along with Tygerberg experienced massive backlogs as a result of a high case load

during the festive season.

Acting head of communications Stephen Heyns said: "The facility will include 26 autopsy tables, four dissection suites with six tables each, as well as two teaching and training dissection suites.

"In addition the building will be able to accommodate up to 100 visitors to the bereavement centre per day, up to 10 waiting undertakers and up to 20 students at a time."

The labour-intensive methods used provide a number of short-term work opportunities and skills training for local people.

To date R603 800 had been spent on targeted enterprises, R121 400 on targeted suppliers and R100 000 on targeted local labour.

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