

COURT BUILDING TAKES FOREVER!

Workers down tools all the time

By **KARABO RAMMUTLA**

WHEN the court was moved to containers, workers thought it was temporary.

Four years later the Mamelodi Magistrates Court in Tshwane is still operating from the containers.

Resident Matlakala Ngoepe said: "It's as if the building doesn't want to be finished. Whenever we think it's about to be completed workers stop.

"We've accepted that we'll have to do our legal business in containers for a long time.

"There are locals who're always fighting for jobs at the construction site and problems with corruption."

He'd seen buildings bigger than the court go up in a year.

"A new building goes up every month in Menlyn. They



Construction of the Mamelodi Magistrates Court is moving at a snail pace. Photo by Morapedi Mashashe

take six or fewer months to complete. What is special about this court? I think someone is benefitting from it not being completed," he said.

Public Works Minister Patri-

cia de Lille recently announced the justice department had made R531 million available for upgrading courts. Her department budgeted R2,5 billion for repairs this financial year.