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Residents will have to wait a little longer for the doors of the new district hospital to open.

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works told the *Middelburg Observer* that the construction at the new hospital has been halted due to the withdrawal of the project management services, after the Auditor-General of South Africa made a finding that the services of the project manager (employer's agent) were a duplication of those rendered by the contractor's personnel.

The department said the contractor needed eight months to finish the outstanding buildings and installations on the project, "The matter is receiving the attention it deserves from all the parties involved, including the issue for the

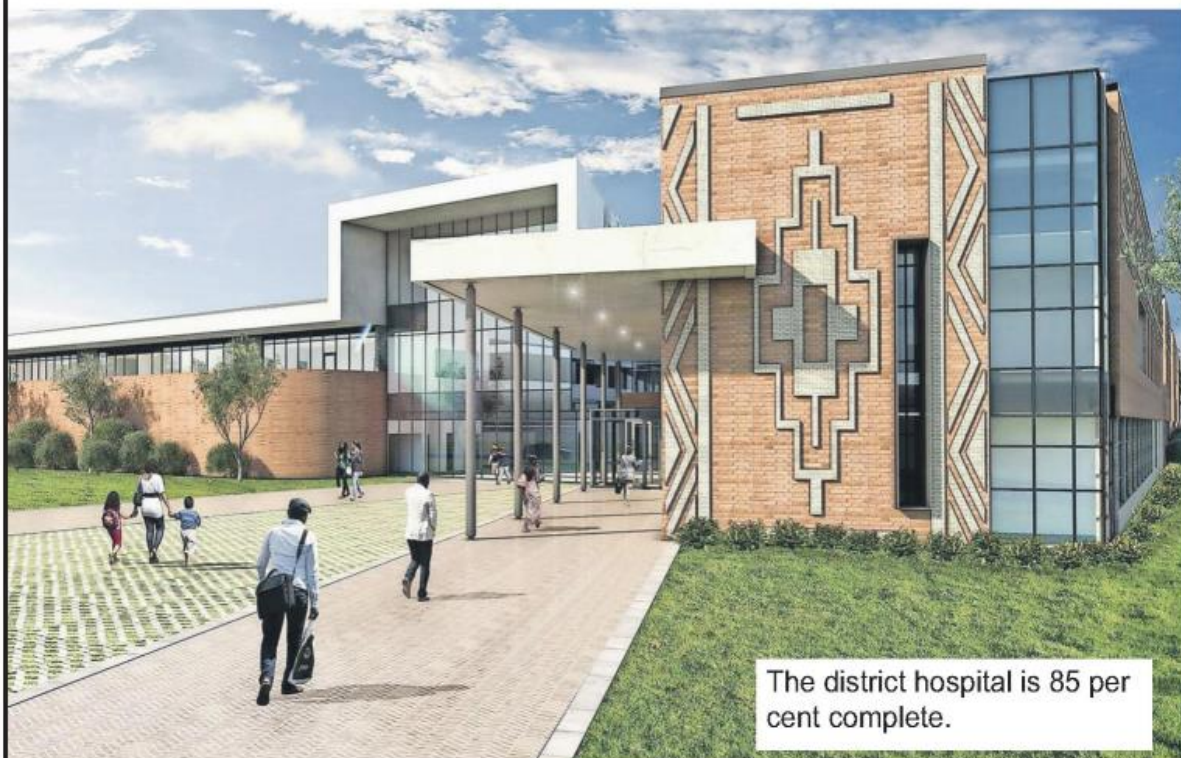
provision of bulk services."

The construction is currently 85 per cent complete and the hospital should be handed over to the Mpumalanga Department of Health during the second quarter of the 2023/24 financial year.

The hospital was supposed to be completed by November 2019.

The district hospital project, amounting to a staggering R1 billion, will have 220 patient beds, 332 student and staff beds, a 600-seat auditorium, a training centre and other recreational facilities.

During last week's council sitting, the EFF's Zandile Ngubeni called out the administration for not cleaning the provincial hospital's overgrown grass, stating that the municipality had the budget to clean it up, "The institution has a budget available for maintenance."



The district hospital is 85 per cent complete.