public works & infrastructure
Department of
Public Works & Infrastructure
FREE STATE PROVINCE

25 August 2015
Media Statement

MEC DORA KOTZEE HANDS OVER COMPLETED PROJECTS

The MEC for the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure, Ms. Dora Kotzee (MPL) handed the completed upgrade work of the Pelonomi Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to the Department of Health, as well as the newly renovated restaurant at the Free State Sport Science Institute (FSSSI) to the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (SACR).

"*This is Government at work*" were the words of the ecstatic MEC for the Department Health, Dr. Benny Malakoane as he spoke passionately about the significant impact the facilities will have at the tertiary hospital. The renovated ICU will ease some pressure off the current ICU that was originally designed to house no more than patient 9 beds. Pelonomi Hospital is a specialist hospital where visits are supposed to be mostly by referral from other institutions, although there is a casualty providing need for acute emergencies. Pelonomi Hospital is also home to the Pelonomi Private Hospital which is the only private hospital in the Free State province situated in a previously disadvantaged community area. The scope of the project was to revitalize and rollout functional changes to the ICU in Block E of the Hospital. The Department created 81 jobs throughout the project and took practical completion on 5 August 2015.

The FSSSI was officially launched in 2004 as the first Government funded High Performance, Talent Development and Coaching Training facility in the country. As part of efforts to keep this treasured facility in good condition, the Department has, on behalf of Sport, Art, Culture and Recreation rolled out an impressive body work insofar as maintenance and construction is concerned. The focus of the MEC Kotzee's visit was to hand over the contemporary restaurant

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that was renovated to the tune of R2.5m in order to provide eatery facilities to the professional sportsmen and women who frequently make use of the FSSSI facility. "*The intention was to develop this facility into a world-class self-sufficient entity that can be used by other institutions and people for private events. This will assist the Provincial Government in generating more revenue that will ultimately fund the aggressive social and economic transformation agenda we are pursuing".* 15 job opportunities were created throughout the project.

MEC Kotzee also took a pit-stop at the flagship Seisa Ramabodu Stadium that is on the verge of completion. The MEC was very pleased with the progress that has been achieved, specifically with the efficient installation of the roof on the 18 000 seating arena. The Department will take Works completion on the 31st of August 2015. Plans for the official opening, led by the Department of Sport, Art, Culture and Recreation as the client department, are already underway and a date will be announced to the public soon.

In conclusion, MEC Kotzee reiterated the posture of Government for the current fiscal year, "*2015 is declared the year of the freedom charter by the ANC government, therefore as custodians of public infrastructure, the Department recognizes the central role it plays in ensuring that* ***"There Shall be Work and Security"!.*** To this end, the Department is proud to have overseen not only the delivery, but the efficient and timeously completion of these legacy infrastructure projects. These projects will, once officially opened by their respective departments, contribute immensely towards the economy of Mangaung as well as the quality of life for many of our people.

Collectively, the Department has been able to create over **853 job opportunities** and spent over **R422 million** throughout the construction of these projects. This has enabled the Department to upskill and provide training opportunities to both skilled and previously unskilled Free Staters!

The clean audit opinion the Department received from the Auditor General for the 2014/15 financial year, as well as the impressive showing of the Provincial Government in the final Performance Assessment conducted by the Presidency (Free State was ranked 2nd after the Western Cape), are but a few indicators that demonstrate that we have a caring, visionary, active and hardworking Government in the Free State.

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"We would like to also use the opportunity to thank all the stakeholders that have been involved in the creation of these world class facilities that will certainly leave footprints in the sands of time. From the casual labourer, to the contractor, to the project managers, the ward councilors and every single person who helped us deliver all of these invaluable national assets", said MEC Kotzee as she concluded the project visits.

The End!

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