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Ready for occupation at by end of June...

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The new Library and Archives Building in Mmabatho is expected to be ready for occupation by early June 2009 following the connection of the main power supply to the facility by Eskom.

The facility is being executed by the North West Public Works department on behalf of the provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

The state power utility had to first reposition the mini sub-station, which was found to be too close to the building, before connecting power to the structure.

"Currently the contractor is working on the few outstanding items including paving works on the site where the mini sub-station was initially located," said Ian Robb, Acting Director Buildings at Public Works.

Robb said the contractor had to also run flood tests on the building's concrete roof to check if there would not be any leakages during rainy seasons.

The state of the art building, situated at the corner of Dr Albert Luthuli and University Drives opposite the Mafikeng Campus of the North West University, is the first of its kind in the province.

Built at a staggering cost of more than R62 million, the double storey facility boasts two libraries with designated reading rooms and six records and six archives units respectively.

It also has a 120 seat auditorium, three conference rooms, a boardroom, store rooms and an open plan office area as well as 20 separate offices.

The project began in July 2006 by contractor, Mawasha Building Construction who we later terminate for poor performance. JR Stocks and Madona Joint Venture was appointed to take over the contract two months later.

End

