



## Thibedi turns sod for a R26m one-stop government centre....

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By **Lemogang Rabobane**

Thusong Service Centres, which are one-stop service centres housing under one roof an assortment of government departments providing essential services, are but one of the remedies to address the legacy of apartheid.

Jerry Thibedi, MEC for Public Works in North West said the apartheid regime actively ensured that black people were denied the “power of knowledge” and ensured that “our people had no access to important knowledge and information”.

Speaking during the sod-turning ceremony on a site earmarked for the construction of a R26m Thusong Service Centre in Ikageng near Potchefstroom, Thibedi said the planned project, like others already completed and functioning, should be viewed against government commitment to bring much needed services closer to communities.

Departments that will be allocated office space are:

Justice and Constitutional Development; Correctional Services; Independent Complaints Directorate; Social Development; South African Social Security Agency; Home Affairs; Labour, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Health; South African Police Services (SAPS) and Community Development Workers.

The facility will also be equipped with a telecentre and a computer room to meet information needs of the local community accessible at no cost.

“I believe the centre will bring much relieve to us as we would no longer travel long distances and pay for transport to get to different sections of town for services. Everything is housed under one roof and it will be much easier to deal with multiple problems in a short space of time” said 24-year-old resident, Alfred Moabi.

End

