the **dpw**



Department of Public Works North West Provincial Government Republic of South Africa Modiri Molema Road DPW Provincial Head Office Mmabatho, 2735 Private Bag X 2037, Mmabatho, 2735 Tel.: +27 (18) 387 2002 Fax.: +27 (18) 387 2868

Newly appointed contractors mop the spills and deliver...

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By Siphiwe Jiya and Simphiwe Makhubela

The three public building infrastructure projects that stalled in the previous financial year due to poor performance by contractors have finally been completed.

Public Works North West terminated contracts awarded to companies constructing clinics in Khunwana near Madibogo and Kanana in Orkney. The move followed poor performance by the initial contractors compounded also by sub-standard quality of work.

The department also pulled the carpet from underneath the feet of the contractor awarded the tender for the construction of the Mmabatho Library and Archives building in Mafikeng.

New contractors were immediately appointed to resume with work on the said projects to avoid further delays.

While the two clinics have been delivered, the Library and Archives building is 99 percent complete. It will be ready for delivery once the state power utility, Eskom, has repositioned the mini-substation on site for external works to be completed.

"While factors and challenges posed by 'Mother Nature' are understandable, we find poor performance by some contractors totally unacceptable," said Public Works' MEC Jerry Thibedi.

He said decisions to terminate contracts were "not just done at a drop of the had" but on "a case by case basis" after several other options have been fully exhausted to remedy the challenge.

Meanwhile a new contractor to build Lesego Clinic in Ikageleng, Potchestroom, moved on site last month (January) following the termination of the initial contractor who also could not perform.

End

