

**SPEECH BY MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS, MR. HOWARD YAWA ON
THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF THE SWARTRUGGENS
HOSPITAL, THURSDAY 5 MAY 2005**

His Worship the Mayor of Kgetleng River Municipality Honourable
Councillor BJ Molefe

My Colleague-MEC for Health Honourable Mayisela

Member of Parliament -Honourable Mr. Patrick Chauke

Her Worship the Mayor of Bojanala Platinum District Municipality-
Honourable Mme G. Tema

The Acting Head of Department for the Department of Public
Works -Mr. Mtyhuda

The Regional Director for the Department of Health-Mr.
Morewane

Government Officials

The Deputy Chairperson of the Provincial Youth Commission-Ms
Connie Modiba

Swartruggens Hospital Board Members, Management and Staff

The Professional team and Contractors

Representatives of NAFCOC, Business and Community Based
Organisations

Councillors and Ward Committee Members

Representatives of Employee organisations, i.e. Nehawu, Denosa
and PSA

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to borrow from an unknown source, the following
quotation:

"Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up
it knows it must outrun the fastest lion or it will be killed

Every morning in Africa, a lion wakes up
it knows it must run faster than the slowest gazelle or it will
starve.

It doesn't matter whether you're a gazelle or a lion
when the sun comes up, you'd better be running".

This quotation epitomises my department's resolve and
commitment to deliver services to client departments with a
sense of urgency.

Today represents another delivery milestone for the Department of Public Works, the Department of Health and Communities in the Kgetleng River Municipality.

Let me at the outset congratulate all those who have contributed in one way or the other to ensure the successful implementation, and fruition, of the projects we are handing over today.

Since 1994, the African National Congress led government in pursuit of the vision of the Freedom Charter has been increasingly investing in good quality public buildings and other infrastructure, particularly in historically disadvantaged areas, to improve the quality of the lives of our people and to reverse the effects of apartheid social planning.

This 30-bed Hospital and Staff Housing Project was built at a cost of R39 million on behalf of our client department, the Department of Health. Throughout its 18 months duration, the project created employment opportunity for an average of 161 beneficiaries per month.

Our gratitude go to the Department of Health for their continued confidence in the Department of Public Works as their procuring agent for infrastructure and fixed assets.

We would also like to thank the professional team and the contractors for their partnership, zeal and expertise and for delivering on our behalf a facility that is second to none.

As we go the extra mile and cross “crocodile-infested rivers” to ensure the delivery of projects to the satisfaction of our clients, we count on the construction sector to embrace the culture of making sure that projects are completed on time, on budget, and to the required quality, regardless of the obstacles which may be encountered during implementation.

On behalf of my department I wish to congratulate the people of Borolelo Township, Swartruggens and Kgetleng River Municipality for this pristine and state of the art hospital that represents a total paradigm shift in public health infrastructure design and construction.

As a department we have committed ourselves on the 12 April 2005 in the Assembly of the People of the North West to denounce business as usual and deliver services with a sense of

urgency. We wish to reiterate our commitment to deliver the 200- bed Moses Kotane Hospital and the 120- bed Vryburg Hospital and all other health facilities with a sense of urgency because when the sun comes up we should be running.

It is my honour to hand over a symbolic key to my colleague, the honourable MEC for Health, Mr Mandlenkosi Mayisela.

Ke a leboga.