



State of the art health care facility, delivered on time changes the lives of ordinary people with a baby boom as a cherry on top....

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MAFIKENG: Barely three months after the Itsoseng Health Centre, Ditsobotla Sub-district, opened its door, more than 5 000 patients have been treated there and 33 babies delivered at the new-multimillion medical centre delivered by Public Works North West.

Built at a staggering cost of R69.5million, the facility opened its doors to the community in August, operating 24 hours a day -seven days a week- but the impact the facility has had in changing the lives of ordinary people in the township continues to be phenomenon.

On the flip-side, the new facility equipped with high-tech medical equipment in facilities already opened to the public has brought the much needed relief to the residents.

More so that the local clinic, which Public Works North West delivered in 2006, is only open eight hours a day during working days (five days a week). It has also become "too small" to cater for flow of daily patients from the township and surrounding villages like Verdwaal I & II, Springbokpan, Shiela and Bodibe.

The state of the art facility situated in Zone 2 (Extension) has more than 80 consulting rooms, which accomodate different service units including dental care, out-patient, X-ray, emergency, theatre, maternity ward and pharmacy.

Public Health Care Manager in the Ditsobotla Sub-District, Anne-Marie le Roux, said services were "at the moment" being made available to patients in phases, due to personnel shortage.

"Currently the services that are being rendered here include primary health care, maternity, dental services and outreach programmes such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy," she said.

Le Roux said since the center opened its door to the public in August, more than 5 000 patients have received medical attention and to date 33 babies have been delivered.

The center will further act as a referral point of all clinics in the area and it will also refer patients to the Thusong Hospital which is situated at the other end of the township.

Community member, Thabang Molefe, said the center could not have come at a better time.

“It will especially be very helpful to people our township and those from the surrounding rural villages, who can not afford travel to the hospital. The fact that it is open at all times will also benefit the community,” he said.

Public Works MEC Jerry Thibedi said he was satisfied and impressed by the quality of the workmanship and facilities at the center.

“I am also humbled by the fact that this project was completed as per schedule on June 4, 2008 after construction commenced on May 25, 2006 to add weight to our madate as the department to deliver quality and deliver with speed,” he said.

During the construction phase, local residents also had something to smile about in that, 1 892 job opportunities were created for them including 310 women who benefited. Young people accounted for 1 343 of the entire workforce.

All were employed in different trades including bricklaying, plastering, painting, carpentry, tiling and security.

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