



## **INTERNET ARTICLE**

### **Accommodation woes will be thing past for DWS officials in Potchefstroom**

10 August 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation, under the Directorate: National Water Resource Infrastructure (NWRI): Central Operations is working tirelessly to eradicate accommodation sharing by employees.

Officials from Potchefstroom Area Office have been experiencing several challenges regarding their working conditions. They have been sharing rooms with each other due to insufficient accommodation.

DWS officials were staying at a Hostel that was far away from their office and they had to walk few kilometres going to work and returning back to the hostel every day and it was putting their life at risk as the place is not safe.

The Department is currently turning everything around and bringing hope to the employee's life. A construction of a new, close by accommodation for employees resumed in July 2014 and it has been planned to be completed in March 2018.

Project Manager, Mr Msayi Simlindile said "The Hostel was posing a lot of health and safety issues due to the bad condition it was in. Weather conditions also played a role in the lives of officials and some of them were getting sick".

Mr Msayi added that some of the work being done includes; investigating and analysing well defined house plan, site clearance, construction, roofing and finishing's.

"Regardless of some challenges that we experience regarding the project such as, delays in procurements of equipment's, renewals of labours contract and resigning of some skilled labours, I can say that the project has been a success up to so far", said Msayi.

According to the Project Manager, Mr Msayi Simlindile, the building will be handed over to the Department of Public Works after completion.

"As a Project Manager I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Department for putting the health and safety of its employees first and we will continue with the constructions of the remaining houses that will bring privacy, dignity, safety and happiness to the officials", concluded Msayi.

**Emmah Maluleke**