public works,
roads & transport
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
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MEDIA STATEMENT

All MEDIA HOUSES

17 November 2026

For immediate release

DPWRT DISPUTES MISLEADING MAPULANENG NEWS REPORT ON ALLEGED VANDALISM AND THEFT AT MAPULANENG HOSPITAL, DEMANDS RETRACTION

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT) has noted with concern a social media publication by Mapulaneng News titled *"Vandalism Reported At Mapulaneng Hospital"*, which alleges that electrical cables, air-conditioning systems, lighting equipment, aluminium windows and doors are being stolen from the newly constructed Mapulaneng Hospital.

The Department wishes to categorically dispute the manner in which these allegations have been presented, as the publication creates the impression that vandalism and theft are ongoing at the facility. This is factually incorrect and does not reflect the current security situation at the project site.

The incidents referred to in the publication date back to May and June 2026, during the period when the project site was closed due to the liquidation of the appointed contractor - Clear Choice Builders (CCB) that has been terminated. These incidents are historical and should not be presented as though they are currently taking place. It is important to state that the cost of the stolen items amongst other costs have been submitted to the appointed liquidator to manage the affairs of CCB for recovery.

In July 2026, the Department strengthened the security measures in the entire project site. Since then, security measures have been implemented and maintained to safeguard the hospital premises, infrastructure and assets.

The Department wishes to assure the public that the security situation at the facility has improved significantly and that the site remains under control. No further theft incidents have been reported since the security service provider assumed full responsibility for the site in July 2026.

The Department is equally concerned about the publication's attempt to link the historical incidents to project delays, corruption and mismanagement without providing substantiated evidence. Such allegations risk misleading the public and creating an unwarranted impression that the Department has neglected its responsibility to protect this significant public investment.

Meanwhile, contractors appointed for Phase 3A and Phase 3C are preparing to return to the site to resume construction works. The Department remains committed to ensuring that the outstanding work is completed and that the hospital is ultimately handed over to serve the healthcare needs of communities in the Bohlabela District.

The Department is confident in the improved security arrangements currently in place and is open to independent verification of the site's security conditions through an organised site visit.

The Department therefore demands that Mapulaneng News immediately retract the misleading publication, issue an appropriate correction and desist from presenting outdated information as current developments. The media has an important responsibility to inform the public accurately and fairly. This responsibility requires proper verification of information, particularly when reporting on public infrastructure projects of significant importance to communities.

The Department remains committed to transparency, accountability and the delivery of quality public infrastructure. It will not allow inaccurate reporting to undermine public confidence in the efforts being made to complete this important healthcare infrastructure project.

Ends.

For more information please contact Mr Kgobane Malika on 062 277 4204