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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**EMBARGO: None**

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### **IDT works to deliver community health care in the Northern Cape**

Port Nolloth, a small seaside town on the Atlantic coast, is one of the remotest areas in South Africa. It lies about 144 kilometres northwest of Springbok and serves as a gateway to the Richtersveld National Park, which is located 160 kilometres to the north along the Orange River.

The town population of just over 6 000 living in 1830 households – according to a 2011 Census – is served by a small government clinic that says it offers a community oriented primary health care programme that monitors and proactively works towards the improved health and well-being of families in that area.

It is in this town that the Independent Development Trust (IDT) is implementing a community health centre project that is aimed at enhancing the town's residents to access quality healthcare, on behalf of the Northern Cape provincial department of health.

Once completed the building will comprise of all primary health facilities including trauma unit, radiology, dispensary, psychiatric ward, maternity wards and paediatric wards while consultation rooms being constructed will be used for reproductive health services, psychologist, dietician and other services.

Work on site also encompasses construction of facilities for support services including administration and waiting areas, ambulance quarters and parking bays, overnight accommodation for paediatric mothers, mortuary, kitchen and dining area, stores and maintenance area.

The project is being implemented at a cost of about R150-million and is expected to run for 24 months until the end of August 2018.

The progress on the project is currently sitting at 70% and the contractor is currently busy with installation of roof in some of the buildings, internal plastering, painting and external works like paving, lighting and parking areas.

The project has created decent job opportunities, a majority of which were reserved for the local community and many of the works on site such as glass fittings and cladding at the reception and waiting areas were performed by local sub-contractors.

The project experienced teething challenges when it was discovered that the land that was allocated for the centre was a historical landfill site and therefore the ground was not suitable for construction. This was however overcome with deep earthworks excavations on the property and impacting the ground with a different type of soil imported from Springbok.

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**Interim Trustees: TE Motswaledi, M. Fatyela, M. Mthombeni, NE Rakolote**

**CEO: CBJ Pakade**

**Trust Registration No.: IT 669/91**



In spite of this, the project is on track for completion on time, budget, quality and scope – a true testament to the IDT’s status as a premier implementing agent for government’s social infrastructure projects.

The IDT looks forward to completing and handing over this project to the client department and therefore assisting the government in its quest to afford all South Africans access to quality healthcare.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographs are available or a tour of the premises will be arranged on request.

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

The IDT is an entity of the National Department of Public Works that is mandated to support all spheres of government with social infrastructure management and programme implementation. In the past five years the IDT supported 40 government departments including building 97 new schools and 36 new health facilities while renovating hundreds more and created more than 360 000 work opportunities in various communities through its implementation of social infrastructure programmes and the Expanded Public Works Programme.

#### **ENQUIRIES:**

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