

# The Weekly

## NEW TAXI RANK A RELIEF TO COMMUNITY

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The Kopanong Local Municipality will construct a new taxi rank at Trompsburg, which will ease the local communities' strain of walking long distances to access public transportation.

The construction of the R4-million taxi rank is expected to begin in the new financial year, which starts on April 1.

The municipality's spokesperson, Solomzi Phama, said the growth of the population in Trompsburg and surrounding areas necessitated the project.

"We hope that the taxi rank will help contribute to the growth of the local economy, as it will facilitate movement of people who seek various services."

Trompsburg is a small township within the Xhariep District Municipality, which has always faced serious healthcare challenges that have led to sick people having to travel either 65 km to Jagersfontein or 100 km to Bloemfontein to access medical care. This problem has been addressed with the construction of a new hospital, which is scheduled to be completed in September this year. Phama said the municipality also aims to alleviate the pain of residents who are forced walk long distances every day in rainy weather because of lack of public transport in the area.

"There are few long distance taxis servicing the area and, since there is no structure to accommodate them, they opted to open their own pick-and-drop zone next a shop in the location.

"For all practical purposes, they need a proper rank to operate their business. The new taxi rank will also provide traveller with shelter from inclement weather, with its top class facilities," added Phama. The rank, designed to accommodate more than 50 vehicles, will consist of offices for taxi operators and vending spaces.

One of the local residents, Pulane Phafuli, hopes the project will bring job opportunities.

"I worry about the criteria they will use to allocate market stalls to people as everyone is hoping to secure a stall. I hope to secure one from which I will sell my wares.

"But all in all, I am looking forward to the new taxi rank. It is always a challenge in winter when it gets dark before I knock off as I am scared to walk home alone," said Phafuli.

[Source: [www.theweekly.co.za](http://www.theweekly.co.za)]