

Labour officials close 'unsafe' police station

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THE Department of Labour shut down the Fort Beaufort police station yesterday after several complaints about its structural integrity.

The station was deemed dangerous to both staff and public because it was plagued by structural defects.

Eastern Cape police confirmed yesterday that the station at 26 Campbell Street had to be shut down as it posed a safety hazard.

Its roof was leaking and electric wiring was faulty.

Provincial police spokeswoman Brigadier Marinda Mills confirmed the closure, saying the building has been in the list of the department of public works for upgrades and renovations for more than 10 years.

Police services would now be offered at the Commando building, she said.

Department of Public Works (DPW) national spokesman Thami Mchunu said the department had been struggling to find funds in the budget to renovate the building and blamed the state of the building on the weather.

He could not say when renovations would start.

Department of labour provincial spokesman Bheki Gama said labour inspectors filed a prohibition notice on Monday to close the building. "There is a meeting scheduled for [today] where our inspectors have been invited by the DPW to try and pave a way forward."

Mills said residents wanting to report crime could call the crime hotline 10111, the station at 046-645-1346/5 or station commander Lieutenant-Colonel Falteni on 082-374-0340. — *malibongwed@dispatch.co.za*