

END IN SIGHT TO THE BILLION-RAND NIGHTMARE...



FROM LEFT: MEC for Roads and Public Works, Mxolisi Simon Sokatsha, Dr Tembalkayise Lupepe, chairman of Mota-Engil Construction SA, and the company's managing director, Carlos Galego, after a tour of the mental hospital facility on Friday.

Mental hospital will be finished this year

PATSY BEANGSTROM
News Editor

THE COMPLETION date of the ill-fated Kimberley mental hospital, which consists of 31 blocks and will accommodate 286 patients, has now been set for the end of this year – bringing to an end a 12-year billion-rand nightmare.

The project has cost the department R680 million to appoint a second contractor to complete the facility, after the first contractor was fired when it fell badly behind schedule – but not before it was reportedly paid around R450 million. The MEC for Roads and Public Works, Mxolisi Simon Sokatsha, said during a walking tour of the

facility on Friday, that 97 percent of the wet work trades on the building had now been completed.

“The date for practical completion is the end of 2017, while the financial completion in terms of expenditure amounts to 85 percent, with a current average of 300 people employed on the site.”

According to the HOD of Roads and Public Works, Kholekile Nogwili, the total costs of the project awarded to Mota-Engil is R690 million – which had increased from an initial cost of R400 million.

Describing the project as one of the most challenging the department had ever implemented in the Province, Sokatsha outlined some of the challenges experienced.

“Vista Park/Joh Arch JV was appointed as the main building contractor in September 2005 but when it became clear that they were not in a position to complete the project successfully, the contract was terminated in December 2009.”

Protracted

Sokatsha explained that this led to a protracted court challenge by Vista Park/Joh Arch which prevented the procurement of a new contractor.

The department won the case towards the end of 2009, but not before paying the company about R450 million for the work it had already done on site.

Another company, Inyatsi Construction (which was later bought by Mota-Engil SA), was then appointed to take over where Vista Park left off, at a cost of R400 million, in January 2012. These costs, however, have since escalated to R680 million.

“A few challenges arose right from the beginning as the contractor discovered serious quality issues with the work performed by Vista Park/Joh Arch,” Sokatsha

- Contractor - Mota-Engil Construction SA
 - Site handover date - 21 December 2012
 - Contract commencement date - 9 January 2012
 - Date for practical completion - 27 January 2014
 - Original contract period - 24 months
 - Approved revised date for practical completion - End of 2017
 - Contract amount - R400.57 million
 - Approved revised contract amount - R680.3 million
 - Amount certified to date - R554.67 million
- The new mental health hospital will consist of 31 blocks, which will provide beds for 286 patients.
- It will include:
- Administration building (including out patient department, pharmacy and offices)
 - Child and adolescent block
 - Overnight accommodation unit (accommodation for parents visiting their children who are in treatment or patients who have been discharged)

- but have to wait for patient transport)
- Library
- Wellness Centre
- Sick Bay (a medical treatment centre to deal with day-to-day medical requirements)
- Open wards (for the treatment of voluntary patients)
- Closed ward (for the treatment of involuntary/state patients)
- Forensic wards (for the treatment of forensic state patients). These buildings have a high level of security)
- Occupational therapy and visitors block (an area for supervised visitation as well as a facility for occupational and physiotherapists)
- Multi-purpose hall (an indoor facility for indoor functions and sports)
- Services block (kitchen, maintenance area, bulk storage area, mortuary, standby generator room and laundry/laundry facility)
- Auditorium
- Plantroom

said. “In some instances the partially completed facility had no foundations, crooked walls, manholes dug in the middle of the building, etc. “The last time I was here, as MEC for Health then, I was very disturbed and demoralised by what was happening,” Sokatsha added. “But today I am very excited. It looks like a hospital.”

He stated further that when Inyatsi took over an audit was conducted on the semi-complete structure in order to quantify the defects and to perform remedial work.

During 2014 Mota-Engil bought out Inyatsi Construction and they are currently the main contractors. “The construction of this facility brought several challenges. For quite some time the incomplete building was subjected to rain and other negative weather conditions for a prolonged period.”

He added that many of the damages were hidden and not easily identifiable and some of the sub-standard work had to be demolished.

The adoption of prescribed norms and standards for mental facilities also changed, which resulted in changes to the original design. “A total of 17 of the 35 blocks had to be placed on hold pending the redesigning of these blocks.”

A spate of wage strikes on site and in the steel industry also caused frustration, while there was also a lack of trained and qualified artisans in the Province.

Sokatsha reiterated that the Department of Roads and Public Works was committed to completing the construction of the facility. “All previous outstanding payments have been made by the Department of Health and we are closely monitoring the contractor on their progress on a weekly basis to ensure completion by the end of 2017. Over the last number of months, a Joint Management Committee Team has been established to ensure that there is adequate senior oversight on the project. In addition, physical verification is done prior to the payment approval.”

Carlos Galego, the managing director of Mota-Engil Construction, stated that the company was “back at work in full steam”.

He added that the contractors were tackling each block in a sequential manner and was confident that all work, including the area outside, would be completed by the end of the year.

the weather

today's forecast

KIMBERLEY

Partly cloudy with showers later

SUN RISE: 06:36

SUN SET: 18:07

WIND: Light to moderate south-easterly

TODAY'S EXPECTED TEMPERATURES:

KIMBERLEY

MIN 15

MAX 22

UPINGTON

MIN 17

MAX 29

KIMBERLEY YESTERDAY:

BAROMETER

8am 887.7

2pm 886.7

1024

HUMIDITY 57%

SEA-LEVEL

TEMPERATURES:

MIN 14.6

MAX 26.4

RAINFALL: None at 8 am

5-day forecast

kimberley

TUESDAY

MIN 15 MAX 24 RAIN 15%

WEDNESDAY

MIN 14 MAX 27 RAIN 29%

THURSDAY

MIN 15 MAX 23 RAIN 40%

FRIDAY

MIN 11 MAX 22 RAIN 6%

SATURDAY

MIN 16 MAX 19 RAIN 0%

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8 April 2017

NATIONAL LOTTO

DRAW: 1699

WINNING NUMBERS: 8, 9, 22, 27, 34, 44 Bonus 1

Jackpot
No winner

Match 5 + Bonus
Two winners
win R265 891.90

Match 5
5 929 winners

121 winners
win R3 632

Match 4 + Bonus
283 winners
win R2 843.10

Match 4
5 929 winners

win R123.50

Match 3 + Bonus
7 988 winners
win R93.60

Match 3
103 643 winners
win R50

LOTTO PLUS

Jackpot
No winner

Match 5 + Bonus
Five winners
win R126 460.30

Match 5
4 160 winners

75 winners
win R7 949.80

Match 4 + Bonus
288 winners
win R1 515.80

Match 4
4 160 winners

win R168

Match 3 + Bonus
7 105 winners
win R98.10

Match 3
78 901 winners
win R20