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**Ministers happy with progress**

Public Works Minister Nathi Nhleko unveiled a plaque at Donnybrook Police Station. Photo by Xolile Nkosi Snowfalls and protests didn't stop project By XOLILE NKOSI THE nearly complete facelift of Donnybrook Police Station has impressed Public Works Minister Nathi Nhleko. The minister's visit on Sunday to the revamped cop shop near Bulwer in KZN was to check on the quality and progress of the building, which is expected to be operational early next year. "I am very impressed with the work done at this police station," said Nhleko.

"I am happy that despite the weather challenges and water scarcity the constructors faced they managed to carry on with their work." He pleaded with the department of police and correctional services to maintain the building. Head of the project, Thuthuka Mbhele, said they are glad they have almost finished the revamped station. "When we first came here, the buildings were not fit for the police to function as a unit in the area. "The cost of the project started in 2012 totalled R70 million. "We wanted to finished earlier but the challenges we faced didn't allow us to do so," said Mbhele. He said they experienced heavy snow falls, a shortage of water, and several protests by residents. "The project had to be paused from time to time until the residents calmed down. "Even though 40 people working on the project were locals, they wanted us to hire more. "But through all that, we managed to carry on. "The only thing still holding back the handover to the local police is the completion of the water plant," he said. The project is due for full completion next Wednesday and will be handed over to the cops at the beginning of next year.