

Probe into collapsed ceiling

Experts to find cause of incident at new hospital

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THE health department in the province says a team of experts will be sent to the Albert Nzula Hospital in Trompsburg to assess the damage caused after a ceiling at the facility collapsed.

The department said it will assess whether the ceiling fell in due to poor workmanship or after heavy rains.

Provincial spokesperson Mondli Mvambi said at this stage they cannot say what led to the ceiling of the hospital collapsing.

He said no wards were affected. “The ceiling fell on the off-loading side of the hospital at the entrance of the building, not inside the hospital or the wards. We can confirm that there were no injuries reported and the incident did not disrupt any services,” Mvambi said.

The hospital was officially opened last year in June.

“The team will be sent by the public works department because they are responsible for infrastructure and have been in charge of the project from the beginning,” Mvambi said.

“Heavy wind and rain happened on the day the ceiling fell in and like I’ve said, we cannot say what caused it to collapse. Only the team of experts can provide the report and should it happen that the collapse was caused by poor construction work, the construction company may face consequences,” Mvambi said.



DAMAGE ASSESSMENT: The ceiling at Albert Nzula Hospital’s entrance collapsed after heavy winds and rain in the area.

He said the hospital is of great importance to the people in the Xhariep district as they now no longer have to travel for hours to get to hospitals in Bloemfontein. The hospital which took more than two years before starting to operate,

was opened in June by Free State Premier Ace Magashule and health MEC Butana Komphela.

The R378m hospital was initially planned to start operating in 2014 but infrastructure problems have since been reported.

The hospital on the N1 road in Trompsburg was named after late freedom fighter Albert Nzula who was originally from Madikgetla township.

It boasts an administration block, male and female wards with 74 beds, a maternity section, paediatric ward, emergency medical services, rehabilitation and occupational therapy section, X-ray departments, pharmacy, mortuary, kitchen, central sterilising unit, theatres and staff housing.

He said the environment friendly health centre has an energy saving system for power.

Mvambi said since the official opening of the hospital last year, they have not received any complaints about poor services.

“The department made sure nurses and doctors and all other staff were hired and we will make sure this happens not only at Albert Nzula hospital, but in all our health facilities across the province.

“Let us bear in mind that

even the MEC has an app on his phone that shows shortages of medication so we are ensuring that there will not be

a lack of medication at any or of health facilities,” Mvambi said.

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