

Dept points finger at sub-contractors over hospital delays

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THE DEPARTMENT of Roads and Public Works has blamed the delays plaguing the completion of the Kimberley mental hospital on the “under performance” of some of the sub-contractors.

Spokesperson for the Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works, Crystal Robertson, stated yesterday that the new practical date for completion, March 31, was “still under consideration” by the joint management committee comprised of the national Department of Health and the provincial Departments of Health and Roads and Public Works.

“We did not meet the envisaged deadline of December 2017 due to various reasons. Some of the reasons include under performance of some of the sub-contractors as well as a delay in receiving special locks for access control that had to be imported. Currently there are 36 contractors on site.”

Robertson indicated that, according to the expenditure report, costs currently amounted to R672 million.

Robertson added that the department had placed a number of strategies in place to ensure that the new deadline was met.

“For the purpose of completing this project, with the challenges that continue to be experienced on the site, the department and the contractor agreed to finish the project in sectional/zoned sequence. The facility was divided into four different zones containing various blocks. All wet work in all four zones has been completed. We are working according to a schedule to ensure that minor outstanding work is completed.”

Robertson added that areas of the building that were not up to standard were being identified

“The areas that are complete are being closed off and locked, while unsatisfactory or outstanding work that need corrections are being identified prior to the practical completion.”

She also said that the air conditioning of the various blocks still had to be linked and that landscaping still needed to be finalised.

“The decision to impose penalties will be determined by the outcome of the discussions about the granting of extended time to the contractor,” Robertson added.

She explained that the decision on the actual opening of the hospital and the operating date would be decided upon by the Department of Health.

The following blocks have been snagged (snagging is the process of identifying unsatisfactory or outstanding work/omissions for the contractor to correct prior to the practical completion):

Open ward standard Block E3

The following blocks have been de-snagged:

Administration Block A

Forensic OT Block H

Multi-purpose Hall Block L

Waste Management Block S3

Workshop Block S4

Transport and Shuttle Department Block S10

The following blocks have been internally complete (100% complete):

Voluntary Child Care and Adolescence Block B

Overnight Ward Block C

Wellness Centre Block D

Library Block F

Forensic Medical Ward and OT Blocks J & K

Gate House Block U

Open Medium Ward Block E2

Stores and Services Yard Block S2

Forensic Core Block M1