

Museum gets Nxesi's thumbs up

By **MISHECK MAKORA**

PUBLIC Works Minister Thulas Nxesi is satisfied with the work being done to upgrade Cape Town's Iziko Museum.

As management showed him around the site on Wednesday, he said: "I'm happy with the progress so far.

"The contractors are still within the time frame we have agreed on.

"This is an important heritage site and we have to ensure it is upgraded and that we protect the rich resources at our museums."

Nxesi, who was accompanied by Iziko CEO Rooksana Omar and architect Neville Adler, said the budget for the upgrade is R274 million.

Omar said the project will be completed in a few months' time.

The minister said the upgrade is providing young South Africans with jobs.

"We are introducing youngsters to the programme as part of job creation after we have supported them at universities," he said.

Vuyiseka Rangxabe (25), one of the workers on the site, said: "I'm glad I received an internship with the department to expose me to their work.



From left: Iziko CEO Rooksana Omar, Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi and architect Neville Adler at the Iziko Museum on Wednesday.

Photo by Lindile Mbontsi

"I spent over five months at home after I finished my construction course.

"The department gave me the opportunity to see the world and practise what I have learnt," he said.

The museum was first launched back in 1825 and was the first in the Southern Hemisphere and among the earliest to be founded outside Europe and the United Kingdom.

The minister said: "This museum attracts tourists and is very special, so I have come to witness the project.

"We are doing it through the department of arts and culture," Nxesi said.