

Nelson Mandela Museum in Qunu is still closed.

Photo by Ziyanda Zweni



GOING IN CIRCLES!

Villagers query museum's status

By ZIYANDA ZWENI

RESIDENTS are hoping the Nelson Mandela Museum in Qunu, Eastern Cape, will open its doors again.

The museum was officially closed in 2017 and opened temporarily for the Mandela 100-year celebrations.

In March this year it was closed again for renovations.

Qunu traditional leader Nkosikazi Balizulu said the museum's closure cut deep, especially for people who sold beadwork.

"People who used to sell their beadwork and traditional clothes have had to work as helpers, as a result," she said.

"There's nothing happening there and it's sad."

Museum CEO Bonke Tyhulu said tourists had been turned away at the gate.

Tyhulu said they no longer made money from renting out accommoda-

tion.

He said: "Our programmes were also affected. Seasonal workers also lost their jobs."

Tyhulu said the museum in the Mthatha CBD was still operational, and that most of Mandela's prizes and trophies were being kept there.

"We're disappointed by the delays in renovations," he told the People's Paper.

"At first, the plan was that the contractor would start in 2017, but there were delays.

"We have to continue to postpone our own programmes as well."

Public works spokesman Thami Mchunu said a site handover to the winning contractor was scheduled for next Friday.

Mchunu said the delay had been caused by revision of the procurement instruction to accommodate client requests for a CCTV system, gate wall and guard house.