

# Qunu museum closed due to renovations

## REPORTER

NELSON Mandela Museum Youth and Heritage Centre in Qunu will be closed for a period of 18 months, in order to allow maintenance work to be completed.

The museum was opened with the aim of conducting educational and leadership programmes, aimed at preserving the legacy of Nelson Mandela.

The centre was officially opened in 2006 and ever since its establishment, the museum had been conducting maintenance processes to sustain the facility on a smaller

scale. During the year of 2017, the museum was approached by the Department of Public Works and they agreed to close the site for full maintenance.

According to the statement issued by the Nelson Mandela Museum senior manager for public engagement and marketing, Nontlahla Tandwa, the facility is one of the most visited attractions in the entire narrative of Nelson Mandela.

The closure of the centre is due to condition-based maintenance activities which include building renovations, electrical issues, civil works and upgrading of the sewer and water system; and will be closed

for a period of 18 months.

The operations began in the first week of August 2019 with an appointed service provider.

“The closure of the centre would help meet the high expectations of the clients and to reposition the Youth and Heritage Centre as a tourist destination of choice,” said Tandwa.

“The closure of the centre in Qunu further gives an opportunity to our respected tourists to continue visiting the Nelson Mandela Museum Bhunga Building site in Mthatha.”

The Bhunga Building was once the seat of the Transkei parliament but now houses the museum.