

# Museum centre handed over for renovations

## REPORTER

THE Nelson Mandela Museum Youth and Heritage Centre, which was built in Qunu to serve as a catalyst for youth and community development, has been closed for renovations.

The Youth and Heritage Centre was officially opened in 2006 by former president Mandela.

It was officially handed over to the Department of Public Works last Monday, August 12.

The multidimensional youth and heritage centre of the museum will undergo maintenance work including building, electrical, civil works and upgrading of the sewer system, with renovations set to cost more than R30 million.

The closure of the site will further create job opportunities for the local community of Qunu and surrounding areas.

The centre is one of the must-see attractions in the entire narrative of Mandela.

It has a sliding stone where Rolihlahla used to play with his peers, and the ruins of a rondavel, where he was named Nelson on his first day of school.

“There is also a family grave site not far from the centre, a church where he was baptised and a residential place where he is buried.

“We fully understand the inconvenience that will be incurred during this time, especially by our reliable tour operators who have been with us (since we opened).

“On the positive side, this renovation will help elevate the centre and open more infrastructure development programmes, and reposition the Nelson Mandela Museum as a centre that narrates the humble beginnings of Nelson Mandela”, said senior manager for public engagement and marketing, Nontlahla Tandwa.

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The Nelson Mandela Youth and Heritage Centre in Qunu.

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