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Revamp on hold

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Construction at one of South Africa's busiest police stations has come to a halt and officers now have to manoeuvre around the site to carry out their duties.

Park Road police station in Bloemfontein, which was ranked sixth out of the 30 busiest police stations in the country based on the number of serious crimes reported during 2017-18, was meant to undergo a complete overhaul and expansion of the entire premises to the tune of R82 million.

However, 20 months after construction began, the project has stalled, raising questions about possible irregular tender procurement processes. The national department of public works and infrastructure blamed a Johannesburg-based construction company.

Department spokesperson Zara Nicholson said the main contractor had not delivered on timelines set by the department and the police so the contract was terminated.

According to Nicholson, an interim contractor would be appointed to ensure the police station was safe and accessible while a new contractor was sought.

The project was expected to resume in the next two months. It's completion date is November 19.

The construction company is yet to respond to questions on the matter. – *OFM*

20

number of months the project kept going for

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