

# Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market 30% complete

MBOMBELA – It's been ascertained that the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market is almost 30 percent to completion.

This surfaced during a recent visit by the newly-installed MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Vusi Mkhathshwa on 19 March, specifically. It also comes after the purported construction has been marred by labour-related issues with the construction workers during the past few years.

Mkhathshwa, emerged from that construction site visit, "impressed by the progress made at the construction site of the much-anticipated Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market,"

read a statement from his department.

He first received a detailed briefing from the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, which is the implementing agent for the project, on behalf of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

"The project started in July 2018 and is targeted to be completed in January 2022. Considerable progress on the construction of the Market has been recorded to-date, with two main buildings – the Main Market and the Agro-Processing Buildings, which are the heart of the Fresh Produce Market, at almost 38% and 50% complete, respectively.

"The roof of the Agro-Processing Building is complete, whilst workers are currently busy putting roof sheets on the 30 000 square metre Main Market Building. Overall, the MIFPM is almost 30% complete.

"Once completed, the MIFPM will consist of 17 buildings. The Fresh Market will provide access to a world-class facility to both commercial and small farmers in the Province, for the trading of their fresh produce to local, regional and international markets," further read the statement.

Mkhathshwa's reported to have further encouraged the constructor, enza Construction, to try and work within the allocated budget.