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R95 MILLION DOWN THE DRAIN!

By AARON DUBE

THE newly built Mamelodi Magistrates Court in Mamelodi, Tshwane, has been standing like a white elephant, leaving residents concerned.

The project started in 2014 and still needs to be completed.

Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Sihle Zikalala, had an oversight inspection at the court on Thursday, 3 August.

According to Zikalala, the project cost R95 million.

The minister has been prioritising unblocking projects, which have been plagued by various challenges resulting in unforeseen delays.

He said this was part of Operation Siyahloa, where they inspect projects.

"We can't conclude at this stage and say the main problem is about a contractor or department.

There are gaps that have been identified, especially in terms of providing leadership to deal with issues, resolve them and ensure there is an operational



Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Sihle Zikalala had an oversight inspection at the Mamelodi Magistrate Court. Photo by Raymond Morare

project plan that is clean," he said.

Zikalala said they would be back in a month to present a clear project plan to the stakeholders.

"We are going back to review internally what has happened, what led to this situation.

We appreciate the commitment from the community leadership, especially

three local councillors who have committed to work with us in addressing issues of community concerns and business forums that come to ask for opportunities."

He said they support small contractors, and that must be done legally.

Zikalala said there were communication challenges between the contractor

and the department.

Resident Maria Tau (41) said: "We will be happy when the court is finished because it has been standing there without progress."

"We hope the minister will continue following up on the project until it is complete. We are concerned by its delay," Josphat Zwane (57) said.