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MEC does oversights at Newcastle hospital



MEC Sipho Nkosi during the oversights at the Newcastle Mother and Child Hospital.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Sipho Nkosi, recently visited the Newcastle Mother and Child Hospital in order to undertake oversights of repairs and maintenance.

The MEC engaged in discussions with contractors regarding the project's progress as these renovations are aimed at giving patients a better experience at the hospital. The initial contract awarded for this project amounted to R24 803 298 but a revised contract sum of R26 185 788 was later agreed upon.

The project is being conducted in phases, the remainder of which comprise the following:

- Phase C: To replace the perimeter fencing, lighting and damaged roofing. Upgrade the waste storage area and tile the staff accommodation.
- Phase D: Security upgrades, fire detection and prevention; boiler conversion to head pump and new control room.

-Phase E: The upgrade and maintenance of bulk sewer, bulk water and electrical compliance. Heating and ventilation to the four theatres at the hospital. This entails the air conditioning systems as per the Department of Health's requirements and standards.

MEC Nkosi was informed of the successful completion of Phase C. However, Phase D faced initial setbacks due to financial constraints and material delivery delays. Phase E saw challenges such as groundwater seepage and negotiations with business forums. These negotiations were influenced by disturbances stemming from a newly-formed forum demanding work from the contractor.

MEC Nkosi highlighted the disruptions caused by business forums demanding work. "The contractors understand the law in regards to the subcontractors who had to be employed, which the business forums did not. The contractors resolved the issue and educated the business forums," he said.