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Sarah Baartman Centre of Remembrance remains a concern

THE Executive Mayor of the Sarah Baartman District Municipality (SBDM), Deon de Vos, welcomed the visit from the Parliamentary Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture to the Sarah Baartman Centre of Remembrance on October 8.

De Vos said that the Centre, which was meant to bring hope and livelihood to the community of Hankey, has only brought anger and disappointment.

He mentioned that the Centre, which was planned to be completed in 2016, would have consisted of classrooms, a multi-purpose hall, a reading room, and a restaurant.

De Vos further stated that the SBDM has been actively engaging with the various departments and role-players involved in this project to ensure that the Centre does not become a white elephant.

"This Centre would have contributed to the growth of the town and its people. The economic and cultural impact of the lack of completion of this project is heart-breaking, but I am happy to see the seriousness of this visit from the Portfolio Committee and the dedication they have to ensure this project is completed," said de Vos.

"As the Sarah Baartman District Municipality, we anxiously await the com-



The Centre, which was planned to be completed in 2016, would have consisted of classrooms, a multi-purpose hall, a reading room, and a restaurant.

PHOTO: LULAMA ZENZILE/NETWERK24 ARCHIVE

pletion and opening of this Centre."

In a statement released by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture, Joe McGluwa, he said that the Portfolio Committee on Sports, Arts and Culture, and the Minister of Public Works meet to resolve the challenges that have resulted in the mul-

ti-million rand Sarah Baartman Remembrance Centre being incomplete after 10 years.

He said that it was embarrassing to find that the project is not yet even at 50 per cent completion when, in fact, over R247 million had been spent.

"Where is accountability? Who must answer for this project? Now we sit with the

most expensive abandoned site in the history of construction somewhere on the way to Hankey, Kou-Kamma Local Municipality," said McGluwa.

"For a developmental state that we claim to be, this is not how public funds should be spent. We demand accountability and monitoring from this point onwards."