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INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

KZN to blacklist contractors failing to meet deadlines and exceeding budgets

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KWAZULU-NATAL Public Works and Infrastructure MEC, Martin Meyer, has warned contractors doing shoddy work for the government that they will be black-listed.

Speaking at the handing over of a newly refurbished building at RK Khan hospital on Friday, the MEC expressed his disappointment that the R58 million refurbishment would have been long completed if the first contractor had finished the work, warning that the provincial government has taken a decision to black list all contractors that would abandon projects or fail to finish work on time and in budget.

He said under his leadership as the new political head of the department he would make sure that contractors finished the work they've been assigned or face black-listing. He also warned

those that fail to finish within the budget allocated that there will be no additional funds made available, and there would be consequences for failing to finish on time within the budget that was allocated.

"Gone are the days where contractors would pull out from the projects and come back to do more work for this government. This is a new Public Works and Infrastructure and things have changed. All contractors must finish work or face black-listing. I need them to finish the projects on and in budget," said Meyer.

He also warned contractors about citing bad weather as an excuse for finishing projects on time, and said that by now everyone knows we are living under the current conditions brought about by climate change, therefore, they must plan accordingly.

The public hospital in Chatsworth south west of Durban was ravaged by

2022 floods which resulted in the closure of two wards and a theatre. This forced the hospital to transfer patients to the neighbouring hospitals.

The MEC also revealed that recently he went through a document that government used to predict weather patterns over the coming decades and that document showed the province will see 150 millimetres of rain in a single day, in a 50 year cycle, however, the province has seen such occurrences at least 5 times this year alone.

"This means that when planning for delays in a project, adverse weather conditions must now be factored in. This also means building hospitals differently in a way that makes them more resilient to the changing external environment and thereby making them better equipped to save lives," concluded MEC Meyer.

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