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*The R12,2 million upgrade to the Fingo Village Library has stalled. The EC Department of Public Works estimates a June 2026 completion date, more than four years after its closure. Photo: **Siyolise Fikizolo***

R12,2m library upgrade stalled for at least a year

Department of Public Works hopes the Fingo Village project will be completed by June 2026

By Siyolise Fikizolo and Zipho Ndwayana

*Part of the abandoned upgrade to the Fingo Village Library. Photo: **Siyolise Fikizolo***

A R12.2 million contract to renovate and upgrade the Fingo Village Library has collapsed, postponing the estimated completion until at least June 2026. The library was closed about three years ago due to structural faults in the building.

EC Department of Public Works and Infrastructure communication director Vuyani Nkasayi said the contract had to be terminated because the contractor "failed to stick to the terms of the contract".

"In realising the importance of the service of the structure to the community, the Department is busy finding a replacement contractor," Nkasayi said.

It is hoped the new completion contractor will be appointed by September 2025, and that the project will be completed in eight months (by June 2026).

The fired contractor began work last year. Nkasayi said all unskilled labour on the project was sourced locally, together with a community liaison officer, and a graduate intern.

He said that during the planning phase, his department had consulted with the community members, the ward councillor, local SMMEs (through the Makana Local Economic Development office) and the Makana libraries office. Nkasayi said the design of the upgraded library had considered energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

Provision had been made for

- Rainwater harvesting
- The use of energy-efficient light fittings
- Roof insulation for temperature control
- Use of more natural ventilation than mechanical ventilation to reduce energy consumption
- Use of natural lighting

Additionally, the building is designed to adhere to norms and standards for people living with disabilities. **GM**