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Several school infrastructure projects are nearing completion, says MEC

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While the construction of two public schools in Nelson Mandela Bay is in its final stages, Arcadia Secondary School is also gearing up for a facelift in the 2025/2026 financial year, with R125m budgeted for the project.

This was announced by Eastern Cape public works and human settlements MEC Siphokazi Lusithi during her budget and policy presentation at the Bhisho legislature on

Tuesday for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Construction of the R109m David Livingstone Secondary School, which began in the 2024/2025 financial year, is expected to be completed in May.

The Bethelsdorp Secondary School, with the project valued at R86m and 95% completed, is scheduled for completion in June.

The department has a R2.6bn budget for the financial year.

"[We are] spearheading the construction of school infrastructure for the department of education in line with the applicable norms and standards.

"This is our contribution to the improvement of the condition and quality of our schools, which will ultimately lead to better learner outcomes," Lusithi said.

The department had committed to building six schools across the province in the previous financial year, which were on average more than

90% complete, she said.

The schools include Asherville Secondary School, estimated to cost R90m, and Lingcom Primary School, valued at R87m. Both are in Graaff-Reinet.

Both schools are 98% complete, with completion set for the end of June.

Lusithi said the department would start construction at five new schools across the province for the 2025/2026 financial year.

"The commencement of

these planned projects is expected to yield an average of 130 employment opportunities for members of the surrounding communities as well as benefit a minimum of 25 SMMEs to the value of R53.8m through the allocation of work packages.

"This will also result in improvements in the teaching and learning environment and reduce the classroom overcrowding burden faced by the client [education] department," Lusithi said.