Minister announces the renaming of Inner City regeneration Branch into Spatial Planning and Development Branch

Minister Nxesi has announced that the Inner City Regeneration Branch is soon to be renamed Spatial Planning and Development.

Minister said the new branch will broaden its scope to include Metros other than Tshwane, as well as towns, districts and small rural towns. He says this Branch will also support the broader outcomes of rural development and improved local government, and give impetus to the impending Integrated Urban Development Framework announced by the President during his State of the Nation Address.

On the provision of state land, the Minister said assets that are held by Public Works in support of the service delivery obligations of the government and other social imperatives such as land reform and habitable human settlements, will be released.

“During 2013/14, 128 hectares was approved for release for human settlements. A further 22 properties were identified for release in the current year for human settlement.”

The Minister emphasised the need to speed up the accessibility programme of the department. He said under this programme, 15 buildings were made more accessible for people with disabilities, seriously under-achieving on our target of 100 buildings for 2013/2014.

The Minister said this was due to contractual problems, but there can be no more excuses.

“I fully expect Parliament to hold us to account on this matter. However, we are now confident of an improved procurement environment and, a further 51 buildings are prioritised for this current year,” he said.