

Minister Nxesi promises MP's 5 key deliverables in his new term of office

Public Works Minister TW Nxesi has assured Members of Parliament during his budget speech that his administration will, in the next five years, concentrate on five key priority areas as the vision for his Department.

Key to Minister's priorities is the following:

- The creation of 6 million work opportunities for poor and unemployed people through the labour-intensive delivery of public services and infrastructure as promised by President Jacob Zuma during his State of the Nation Address.

Minister said Public employment programmes must facilitate community participation, and provide tangible benefits to communities, the society and the economy.

- The operationalization of PMTE (Property Management Trading Entity) and the transformation of the core property business (including construction management). This necessarily includes a programme to rebuild technical and professional capacity in the Department.

The Minister emphasised that this is the core business of Public Works as the custodian of state immovable assets and provision of accommodation to government accounts for 75% of the Departmental allocation.

- The operationalization of the Governance, Risk and Compliance Branch to drive anti-corruption and to spearhead the second phase of the Turnaround – Efficiency Enhancement - using the tools of planning, Service Delivery Improvement Plan and performance management. This also means working with HR and Change Management to promote a committed performance driven work culture.

Minister Nxesi told MP's that in consultation with all stakeholders, particularly the wider Public Works family in the provinces, a policy review culminating in a Public Works Act should be undertaken. The Minister said this will provide a solid foundation for the third phase of Turnaround: Sustainable Development, and will clarify and refresh the mandate of Public Works.

- The transformation of the Built Environment. The Minister pledged a renewed and sustained programme of action to transform the Built Environment, the construction and property sectors as part of the second more radical phase of transition to democracy. He said this will be done in partnership with our entities, the charter councils and relevant stakeholders.

The Minister did not mince his words when he said this must include support for black and female contractors and property practitioners; as well as the production of black professionals and artisans in the Built Environment disciplines.