

Specialised Services took centre stage during Minister Nxesi's Budget Vote

Minister Nxesi has assured Parliament during his budget vote that he is consolidating the stabilisation of the Department as a matter of urgency.

Speaking on specialised services that are provided by the Department to its client departments, he concentrated on the Prestige Portfolio and parliamentary villages.

"As the main focus of the next five years we seek to enhance the efficiency of our current business operations, employing better planning, performance management and ICT solutions as our tools and simultaneously embarking upon a fundamental policy review, culminating in a Public Works Act, to refresh and clarify the mandate of Public Works and to establish a platform for sustainable development", said Minister Nxesi.

Minister mentioned that the Prestige Property Management Unit is now centralised in the DG's office and is undergoing restructuring with a view to greater specialisation. He said the key focus is to improve the management of customer relations and communication with departments and individual clients.

"We have revived the Parliamentary Villages Management Board. The initial phase of renovations in the Parliamentary villages was completed during May and June. The second phase will start during the recess period in September", said the Minister.

The Minister alluded to the fact that furniture items have been identified that need to be replaced, and the process of delivering it is underway.

He emphasised that upgrading of the security system is underway and a development plan has been drafted and will be put to the Parliamentary Villages Management Board for consultation and implementation.

"In respect of Ministers' and Deputy Ministers' official accommodation, I requested the SIU to investigate all Prestige projects involving excessive cost escalations, as a result, the Director of Prestige in Pretoria was charged and dismissed. In the case of Cape Town, we will report to Parliament, once the SIU completes its investigation" said Minister Nxesi

The Minister assured MP's that costs for renovation of State-owned houses have now been capped at 30% of the market value of the property.