

National Police Commissioner visits DPW to discuss projects of mutual interest

The National Commissioner of the South African Police Service (SAPS), Ms Riah Phiyega accompanied by SAPS officials visited the Department of Public Works (DPW) on the 15th of September 2015 for a strategic planning session.

The Commissioner and her delegation met with the DPW Director General (DG) Mr Mziwonke Dlabantu who said that the gathering between the two departments was long overdue and important as it would forge better understanding and communication between the DPW and SAPS.

The purpose of the strategic planning session was to discuss accommodation infrastructure requirements of SAPS and existing mechanisms to deal with them. The Strategic Planning Session included presentations on the Status of Leases by Mr Dhaya Govender, the Status of Projects by Mr Makgwadi Mabuso, Acquisition of Telkom Towers by Ms Anja Williams and presentations by Messrs Morris Mabinja and Camagu Soga who gave a progress report on the implementation and operation of the Joint Task Team (JTT) between DPW and SAPS.

The meeting resolved that the workshop would be convened on Thursday and Friday, 15 and 16 October 2015 at Pretoria College to thrash out all other issues such as the devolution of custodian functions from DPW to SAPS, the Memorandum of Agreement on the aforementioned devolution, the Service Delivery Standards and the User Asset Management Plan, among others.

Key to the discussions during the meeting was the acquisition of Telkom Towers which is part of a drive to ensure that DPW provides accommodation infrastructure that meets the service delivery objectives of the SAPS. Currently, the SAPS occupies various leased buildings and the acquisition of the Telkom Towers would ensure that SAPS offices operating in these leased facilities are consolidated into Telkom Towers. There is also an opportunity to provide additional space later, as there is more space available for construction within the Telkom Towers precinct premises.

As a way forward, the DPW and SAPS have agreed that in order to achieve the end goal, the two parties would delegate work to different colleagues from both sides who would ensure that tasks are completed on time. The two entities are still to draft the relocation plan from identified leased buildings to Telkom Towers by the end of September 2015. The parties would also involve their Legal Services units to look into problematic lease areas. The Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) from both organisations would also meet before the end of September 2015 to do a composite package of all things relevant to acquisition of the Telkom Towers and would have continuous engagements at this level on a quarterly basis.

Service Delivery Standards would be developed with specific timeframes of leases and projects, and workshops would also be held to discuss all the things listed above. All leases would be verified by the end of September 2015 with the Internal Audit units of the two departments involved.

Commenting during the Strategic Planning session, the National Commissioner called for co-operation and commitment between the two departments. “Through professionalism and patriotism, we (DPW and SAPS) will succeed as a public service,” she said.