

Minister reflects on the Annual Performance Plan (APP) 2017/ 18 during the Strategic Planning Session

Public Works Minister TW Nxesi reflected on the draft Annual Performance Plan (APP) for the 2017/18 financial year during the Departmental Strategic Planning Session.

The Minister urged senior managers to finalise the review of the policy on disposals sooner rather than later.

“We receive a lot of requests for the use of our land and assets. We need clear policy guidelines. And we also receive complaints about the lengthy timeframes involved. Again, this issue needs to be addressed and concluded,” said the Minister.

He also emphasised that there was a need to revamp a plan for the roll-out of a robust ICT platform. The Minister strongly urged managers not to be in denial and to accept that the Department had fallen behind on the plan which is clearly the key to unlocking solutions for many of the other problems the Department faces.

“On unscheduled maintenance – I am not getting the sense that plans and timelines are commensurate with the scale of risk involved here. We used to talk about Public Works being in Intensive Care Unit (ICU). I think that when the rest of us were discharged from the hospital, we forgot about Facilities Maintenance and we left them there. I want to be assured that we have stopped the bleeding on unscheduled maintenance and that we have a clear plan to take us forward,” said Minister Nxesi.

In relation to Professional Services, the Minister said the plans needed to reflect a clear vision for the Department on the BE professions, skills pipeline and building the capacity of the state.

The Minister did not mince his words on the long and unnecessary timelines set in the draft APP’s. He made examples of dragging on the approval of Prestige policies over the next 3 years, till 2018/19. He said, “On the White Paper Review, the APP indicates work will commence in 2017/18 – why can’t we start during the current year?”

“The general point here is that we may need to review some of the timelines in the APPs with a sense of urgency – whilst, of course, not setting targets that are unrealistic,” the Minister remarked.

The Minister concluded by re-emphasising his policy statement which clearly speaks on job creation, skills development, transformation of the built environment, generating money for the state by making savings and containing costs.