

DPW Minister says the struggle against corruption is beginning to bite

By Nolwazi Ndhlovu

The Department of Public Works (DPW) Minister Mr T.W. Nxesi, MP says the struggle against corruption is beginning to bite in his department. He was speaking at a joint media conference of the Department and the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) held on Thursday, 19 July 2018 at the Tshedimoseiso House in Hatfield, Pretoria.

During the media conference, Minister Nxesi and Acting Director-General Mr Imtiaz Fazel shared measures taken by the Department and its Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE) to deal with past corruption – as well as to prevent future corruption. The SIU Head Advocate Andy Mothibi also showcased the work that the unit was doing to combat fraud and corruption.

Minister Nxesi began by reminding the public that when he announced the Seven Year Turnaround Plan for Public Works in 2012, he said it would be based on two pillars: Zero tolerance of fraud and corruption, and improving the way we do business. “Today, we are reporting back on aspects of the first pillar of the Turnaround – combating fraud and corruption – and for this we were fortunate enough to partner with the SIU,” said Minister Nxesi.

He said when he returned to Public Works earlier this year, he requested the President of the country to extend the SIU proclamation to investigate what is known as ‘day-to-day emergency maintenance’ – following an internal investigation which pointed to 16,000 suspicious transactions to the value of R2 billion.

The Minister also revealed that he requested a life-style audit for all management of Public Works, starting with himself.