

DPWI working faster to repair court buildings

8 August 2019

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Minister Patricia De Lille, MP, says her department had started in earnest with the repairs and maintenance to courts across the country. This, she says is because most of the complaints regarding the state of government buildings are about the courts. She was providing feedback to the media at the departmental headquarters in Pretoria on 8 August 2019, on the urgent repairs and maintenance to court buildings in the country.

The response follows her meeting on the issue with the Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, all regional court managers and the DPWI regional managers on 30 July 2019.

“I have met with all regional DPWI and court managers again today to prioritise and agree on an implementation plan for repairs and maintenance, but also to look at the causes of why our buildings are in such state,” the Minister said.

She said she had received feedback on some of the repairs and maintenance that had been done since the initial meeting in July. “I have received feedback and introduced consequence and contract management processes.”

Durban - Minister De Lille revealed some of the problems that had been resolved in the recent past which include the repairs at the Durban Magistrate’s court which is a busy court with 11 lifts. “At any given time, one or two lifts are not working. We have a term contract in place to service the lifts and today I received feedback that all lifts are working,” the Minister remarked.

She said the rat infestation problems and plumbing issues at the Pinetown Magistrate’s Court had also been resolved.

Cape Town - The Minister went on to say that term contracts for all air conditioning systems for the courts in Cape Town were in place. To that effect, regional managers would be visiting the courts to constantly check on these repairs. She said that at the Cape Town High Court, the Department was also replacing two lifts that would be completed soon.

“The Labour Court requires additional accommodation, we have started engaging them to procure additional accommodation from existing DPWI resources.”

Johannesburg - The Minister said that for the repairs to various lifts at court houses in the Johannesburg province, the tender had been awarded and contractors were scheduled to be on site during the week of 16 August 2019. At the Brakpan court where the court was burnt, the repairs were done within two months, she said.

Minister De Lille said besides these updates, there were still problems everywhere and her department was tackling all of them thoroughly from prevention, the planning

and procurement processes, right through to proper implementation of the repairs and maintenance.

During the briefing, Minister De Lille mentioned that DPWI had only used just around 10% of the money budgeted for repairs and refurbishments during the current 2019/20 financial year. “The DPWI has budgeted R2.5 billion for repairs and refurbishment during this current 2019/20 financial year. Thus far, the Department has only spent R24 million in the first quarter of this year, just around 10% when the figure should be at more than 25%,” she said. She added that her department should work harder and faster because the lives of South African citizens were at stake. **To read more on the update on state buildings, please [click here](#).**