

## **“The days of new Ministers taking 18 months to re-write new visions and rulebooks are over,” says Minister De Lille**

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Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia De Lille says the changes that her Department needs to make will be done in a higher gear, faster. Formally addressing senior managers of the Department for the first time this morning, 27 June 2019 in Pretoria, the Minister said the current image of the Department was not good, adding that changing direction was exactly what will be done.

“We are not just going to talk about accountability; we are going to be accountable – and when we fall short, we accept the consequences that must follow,” explained Minister De Lille. She said her Department was not just going to deliver audit reports on time but it was going to deliver unqualified audits because that is why Departmental workers were in their jobs.

The Minister earlier mentioned in her speech that some people warned her that being handed the reins of the Department was a poisoned chalice; that corruption, factionalism and maladministration were so deep-rooted that changing direction would not be possible. However she clarified that corruption was a cancer and must be treated like cancer. “It must be excised, stressed Minister De Lille.”

She said the most important thing she took away from President Cyril Ramaphosa’s State of the Nation Address was that “we have talked for long enough.” She said government had ample policies and plans to develop a better South Africa and that the country was now at the threshold of the era of implementation. “The days of new Ministers taking 18 months to re-write new visions and rulebooks are over. We have 30 days to produce our first set of Departmental targets, with budgets and timeframes for delivery,” Minister De Lille told the senior managers.

“We are going to stop wasting people’s money. We are going to reduce travel, cut out unnecessary events and reward those who serve with humility, honesty and integrity – while prosecuting crooks,” concluded the Minister.