



DPWI Responds to SAPS Office Accommodation Needs with Cost-Saving and Resource Optimisation Strategy



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In response to the South African Police Service (SAPS) urgent call for office accommodation, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), through its Pretoria Regional Office, has stepped in to provide suitable office space for the organisation.

Previously occupied by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, which vacated in 2023, the Old Cooperation Building, was repurposed to meet SAPS's urgent accommodation needs. The move is also a key part of DPWI's cost-savings strategy, reducing the need for additional expenditure on alternative office spaces.

The building, located on Jeff Masemola Street in Pretoria Central, had been left in a poor state after being vacated. However, with dedicated efforts led by Mr Shati Kutu, the project manager in charge, the team successfully cleaned up this building and prepared it for immediate use.

In the building, floors 12, 13, and 14 were refurbished and are now ready for SAPS staff. The Regional Manager of the DPWI Pretoria Regional Office, Ms Thembi Hlatshwayo, says that during the handover to SAPS, the team expressed satisfaction with the space, however they have requested further space, and floors 10 and 11 will be prepared to accommodate staff who have been working from home since 2020.

DPWI's approach to utilising government buildings efficiently is also about safeguarding public infrastructure. "We are committed to utilising public assets effectively. By identifying underutilised government buildings, we can substantially reduce the cost of leases while rehabilitating and repurposing these properties for client use," said Ms Hlatshwayo.

She emphasised that this project is just the beginning, with plans to renovate additional vacant buildings for office use or rental, thus generating revenue for the government.

DPWI remains dedicated to working closely with SAPS and other stakeholders to meet their needs while ensuring the efficient use of public resources. "The SAPS team is already beginning to move into the building, and we aim to continue identifying unused buildings, renovating them, or making minimal improvements to enhance them," Hlatshwayo concluded.

