



public works & infrastructure

Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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SOUTH AFRICA'S ASSET REVITALISATION STRATEGY WOWS BRICS FORUM DELEGATES IN RUSSIA

South Africa's approach to optimise the State's property business in support of government's service delivery objectives has been hailed as innovative and appetising to investors by the delegates attending the BRICS Urbanisation Forum in Russia.

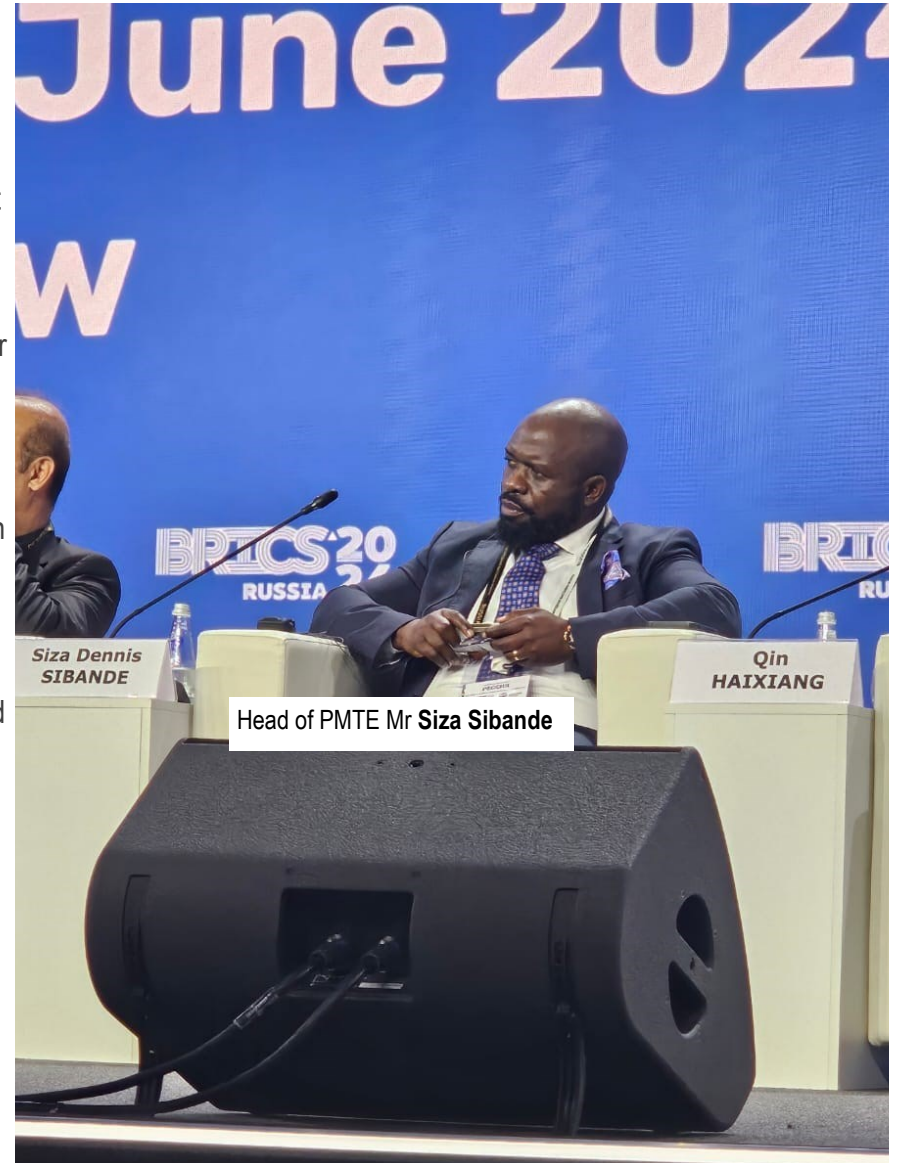
The delegation from the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's entity the Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE) presented the country's approach to use state assets for inner city regeneration and South Africa's approach to mitigate the impact of urbanisation, during the event held in Moscow from the **21st to the 22nd of June 2024**. Head of PMTE Mr Siza Sibande led the delegation comprising of the DDG Construction Management Ms Luyanda Kafile and Chief Director Communications and Marketing Mr Lennox Mabaso.

Mr Sibande revealed that in South Africa the PMTE was leveraging the fixed asset property portfolio to achieve socio-economic development, provide suitable accommodation for government institutions and revive the economy of the country's cities. "We have a program aptly titled: Immovable Asset Optimisation Strategy. It seeks to mobilise funding in collaboration with the Private Sector through Public Private Partnership by implementing what is known as the Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) and Refurbish Operate and Transfer (ROT) models as well as the long-term leasing of non-performing assets. The approach will quell down the challenge of unused buildings which end up being hijacked and used for unplanned accommodation of homeless people in big cities and often result into health hazards," revealed Mr Sibande.

The BRICS Urbanisation Forum is a platform that brings together construction and infrastructure experts to share best practices and opinions on the development of housing construction and architecture. The intention is to develop cutting edge and innovative solution to the challenges of rapidly urbanising Brics member states. The session involved delegates from the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China, Republic of South Africa, United Arab Emirates. Discussions further catered around the green building approaches and the creation of smart cities.

Invitations were extended to the South African delegation to take part in the green building conference to be hosted by Russia ahead of the Brics Head of State Annual session in October 2024.

Reflecting on the outcomes of the forum Head of PMTE, Mr Sibande indicated that: "This is an important benchmarking exercise but it is also a platform that we used to sell our approach of BOT and ROT to all the big construction companies, investors and built environment experts that were part of the forum. We take a lot back home but it is good that we are also importing and exporting innovation and new approaches from the African Continent to like-minded nations."



The NHI Act will be implemented in phases

Phase 1 commenced in 2023 and will continue for a period of three years until 2026, and entails:

- Health system strengthening initiatives: employment of additional healthcare professionals, improved hospital autonomy, health infrastructure improvements, reforming of provider reimbursement systems.
- Establishment of governance structures including the Board and its committees as the foundation for a fully functional NHI Fund
- Purchasing of personal health care services for vulnerable groups (children, women, people with disabilities and the elderly)
- Establishment of the NHI Fund as an independent public entity, including developing and implementing administrative and personnel related arrangements.
- Amendment of other pieces of legislation

Phase 2 will commence in 2026 and will run for a period of another three years:

- Continuation of health system strengthening initiatives
- Contracting of health care services from private providers
- Mobilisation of additional resources where necessary

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