



MINISTER MACPHERSON JOINS MAYOR XABA TO WIN BACK STATE BUILDINGS IN THE DURBAN INNER CITY



Pictures and article by Shudufhadzo Mudau

The Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, met with Mayor of the EtheKwini Metropolitan Municipality, Cyril Xaba, to discuss how they can work together to tackle the issues of bad buildings in the Metropolitan, how to collect revenue from client departments, and the rejuvenation of the Durban inner city metropolitan. During the briefing, Minister Macpherson emphasised that the government will not be negotiating with criminals such as the Construction Mafia, and people who hijack state buildings.

The department will work with key role-players to address the scourge in communities to safeguard our infrastructure project. Minister says that the department looks forward to working with the Durban Municipality and all other stakeholders to make sure that all state buildings that are illegally occupied and are dilapidating in the inner city, are renovated to house state departments. By doing so, this will allow the department to generate its own income by collecting rent from state departments. The Mayor of EtheKwini Metropolitan Municipality, Cyril Xaba, welcomed Minister Macpherson's partnership and insisted that the matter of dilapidated buildings should be dealt with as a matter of urgency, as these buildings are currently being used by people who engage in criminal activities in the inner city.

DPWI DEPUTY MINISTER SIHLE ZIKALALA FIRED WARNING SHOTS OVER THE INCOMPLETE KWA-DUKUZA HOME AFFAIRS PROJECT

Article and Pictures by Shudufhadzo Mudau

Public Works and Infrastructure Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala, embarked on an Operation Siyahlola to assess progress made in the construction of the Kwadukuza Home Affairs, in KwaZulu-Natal. The construction site, where a building that is meant to house the KwaDukuza Home Affairs department, was handed over to a contractor in February 2021, and was expected to be completed within 24 months, at a cost of just above R39 million.

Zikalala first visited the site in November 2023 when the project was around 49% complete, as part of the Operation Siyahlola programme, with the aim to unblock this stalled project. During the time of his first visit deputy minister Zikalala put in place measures to expedite the project. But to date, the project is sitting at 70% complete, at an anticipated cost of over R45 Million.

During this visit, Deputy Minister Zikalala demanded a detailed report, in seven days, on plans to complete the project. He said it cannot be that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure continues to be associated with incomplete projects that have ballooning costs. 'We are quite concerned about these delays. We will be taking decisive action to deal with such situations because government cannot continue with costly leases because projects are not completed on time', said Zikalala.

