

Minister says building is compliant

By AARON DUBE and NEWS24

JUSTICE Minister Michael Masutha will not challenge the shutting down of his headquarters at Poyntons Building in Tshwane. He said he was confident it was fully compliant with safety requirements.

"The minister doesn't believe it's necessary at this stage to approach the courts to challenge the shutdown," said his spokesman Mkhoni Ratshtanga on Friday.

This comes after mayor Solly Msimanga shut down the building, which houses the correctional services department.

Speaking during his visit to the building on Wednesday, Msimanga said it didn't meet safety regulations.

"The lives of many employees are at risk.

It was evident during the inspection that the building doesn't comply with the minimum fire safety requirements set for a building of this height," said Msimanga.

His visit was part of an operation to address unsafe buildings to fight crime and substance abuse.

"We decided to stop all activities and asked that officials evacuate the building urgently," he said.

Tshwane's emergency services had issued a notice to the building's owner to close it and evacuate occupants and tenants.

But last week Masutha said the mayor was unprofessional as his department only found out about the operation on Facebook.

"Without any prior notice he closed the building.

"This unprecedented action by the mayor and municipality, in violation of the law, is a matter of grave concern."



Mayor Solly Msimanga (second from left) visits Poyntons Building in Tshwane, where correctional services workers were evacuated on Wednesday.

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