

Press Release

IDT works on Tshwane inner city heritage project for Public Works

September 27th, 2018



The Independent Development Trust (IDT) has completed the first phase of a Department of Public Works project to refurbish and restore its workshop facilities in the inner city of Tshwane, and thus helping the department to reach a significant milestone in the restoration of its buildings in the administrative capital.

Since February 2018, the IDT has been working to prepare for the restoration of these historical workshop facilities on Minnaar Street to their heritage status.

The IDT was appointed by the department to implement Phase 1 of the project, the scope of which include demolition of various buildings which had structural defects and civil works, including earthworks and access road between the heritage buildings to be restored.

The IDT completed these works in August 2018 – on schedule, scope and budget – at a cost of R17.5-million.

The facilities used to house mechanical, painting and carpentry workshops and since the buildings are of heritage nature, they ought to be restored and refurbished to their original appearance and preserved as such.

The IDT's comprehensive social facilitation process – a niche service offering by the IDT ensured that communities are consulted before works on site start to avoid unnecessary stoppages and to ensure that the community take ownership of the facilities once completed.

The project is located under the City of Tshwane Ward 60, and the social facilitation process saw an agreement reached with the communities around the sourcing of labour and sub-contractors and therefore contributing much needed job opportunities for these communities.

In addition, unskilled workers who were engaged in the project were trained and awarded certificates that will help them find suitable jobs elsewhere after the completion of the demolitions and civil works.

According to the National Heritage Act, a historical structure is a building that is older than 60 years and no person may alter or demolish such a structure without permission from the provincial heritage resources authority. These buildings can only be refurbished so that they maintain their original look.

An example of such a structure in Tshwane is the iconic Union Buildings, built in 1910, which serves as the seat of the national government and remains a major tourist attraction in the city.