

Minister makes pledge to Mthatha staff

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Justice Minister Michael Masutha has promised to fast-track the procurement of office space for the Mthatha State Attorney staff.

Masutha was speaking exclusively to the Daily Dispatch on Tuesday following a closed door meeting with stakeholders of the justice department at

the National Prosecuting Authority offices in Mthatha. The meeting included deputy judge president Zamani Nhlangulela and Mthatha director of public prosecutions Barry Madolo.

“Staff [at the office of the state attorney] are working in cramped conditions. I have made an undertaking to speak to my counterpart at public works to ensure that the bidding process is urgently resuscitated and expedited to make



MICHAEL MASUTHA

sure that office space is procured as soon as possible so that this office has the necessary

space to operate professionally,” he said.

This comes after an official from the department of labour closed the office of the state attorney and issued a prohibitory notice declaring the building uninhabitable.

The Dispatch reported last month that staff members were complaining about leaking roofs and toilets, exposed electric cables and a non-existent filing system.

Masutha said the province had lost many professionals, which resulted in a lot of vacancies needing to be filled.

Nhlangulela said he was hopeful that Masutha’s visit would yield positive results for the legal fraternity in Mthatha.

“The meeting was intended to unlock hurdles which prohibit the administration of justice. Stakeholder parties were present to address the minister about their issues,” he said.