

■ NATION

Relocation of Parliament a step closer

Possible sites in Pretoria identified

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THE relocation of Parliament to Pretoria has moved a step closer, with Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi confirming that possible construction sites had been identified there.

Reacting to the latest development, Pretoria's Capital City Business Chamber said yesterday it was looking forward to the relocation of Parliament to Pretoria, which it said was the hub of diplomatic activity in South Africa and in Africa.

In a written response to the EFF's Leigh-Ann Mathys, Nxesi said the construction sites could not be confirmed until the secretary to Parliament signed off accommodation requirements for the national legislature.

"For this to happen (relocation of Parliament to Pretoria) Parliament must give guidance and take the decision to move the parliamentary precinct away from Cape Town and also legally pronounce Tshwane as the seat of Parliament by way of proposing a constitutional amendment on Tshwane/Pretoria as the new legislative capital of the Republic of South Africa," Nxesi said.

Parliament's decision on the matter would be informed by a comprehensive feasibility study.

In May 2018, National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete announced that service provider Pamoja (Pty) Ltd had been appointed to conduct a six-month socio-economic and impact study on the proposed move.

This was almost two years after then-president Jacob Zuma said the government could save billions of rand if government officials and politicians were not required to fly to Cape Town from Pretoria, and were not accommodated in Cape Town.

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Parliament must take the decision to move the parliamentary precinct

Thulas Nxesi
PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER

In his written response, Nxesi said the relocation of Parliament from Cape Town was primarily the responsibility of Parliament, with his department playing a supporting role.

He said the national legislature was responsible for developing the business case for the relocation of the parliamentary precinct from a strategic operations perspective.

It was also responsible for initiating processes and debates within Parliament on the matter, giving the go-ahead for an investigation into the feasibility of relocating Parliament, and providing his department with the short-, medium- and long-term requirements of relocating Parliament.

His department was responsible for associated feasibility and socio-economic impact studies and outlining possible accommodation solutions.

The department would also assist with the investigation, the planning of the proposed project and its ultimate implementation, if deemed feasible.

A number of related engagements had been held with Parliament over a number of years, he said.

“Interdepartmental task team and

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