

Innovative building ways shown to parliamentarians

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The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure Chairperson Honourable Nolitha Ntobongwana said she was impressed with the direction the South African built industry was gravitating towards. This comes after the committee continued its oversight visit to the Eric Molobi Innovation Hub, Soshanguve Block XX, to inspect housing projects which were built using innovative and cost saving measures

The purpose of the visit is to provide in depth understanding of the Department's entities and ensure that members of Parliament get first-hand knowledge of how the entities are governed, administered, and what the current operational status of the entity. Amongst the entity's mandate is to conduct testing and certification of innovative building material and systems.

The Parliamentarians engaged representatives of the boards and the senior management of each entity on key matters such as challenges emerging from their strategic plans, their previously tabled annual reports and audit opinions of the office of the auditor general on their financial statements.

“As the Portfolio Committee of Public Works and Infrastructure, you understand one of our mandates is to do the monitoring and oversight over the department and its entities, recently we were at Agrements SA, one of the non-standardised certifying bodies other than SABS the one we know. We have seen some the buildings they have done and they said there is an innovation hub where some of the innovative building



Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure during their visit to the Eric Molobi Innovation Hub.

materials are tested,” said Ntobongwana.

Ntobongwana said; “We are pleased what we have seen and it will help us in taking decisions. Some of the buildings set as models because they have stood the test of time and if we can use that we will be able to save time and money not using the usual mortar and bricks. Some of the buildings have been here since 2005 and have not been damaged by climate and other elements because of their innovative ways and that is the way of the future.”

NHBRC Chief Executive Officer Otsile Maseng said “As the NHBRC we are highly honoured to be hosting the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure. Ordinarily we engage the Committee on Human Settlement. The committee's visit shows the parliament's keenness and interest in what we doing as an entity Today's engagements have demonstrated the importance of the work being showcased today together with our partner's agreement.”