

Department of Public Works has a burden of 339 broken-down buildings

Patricia de Lille further explained that 81 of those properties are beyond repairs and need to be demolished.



Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille. The portfolio committee for Public Works and Infrastructure has called on the South African Air Force and other

stakeholders to ensure that the Waterkloof Air Force Base is safe and functional. Picture: Phando Jikelo/African News Agency (ANA)

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Patricia De Lille, has revealed that from the 387 vacant residential properties owned by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), about 339 are in a broken-down state.

The Department of Public Works declares these buildings are “beyond repairs”

This information came about in a Parliamentary question and answer session, where de Lille further explained that 81 of those properties are beyond repairs and need to be demolished.

“It would seem that DPWI is incapable of maintaining and preserving government properties. The longer these properties remain vacant the more prone they become to vandalism which impacts the value of these buildings as well as the surrounding properties.”

Democratic Alliance

Government officials are accused of facilitating the “hijacking” of state-owned buildings

Recently, it was reported that DPWI officials are cheating the government from millions of rands as they continue to “hijack” and facilitate the illegal rentals of state-owned buildings.

These syndicates are reported to [have taken over R127,7 billion through 81, 575 government building and 30,495 pieces of land](#), and the Minister ordered an investigation to find those behind the illegal leases of state-owned property and those to “blame” for vandalised buildings.

This order preceded a report that will be produced by the Auditor General, Kimi Makwetu, who is scheduled to present it in Parliament in November; on Wednesday, [Makwetu noted that government expenditure has reached R61.35 billion](#), and this amount included R18.5 billion of irregular expenditure, he further disclosed that there are still outstanding unaudited financial statements of departments and entities whose audits were still to come.

“As the Zondo Commission continues to unravel the decade of waste and corruption, it becomes clear that the decaying infrastructure is no doubt a result of maladministration and financial mismanagement at the hands of the ANC government. Public money allocated for the maintenance of these properties clearly did not end up being used for its intended purpose. Instead, these properties are crumbling and are unable to be used to drive economic growth and development.”

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