



MORE QUANTITY SURVEYORS NEEDED TO END OVERSPEND

A CONSISTENT lack of quantity surveyors in government departments is the root of infrastructure budget misspending, the Association of South African Quantity Surveyors said yesterday. Late last year, the auditor-general reported a 38 percent increase in unauthorised expenditure to R2.1 billion, with the department of public works and infrastructure receiving one of the poorest audit results. “While the department is mandated to be the custodian and portfolio manager of the national government’s immovable assets, there are virtually no quantity surveyors within many government departments,” the association said. Quantity surveyors are the built environment professionals equipped and trained to manage the complete contractual and financial aspects of construction projects. They provide key oversight and management that helps ensure construction projects are completed within projected budgets by pricing-forecasting, as well as measuring the value of the work done on-site. It is incumbent on the government to recognise the deficiencies in project cost-management and appointing quantity surveyors would go a long way in alleviating corruption, the executive director of the Association of South African Quantity Surveyors, Larry Feinberg, said. “When quantity surveyors are appointed at municipalities and within government structures across South Africa, the mismanagement of funds will be substantially curtailed,” he said. When quantity surveyors oversaw contractual and accounting budgets, the government would be able to get clear-cut answers to why there were cost overruns on projects, providing it with stringent budget oversight mechanisms and ultimate accountability, Feinberg added. | African News Agency (ANA)