

Youth plan for unused government buildings

ANDISA BONANI

MEC for public works Lubabalo Madikizela has promised to turn unutilised government buildings in the Chris Hani region into business properties for entrepreneurs.

The MEC was speaking at the Youth Chamber of Business and Industry business networking session on Monday.

He said in September, the department had identified about 32 unused properties and buildings in the region.

“The aim is to ensure government buildings do not become dilapidated to a point where they become a hub for criminal activities.

“Government needs to use its buildings to generate revenue and be self-sustainable, so that it does not depend on the national treasury for grants.”

Madikizela said the buildings and properties would be used in a developmental programme to introduce youth in the Chris Hani region to

property development.

“We have started advertising about 32 properties and buildings for new entries in the property sector so that young people can submit their proposals about any business ideas they may have,” he said.

“We are looking for creative ideas in the form of a proposal and not complicated business plans that are usually required.

“If a person proposes a viable idea that has the potential to generate revenue, it is our duty to provide them with someone

will help them

business plan

will assist them to

secure funding.”

Madikizela said the

department would

offer lease

agreements of up to 30

years with a chance of

renewal for a further 20

years.

Madikizela said this would

depend on what the

entrepreneurial business was

and how long it would

take to pay its debts.

They are targeting

young men and women,

but the majority of

entrepreneurs in these

businesses to have at

least a 51% stake

and that there are

agreements that will

encourage partnerships

with experienced

entrepreneurs

and people.

During my policy

review earlier this year,

we missed the

opportunity of this province

to introduce an

incubation programme

that would house 20

incubators per region,

with contractors in

charge.

These would be

one contractors

and we will ensure are

regulated as they will

be held liable for

all the

risks they require

an incubator.”

Madikizela said the

first batch of unused

properties and

buildings would be

available in 2020 to

serve the region’s

student

incubation

programme.

The matter was

discussed by provincial

African Youth

Development

Chairperson

Thabang Mkhangelwa,

and students at

institutions were

“rehabilitated” into small

businesses by property

owners who did not

utilise the space

available to

generate

employment

representatives

of the National

Development

Commission, Border-Kei

Development

Chair of Business,

Chris Hani

Development Agency,

Chris Hani co-operative

Development centre

Department of

Economic

Development,

Environmental affairs &

Energy pledged their

support.