



GOODS from the District Six Cafe on the pavement in Darling Street following the eviction yesterday secured by the Department of Public Works.

EVICCTIONS

Increase in Public Works properties being invaded

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THE Department of Public Works is under pressure with the growing problem of its properties being invaded, after more than 1 200 properties have been illegally occupied.

The department told the portfolio committee on public works yesterday that the problem was growing, with more properties and its buildings being illegally occupied by a number of people.

Department acting deputy director-general Naledi Stemela said they were trying to find a solution.

“The issue of the properties that are illegally occupied is a matter we are aware of. It’s one of those big thorns. An investigation was conducted around 2017/18, and that investigation yielded about 1 200 properties that were illegally occupied. We are finalising that, but this number grows every day,” said Stemela.

“There was a big discussion in terms of what needs to happen with these properties, because it’s not a matter of just waking up and evicting everybody, because there are various types of people that are occupying these properties,” Stemela said.

They needed to find a way to determine who lived on those properties so they could get them to sign a lease agreement. This was one of the mechanisms to deal with the problem.

She said they needed a verification process to determine who was there and if they were able to sign a lease, or if they were able to pay rent. “This would start in October,” she said.