

## AUSTERITY MEASURES

# De Lille to slash spending on state funerals

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PUBLIC Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille yesterday said the funding spent on state funerals will be reduced by about R11million in the next three years.

“Under the prestige programmes for government functions, state visits and funerals will reduce from R94 million in 2021/22 to R83m in 2023/24.

“The department is continuing to implement austerity measures, mainly for the state functions, hence the decreasing budget over the medium term for this programme,” she said.

De Lille made the statement when she tabled her Budget vote speech in the National Assembly.

The expenditure on state funerals has been a topic of concern amid reports that service providers who manage state funerals were allegedly inflating invoices for services rendered.

The department is currently engaged in a process to blacklist a company from doing business with the state over the same issue.

This comes as the presidency is reviewing the state funeral policy for prominent persons amid reports that the recent funeral of Struggle veteran Andrew Mlangeni cost about R35 million.

De Lille said the department’s allo-

cation over the medium term was R25.5 billion.

She said the budget allocation for the 2021/22 financial year is R8.3bn.

De Lille said the transfer payments to the Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE) and expanded public works programme (EPWP) was R7.3bn.

She also said the EPWP would be disbursing allocations to eligible public bodies to the tune of R1.18bn,

The breakdown per sectors is as follows;

- ◆ R1bn for environment and culture and the social sectors
- ◆ R1bn in non-state sector.
- ◆ R414m in the social sector.

De Lille said R4.2bn was allocated to the PMTE to focus on refurbishing and maintaining government buildings and developing 12 small fishing harbours.

She said R116m was allocated for dolomite risk management where government buildings were at risk of collapse because of a dolomite sink-hole and doline problem, especially in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, Northern Cape and the northern part of the Free State.

De Lille said R23m was set aside for the retrofitting of facilities that have not catered for people with disabilities.

There was a R35m projected spend in this financial year for the refurbishment of the parliamentary precinct.