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LANDLORDS OUTWITTED

SAPS top brass to occupy new HQ

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GOVERNMENT has given the thumbs up for a centralised headquarters in the Pretoria CBD to house Police Minister Bheki Cele and national commissioner Lieutenant-General Fannie Masemola.

This was after Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Sihle Zikalala visited the Telkom Towers complex in the Pretoria CBD in his drive to get the SAPS headquarters ready for occupation.

The Telkom Towers complex comprises 10 buildings with 221 954m² of lettable office accommodation.

There are 2 234 parking bays. It is said to have more than enough space to accommodate the requirements of the SAPS.

Zikalala said floors 23, 24 and 25 were fixed thoroughly at a cost of R10 million. These floors will accommodate the minister, national commissioner and other senior police executives.

He said they could start moving in in a month or two.

Although the premises still carry Telkom signage, the last external cosmetic changes will change all of that and ensure that the public immediately knows it is a police precinct.

Zikalala said the additional police services needed would be accommodated with the development of other state-owned properties within the proximity of the Telkom Towers complex. This would create a police precinct right in the centre of the capital.

He said it was prominently located within the Church Square precinct in the inner city and strategically placed on the proposed Government Boulevard.

The Telkom Tower complex was bought by government in 2015 for R645m from the Telkom Retirement Fund when Telkom relocated its head office. It was procured to be used for housing government departments.

This and many other buildings and precinct the minister will be launching over the years will ensure that the government moves away from



THE Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Sihle Zikalala, visits the Telkom Towers complex in the Pretoria CBD in his drive to get the SAPS headquarters ready for occupation. | THOBILE MATHONSI

greedy landlords who overcharge the government for rent, even when they fail to maintain their buildings, while the government's hands are tied and cannot do the maintenance itself.

A source within the police, who asked not to be named, said: "The government wants to deal with those

greedy landlords who would lock members of the police outside of their building simply because rent was not paid. They did not know the government was protesting their ridiculous rates and failure to maintain their buildings. Now the government is claiming back its power from people

who took advantage of the government's large budgets."

The minister, accompanied by top management of the department, visited the complex to inspect the work done so far in getting Telkom Tower North ready to start the migration process for the SAPS.