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NATION

## Interest in alternative energy for buildings

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PUBLIC Works and Infrastructure Minister Sihle Zikalala said yesterday the government would embark on a programme to install alternative energy solutions in state-owned buildings.

"We have issued the request for expression of interest for those who can assist the government in providing alternative energy to our government buildings," he said.

"This is going to take place shortly. This is going to cover all buildings with alternative energy, either solar or any other forms. We will be rolling it out this year."

He made the remarks while responding to oral questions during a question-and-answer session in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

Zikalala told delegates they were engaging with the National Treasury to set aside funds.

The minister said his department was currently collaborating with the Departments of Defence and Home Affairs, including the Border Management Agency and Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Asked about progress in finalising the disciplinary inquiries against the officials identified in the internal investigations regarding the construction of the Beitbridge border post fence, Zikalala said the hearings of director-general Sam Vukela and adviser to former minister Patricia de Lille were managed by the Presidency and the former minister.

"The director-general has since retired from public service. We are unable to follow through with the disciplinary action, but we believe law enforcement agencies can follow up if there are criminal elements that pertain to his conduct," he said.

Zikalala said the former adviser to De Lille was no longer with the department.

According to the minister, the disciplinary hearings of three senior officials were ongoing.

"These have been affected by prolonged postponements and legal challenges to the report and proceedings."

Zikalala added that the members of the national bid adjudication committee were all charged and found guilty, and sanctions of warning, final warnings and suspension without pay were imposed.