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Does president care about infrastructure?

ON MANY occasions, the state president has expressed the need to accelerate the provision of infrastructure in this country.

However, his actions in the appointment of his new ministers seem to decry this intent.

For the Justice portfolio, the minister is a professional lawyer, and for Health, the minister is a professional medical doctor.

In contradiction to this, professional expertise at the head of the following two departments, the departments of Transport and Public Works, both extensively involved in the provision of infrastructure and where engineering expertise and competence is a necessity, we have, if media reports are accurate, ministers with no engineering background.

One reportedly is a qualified nurse, and the other a "party political hack" whose entire adult life has apparently been devoted to politics.

What is worse – and which may be behind the reason why infrastructure has been neglected during the tenure

of the ANC government – is that this situation has existed for decades.

In a jocular fashion, and during the previous government's tenure, at one time, the minister of railways, Ben Schoeman, was an ex-train driver. This was a time when the railways underwent a major development and were well managed. Schoeman had a reputation for getting things done.

Why do governments traditionally appoint professionals as ministers in the fields of Health and Justice but neglect this for portfolios where experience in engineering is important? The excuse that engineers do not enter politics is not valid since the president has the option of appointing two persons as ministers who are not MPs.

MALCOLM MITCHELL | Hillcrest

Reshuffle may be final nail in ANC's coffin

THE fact that President Cyril Ramaphosa didn't remove any of the underperforming ministers in his Cabinet reshuffle suggests he either lacks the political will to take action or is beholden to certain factions within