



public works  
& infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Issued by Chief Directorate: Communications

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **PRE-SONA REPORTS RELEASED BY THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN'S FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

The National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is aware of the release of the City of Cape Town's Fire and Rescue Services reports. These reports relate to the inspections of the Parliamentary Precinct ahead of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 SONAs.

The relevant buildings are assessed annually by the City of Cape Town's Fire and Rescue ahead of the preparations of the State of the Nation Address (SONA) for bylaws relating to community fire safety concerns.

The reports from the City's Fire and Rescue are addressed to the Regional Manager of the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. These reports noted the following:

- For the New Assembly Building, the Chief Fire Officer's report identified minor concerns with regards to signage colour and positioning, as well as a query on the status of the communication system for emergency evacuation.
- For the Old Assembly Building, additional signage and fire panels and phones that were in need of repair were identified in the reports.

On receipt of these reports, the Department initiates the necessary servicing and, once all servicing is completed, the Department collects all certificates of compliance and servicing records and submits these to the Provincial Joint Operations Centre (PROV JOC). The Regional Office has confirmed that this practice was also conducted ahead of both SONA 2019 (February and June 2019) and SONA 2020 and 2021 events.

Subsequent to the servicing ahead of 2021 SONA, there was a widespread power outage across the Cape Town CBD on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, resulting in additional checks of the fire systems. The fire systems were reset, checked and confirmed functional by contractors on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2021 following the power outage.

On enquiries related to the January 2022 fire incident itself, the fire is still under investigation and all enquiries must be directed to the Hawks.

**Ends**

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