



public works

Department:  
Public Works  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **THE ETERNITY FLAME OF REMEBRENCE IN PARLIAMENT BACK ON**

The National Department of Public Works would like to correct a wrong perception that was created by the news report on SABC TV on Sunday the 29/01/2012, regarding the flame of remembrance at Parliament.

This news report intimated that the Department Public Works neglected the flame of remembrance.

In fact, the Department took a decision to switch off the flame of remembrance for security reasons, in December 2011. However, the flame in Parliament has since been switched back on.

The flame of remembrance memorial formed part of the upgrade to the Parliament precinct Stalaplein area, in the 1980's, during the building of the 'new' National Assembly and other buildings for the then 'Tri-cameral' parliament.

The flame was originally supplied with piped town gas. When the supply of town gas was discontinued, it was upgraded to work off bottled LP gas.

In late October/early November 2011, the flame began to give intermittent problems and a number of components had to be replaced. Despite the efforts, by mid-December, the thermocouple, which had been recently fitted, suddenly failed. Because of the December holidays, this meant that a new component could only be sourced in January 2012.

In terms of the Occupational Safety Act, the old system's components were found to be obsolete and dangerous, prompting the Department to take a decision to switch the flame off, while a new component was being sourced. The action was out of consideration for the safety and the security of the people visiting the site.

The flame which is still fuelled by the bottled LP gas, is now back on, posing no threats to the security of people visiting the site.

The Department of Public Works continues to monitor and maintain the eternal flame, which is situated on the boundary within the Parliament precinct, in close proximity to the main gates.

**Ends**

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