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STATEMENT

MINISTER MACPHERSON WELCOMES THE COMPLETION OF THE DOME FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SITTINGS

- Public Works & Infrastructure Minister, Dean Macpherson, has welcomed the completion of *The Dome* ahead of the State of the Nation Address replies taking place in the National Assembly this week.
- The construction of *The Dome* on the Nieuwmeester parking area will ensure that National Assembly sittings can proceed uninterrupted, regardless of weather conditions.
- *The Dome*, which was previously used for the funeral of former President Nelson Mandela, was transported and reconstructed over the December holiday period.

The Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, welcomes the completion of *The Dome* for National Assembly sittings ahead of the replies to the State of the Nation Address (SONA) in Cape Town this week. The Department of Public Works & Infrastructure transported and constructed *The Dome*, previously used for the funeral of former President Nelson Mandela, at the request of the National Assembly to temporarily house sittings until the reconstruction of Parliament is completed

“As the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure, we have successfully repurposed this structure, which had remained idle for many years, to help Parliament save millions in costs while the reconstruction of the National Assembly chambers continues. The structure, now equipped with a new roof sail and structural reinforcements, will allow the National Assembly to hold sittings uninterrupted in all weather conditions. Additionally, it will enable members of the public to observe proceedings in person for the first time in many years,” Minister Macpherson said.

“I am incredibly proud of the team at the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure, particularly Director-General Sifiso Mdakane, who personally oversaw its implementation. The Director-General and his team worked tirelessly—including through the December holiday period—to ensure that the project was completed on time for Parliamentary sittings. We extend our sincere thanks to them for their dedication.”

The Minister said he looks forward to working with Parliament to ensure the successful functioning of *The Dome* in the weeks and months ahead, allowing National Assembly sittings to proceed without interruption. This will enable Parliament to fulfil its vital role of holding the executive accountable—a function that was severely hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the fire that damaged the National Assembly chambers.

“As a Department, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with Parliament to ensure it can effectively serve the people of South Africa. *The Dome* project demonstrates that the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure can act with speed and precision when required. We are eager to build on this momentum as we work to turn South Africa into a construction site in the months ahead.”

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