



05 March 2026

MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTER MACPHERSON DIRECTS COUNCIL FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO LEAD INVESTIGATION INTO ORMONDE BUILDING COLLAPSE

- Public Works & Infrastructure Minister Macpherson has directed the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) to lead a technical, governance and regulatory enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the Ormonde building collapse in Johannesburg on 2 March 2026.
- The multi-disciplinary investigation will assess structural and construction factors, examine regulatory and professional compliance, and determine whether any negligence, misconduct or legislative breaches contributed to the collapse.
- The CBE is expected to complete the enquiry within eight weeks, after which a report will be submitted to the Minister to help strengthen building safety, accountability and enforcement across the built environment sector.

The Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, has directed the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) to lead a technical, governance and regulatory investigative enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the building collapse that occurred in Ormonde, south of Johannesburg, on 2 March 2026.

The CBE, which is a regulator of professionals through regulatory frameworks and mandatory standards for the built environment. The CBE Act 43 of 2000 empowers the Minister of Public Works to institute enquiries of investigation into occurrences of this nature, in terms of the following sections:

- Section 4 of the CBE Act to: (a) Advise the government on any matter falling within the scope of the built environment, including resource mobilisation, socio-economic development, public health and safety and the environment, and for this purpose carry out such investigations as it or the relevant Minister deems necessary.

- Section 4(e): To facilitate interministerial cooperation concerning issues relating to the built environment.
- Section 4 (l): Investigate or initiate investigations into matters pertaining to its functions and policies with regard to the built environment and, if necessary, recommend legislation in this regard.

The investigative enquiry will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach and will examine the incident across three key dimensions:

1) Technical Investigation

The technical component will assess the structural and construction aspects of the project, including a review of the engineering and architectural design, construction methodologies, temporary works arrangements, and material performance. The investigation will seek to determine the probable technical cause of the collapse through structural and forensic analysis.

2) Regulatory and Professional Oversight

The enquiry will examine whether the project complied with applicable regulatory requirements, and whether appropriately registered built environment practitioners were involved in the design, supervision, and certification of the development. Where evidence of professional negligence, misconduct, contravention of the code of conduct or failure to fulfil statutory responsibilities is identified, such matters will be referred to the relevant authorities for further disciplinary and criminal processes.

3) Legislative and Governance Compliance

The investigation will also assess compliance with the provisions of the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act and other relevant legislation governing construction and building safety. This will include reviewing whether the required municipal approvals, including building plan approvals and development permissions, were obtained and whether appropriate inspection and enforcement processes were followed.

Timelines and deliverables

The enquiry is expected to be conducted over a period of eight weeks, after which the Council for the Built Environment will submit a report to the Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure.

This enquiry forms part of the government's broader commitment to strengthening building safety and restoring public confidence in the built environment regulatory system. The findings will also contribute to ongoing efforts to address illegal construction practices, enhance professional accountability, and strengthen enforcement of building regulations across the country.

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