



public works

Department:
Public Works
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Public Works is Leading Government Energy Saving Initiatives in the Country

TSHWANE – As the largest property owner on behalf of government and its departments, the National Department of Public Works will, in fulfilment of the Cabinet directive, spearhead the accelerated efforts to implement the Energy Efficiency programme in all government-owned and government-leased buildings.

As part of its national communication programme to all government departments across three spheres, the Department has recommended almost twenty (20) energy saving guidelines for immediate implementation.

Among immediate initiatives identified, the National Department of Public Works will promote efficient individual use of air conditioners and heaters as opposed to centralized systems, installation of energy efficient bulbs, card controlled devices and motion detectors in government-owned and leased buildings, as well as formulate new specifications on newly acquired properties making them energy-efficiency compliant, and general energy saving guidelines will apply.

All government buildings will implement these new interventions except in cases where security might be a consideration such as at police stations, military installations and around perimeter boundaries of both national key points such as the Union Buildings and around the residences of the members of the Executive.

But even in the houses of government Ministers, incandescent lights are being replaced by the energy-efficient bulbs.

The Department is in the process of appointing consultants and contractors to introduce energy audits and install hardwares, respectively. It is envisaged that a 50/50 split on realized savings will be effected between the Department and the service providers as the energy cost saving programme is premised on the principle of rewarding suppliers for cost-savings realized through deliberate interventions.

In the past, the Department collaborated with the Department of Minerals and Energy on energy saving measures that culminated in the launch of an Energy Efficiency pilot project at the Number One Military Hospital in Tshwane in 2005. Additionally, the Department had been delivering energy efficient infrastructure albeit on a small scale, with emphasis on natural lighting and other ergonomics as was the case with the procurement of the Botshabelo Magistrate Offices near Bloemfontein in Mangaung.

In order to capacitate their operations, the Department has entered into a partnership with the local tertiary institution to retrain Departmental Project Managers in new ways to incorporate efficient planning in the design of new buildings.

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