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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HANDS OVER A WORLD CLASS MAGISTRATE COURT IN PALM RIDGE/KATLEHONG**

The Department of Public Works has handed over a world class magistrate court to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in Palm Ridge/Katlehong on the East Rand. The Building which cost R253m consists of 33 courts including District Criminal Courts, Regional Criminal Courts, Civil Courts, Family Courts, a High Court, an Equality Court and a Children's Court.

Part of the construction was the requirement and the implementation of the National Youth Service/Expanded Public Works Programme, of which 7.90 youth were deployed and trained. The Contractor also entered into contract with a number of community members to be sub-contractors and general labourers.

The Court is four stories high and has a sub-basement parking area, and secure parking for the Magistrate's and access to the building. Public parking space has been provided and taxi laybys for the offloading of people coming to the Court.

As the Custodian of State Owned Infrastructure, the National Department of Public Works is in the forefront of preserving and reducing unnecessary utilisation of electricity in all Government Departments/properties. The building has occupancy sensors, which automatically switch off lights when there is no one in the offices. It also has a solar powered geyser, which all these aspects will drastically reduce strain on the main electricity grid.

Security in the complex has also been prioritised with the use of biometrics access in restricted areas. Security features in the public entrance include an X-ray machine, a metal detector walk through and turn style doors.

**End**

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