

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR
NTOPILE KGANYAGO, MP DELIVERS AN ADDRESS ON
THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST PUBLIC LAUNCH OF
THE TSHWANE INNER CITY PROGRAMME TO THE
MEDIA**

**VENUE: THE SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK
BUILDING, TSHWANE**

DATE: THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2005

- **The Programme Director, Mr Lucky Mochadibane**
- **The Minister of Public Service & Administration, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moloketi, MP**
- **The Executive Mayor of the Tshwane Metropolitan, Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa**
- **The Chief Operations Officer in the Department of Public Works, Dr Sean Phillips**
- **Other Senior Government Officials**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media**
- **Distinguished guests**

The decision taken by the Cabinet in 1997 to encourage national government departments to make the inner city of Tshwane their permanent home was a demonstration of a great vision; then and now. The outcome is a well-orchestrated plan to link the rejuvenation of our cities to the government's call of Urban Renewal and other spatial development initiatives designed to promote

urban management ethos that is responsive to human rights, hospitable habitats, economic development and social cohesion.

Today as we cast the first stone in the realization of that vision, we also are celebrating the journey we have traveled to date. Intensive consultations often characterized by equally intensive debates about the needs of, and options open to government departments in as far as their physical environment is concerned did not derail all of us from the primordial objectives, namely to improve the physical working environment of government departments in the inner city of Tshwane.

At the same time we need to concurrently contribute to the inner city's renewal and rejuvenation. Other objectives by no means less important include a drive to attract the private sector investment, develop the image of Tshwane as an important capital city in Africa and promoting Black Economic Empowerment.

Government is the biggest property owner and among the leading investors in the economic life of the local government particularly in the Johannesburg and Tshwane Metros in Gauteng. Departments require functional as well as office accommodation to mete out their public service delivery obligations in fulfillment of their mandates. It is common knowledge that most government buildings are in the category good to fair as opposed excellent in terms of their conditions. Renovations, upgrades and repairs will spearhead capital expenditure and contribute to Black Economic Empowerment component of the Tshwane Inner City Project.

Annually the national government through the Department of Public Works spent in excess of two billion rand (R2 billion) to pay for leases and other related property management tariffs such as rates and services, nationwide, with both the private sector and the local government as beneficiaries. Invariably it is the same stakeholders that are expected to drive the process of Tshwane inner city

regeneration, possibly with the participation of the Gauteng Provincial Government through their major investment projects as espoused by the Gauteng Economic Development Agency (GEDA).

In the context of the Tshwane Inner City Programme, henceforth known as RE KGABISA TSHWANE and sub-titled A BETTER PLACE TO WORK, the focus is as much on the people (both the public servants and the public), as it is on the physical spaces they inhabit in the course of delivering and receiving essential public services. When announcing the government's Programme of Action of 2004, the President, Mr Thabo Mbeki called on the national Departments of Public Works as well Public Service & Administration to jointly steer the project to improve the physical working environment of government departments and public servants. Public physical infrastructure is the engine of service delivery and the government officials are the fuel propelling the engine and making it rev faster, efficiently and effectively.

During the needs assessment phase of the project, many government employees consulted (like the ones you saw in the video earlier today), emphasized the importance of having excellent working spaces which befit their call of duty and these included both the interior and the external environments hence the necessity to partner with the Tshwane Metro which is responsible for most urban management aspects such as traffic, cleanliness, safety, security and aesthetics. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Tshwane management and leadership for their foresight in embracing this project by readily aligning it to their own Integrated Development Plans. In fact the Memorandum of Understanding that we will be entering into in short while today between the National Department of Public Works and the City of Tshwane Metro, is an affirmation of having found a common ground from which to depart. It is a declaration of intent to cooperate on initiatives and projects mutually beneficial to both parties.

Our message to you today is that THE WORK HAS BEGUN and the next ten (10) years will see an injection of over eight billion rand (R8 billion) by national government and private sector through capital budgets, leasehold improvements and public-private-partnerships. In terms of Programme Management, a Steering Committee has been established between DPSA, DPW, National Treasury and the City of Tshwane. Among others the Committee will champion the programme, oversee and monitor implementation, finalize the funding strategy and ensure coordinated implementation. The Department has appointed Mr Dumisani Dlamini as the Deputy Director General responsible for the entire programme management.

I thank you.