

Public Works launch Green Building Council in Cape Town

By Lunga Roland Mahlangu

Department of Public Works launched the Public Works Green Building Policy in partnership with the Green Building Council of South Africa. The launch ceremony was held in Cape Town on the 03rd October 2018 during the eleventh annual GBCSA Convention, which is the biggest calendar event in the Green Building sector. Minister Thulas Nxesi approved the Green Building Policy in June 2018 as a precursor to the official launch of the Green Building policy.

The Public Works Green Building Policy aims to provide leadership in sustainable building sector; efficient energy, water and waste management, indoor environmental quality and comfort, ensuring sustainable product and materials management etc.

Public Works's role as the custodian as the custodian of state owned immovable assets plays a strategic leadership role in green building sector as it is responsible for the provision of energy efficient buildings to the public in line with the National Energy Efficiency Strategy (NEES).

Speaking on behalf of Minister Nxesi, Nkosana Kubeka from Facilities Management said the "Department of Public Works introduced a Green Building Framework which was launched in 2011 during COP17 in Durban, working in partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). This document assisted in providing a broad framework which help us contextualise our approach to sustainable building – to ensure an integrated approach to Green Building and requirements of other Public Works functions i.e. Utilities Management."

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