

**Minister of Public Works
Mr J Radebe
25 September 1998**

[Back](#)

Minmec decisions on the sale of Redundant State Owned Residences and Intensified Affirmative Procurement

Friday, 25 September 1998: The Minister of Public Works, Jeff Radebe, and Provincial MECs met in Pretoria today. The meeting focused on the strategic issues of the disposal of redundant state-owned residences, progress with the Strategic Projects Initiative, progress with the Community Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) and the proposed policy on the provision of accommodation to elected representatives and political office-bearers at both national and provincial level.

Following Cabinet's decision to dispose of redundant state owned residences last year, the Department of Public Works developed comprehensive policy guidelines announced by Minister Radebe early in August. Following the announcement, 46 heads of departments nationally were requested to verify that residences that have been identified for disposal are indeed redundant. The 16 responses received to date indicate that an urgent intervention was required.

To speed up and bring this matter to fruition, the MINMEC meeting decided that the National Department should proceed with sales. Should provinces require a specific residence for official purposes, the onus would be on them to duly motivate and indicate that. This initiative is expected to unlock the current bottleneck in the disposal process and will generate substantial revenue for the state. The disposals will also relieve the burgeoning maintenance backlog of state property assets.

Having increased the participation of previously disadvantaged entrepreneurs in its construction activities from a mere 2% in 1994 to 28% this year, the MINMEC resolved to intensify the effort to implement the Affirmative Procurement Policy through the Strategic Projects Initiative recently launched by the Minister. MECs agreed on taking further the implementation of the Affirmative Procurement Policy in provinces.

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I thank you.

[top](#)