



*Dear Team*

### Public Works & Infrastructure,

I trust everyone had a restful and blessed Easter period and returned safely from the series of public and school holidays. It has truly been a blessing to spend time with those we hold dear, and I also enjoyed seeing family and friends after an intensive start to the year.

With that said, I hope we can all return to the office with renewed energy and vigour to continue the work we do to reshape the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure into a central player in turning South Africa into a construction site that creates jobs.

This week, we were reminded of the importance of our work when we attended the one-year commemoration of the George building collapse, where 34 people tragically lost their lives and many others were injured. While investigations are still underway, it is already evident that there were multiple lapses across all three spheres of government. This reinforces the critical role we play in ensuring the safety and integrity of infrastructure across the country.



While April offered us a moment to rest, we also remained hard at work to drive change within the Department and improve the lives of those in our communities. At the beginning of the month, we handed over five state-owned properties in Waterkloof, Pretoria, to Gauteng MEC for Social Development, Faith Mazibuko, to be used as shelters for victims of gender-based violence (GBV).

During the handover ceremony, joined by the Minister of Social Development, Nokuzola Tolashe, I reiterated that public property must serve the public good. For too long, government buildings have stood vacant while vulnerable members of our society suffer. It is concerning that between 2019 and 2025, only two properties had been handed over for use as GBV shelters. I am committed to changing this. The handover of these five properties marks the beginning of a national rollout, with more shelters in other provinces to be announced soon.



April also marked the official launch of our groundbreaking Strategic and Special Delivery Unit (SSDU) at the Sarah Baartman Centre of Remembrance in Hankey, Eastern Cape. The unit, which comprises senior personnel from across the Department and will provide my office with a report every second week, has been specifically designed to fast-track previously stalled projects, such as the Sarah Baartman Centre, so that they may begin to serve their communities rather than remain burdens on the taxpayer.

The SSDU will also help us achieve our broader goal of turning South Africa into a construction site, attracting additional infrastructure investment, and growing our economy, creating thousands of new jobs in the process.



During April, we also made significant progress in stabilising the Independent Development Trust (IDT). Despite fierce resistance—including targeted social media campaigns, the spread of fake news, and a frivolous court case which was ultimately dismissed with punitive costs against the applicants—we have succeeded in filling long-standing vacancies on the IDT Board. Some of these date back to late 2023. The Board has since elected a new Chairperson, Mrs Zimbini Hill and I wish her and the board well until their term ends on 4 July 2025.

I have already met with the Board and look forward to working closely with them as we strengthen the IDT and ensure it fulfils its mandate to deliver social infrastructure across the country. The IDT has an important role to play as we turn South Africa into a construction site, and I look forward to making further announcements soon as we restore good governance and stability to the agency.



"Last week also marked the official signing ceremony for Infrastructure South Africa's (ISA) "Adopt a Municipality" pilot initiative. Endorsed by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Council (PICC) last year, this initiative will see ISA work directly with four municipalities to address incomplete projects and long-standing infrastructure backlogs. We are well aware of the challenges facing infrastructure delivery at local government level, and this initiative is a direct intervention to address those challenges head-on.



### Upcoming Event:

"Later this month, ISA will host the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium South Africa (SIDSSA) which will be addressed by President Cyril Ramaphosa, and supported by a number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as well as Ministers from across the African continent, where a series of exciting announcements will be made, including details of our national infrastructure pipeline. These announcements will represent tangible outcomes as we work towards our vision of a country under construction.

I must reiterate that all the work we are doing across the Department and its entities—whether it's repurposing vacant properties, unlocking stalled projects, or taking tough decisions to reform our institutions—is anchored in our shared commitment to build a department that truly delivers for the people of South Africa.

In the weeks and months ahead, let us continue to work with responsibility, knowing that the actions we take have real-life consequences. I know the work is not always easy and that we often face difficult conditions. But the progress we are making shows that we are on the right path.

Together, we are helping to build a better South Africa for all.

Let us stay focused on the task ahead and remain united in our mission to turn South Africa into a construction site where public assets are used for the public good.

*Best regards,*

**DEAN MACPHERSON**

**MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**