

DEAN MACPHERSON



# TEAM PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE,

As we returned to our desks and sites across the country after a well-deserved break, I want to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back and wish you well for the year ahead. I hope that you were able to travel safely, spend time with loved ones, and enjoy a festive season that was restful, peaceful and restorative.

While the calendar may have turned, the responsibility we carry as public servants remains constant. The work of the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure is fundamental to the functioning of the state, the dignity of our people, and the future of our economy.

2026 will be a year of delivery.

Over the past year, we have worked deliberately to stabilise institutions, restore governance, and rebuild internal capacity across the Department and its entities. That groundwork now allows us to turn decisively towards delivery – delivery that South Africans can see, feel and rely on.

I look forward to working with each of you as we pursue this shared goal. In the coming weeks, the State of the Nation Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa will further outline the priorities for the year ahead, including the role that infrastructure investment, public asset management and construction-led growth will play in rebuilding our economy. The Department of Public Works & Infrastructure will be central to turning those commitments into action.

While many South Africans were spending time with their families in December and January, I am acutely aware that public servants across our Department continued to serve the country – often under difficult and demanding circumstances. I want to thank you for that commitment.



Briefing the media on the outcomes of the investigation into a building collapse in eThekweni.

One of the important areas our department played an important role was the tragic building collapse which took place in December in eThekweni. On 20 December 2026, I briefed the media on the outcomes of a preliminary investigation by the Council for the Built Environment into the collapse. The findings at this early stage were deeply concerning, including serious questions about construction quality, the absence of approved building plans and permits, and indications that the structure may have been occupied unlawfully. The site was declared a crime scene, and we are working closely with law enforcement and regulatory authorities to ensure accountability. Our responsibility is clear: to support affected families and to act decisively to prevent such tragedies from happening again.



Visiting Elands Bay with Western Cape Infrastructure MEC, Tertuis Simmers.

At the beginning of January, I joined the Western Cape MEC for Infrastructure, Tertuis Simmers, in Elands Bay to engage directly with the local community and conduct oversight of a public launch site vital to small-scale fishers and the local economy. This visit underscored the importance of coordination across all spheres of government to unlock safer infrastructure, create jobs and ensure that state assets are used for the public good. I was honoured to be the first Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure to visit Elands Bay in nearly three decades.





Media interviews at major broadcasters in Gauteng after the outcome of the Public Protector announcement.

Later in January, I welcomed the Public Protector's decision to dismiss a complaint brought against me related to the Independent Development Trust, finding no breach of the Ethics Code. This decision reaffirmed the importance of allowing investigations and institutional reforms – particularly at the Independent Development Trust – to proceed without political interference.

This was followed on 14 January by the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer of the Independent Development Trust, effective 31 January 2026. No exit compensation was paid, and criminal investigations continue. This step marks another milestone in restoring accountability and stability at a critical institution.



Virtual meeting with the Minister of Human Settlements, Thembisile Simelane.

Later the month, my team at Agrément South Africa and I met with the Minister of Human Settlements, Thembisile Simelane, to discuss innovative building technologies that can accelerate housing delivery. These engagements are essential as we work across portfolios to fast-track service delivery and build sustainable human settlements.

The first week of February has also been off to a busy start. Last week, I addressed the Cape Town Press Club on the progress we have made in reforming the built environment sector, rebuilding state capacity, and restoring accountability in public works. I also reflected on recent political developments and the importance of principled leadership in sustaining reform. None of this work would be possible without collective leadership committed to putting South Africa first.



Speaking at the Cape Town Press Club



On 6 February, I formally handed over the refurbished Nieuwe Dome to the Speaker of the National Assembly for use during parliamentary sittings while the National Assembly building is rebuilt, and ahead of the State of the Nation Address as promised. The rapid refurbishment of this facility over just ten weeks is a testament to the professionalism, technical skill and dedication that exists within the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure. It demonstrates what is possible when focus, capability and accountability are aligned.



Handing over the completed Nieuwe Dome to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Thoko Didiza.

As we move deeper into February, the programme ahead reflects the pace and ambition required of us. We look forward to the State of the Nation Address, continued oversight of major construction projects – including the Club Med development in KwaZulu-Natal, which will create thousands of jobs – and the signing of a historic Adopt-a-Municipality Memorandum of Understanding with the North West Provincial Government to support local municipalities as well as redevelop the Pilanesberg Airport, which tragically burnt down in 2023.

We are also looking forward to a historic signing with the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure, Department of Agriculture and AgriBiz as we work to support farmers across the country with quality infrastructure. Agriculture indeed has a major role to play in South Africa's economic and job growth story.

I also look forward to hosting a number of Iftar events across the country during the month of Ramadan, reaffirming the Department's commitment to inclusion, respect and social cohesion. Later this month, the national budget will be unveiled, providing further clarity on how we will accelerate infrastructure delivery and continue the work of turning South Africa into a construction site that creates jobs, restores confidence and delivers value for money.

I have no doubt that it will be a busy and rewarding year ahead, and I look forward to work with you as we achieve our goal of turning South Africa into a construction site.

*Yours in service*

**DEAN MACPHERSON, MP**

**MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**



public works  
& infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

