

DEAR TEAM

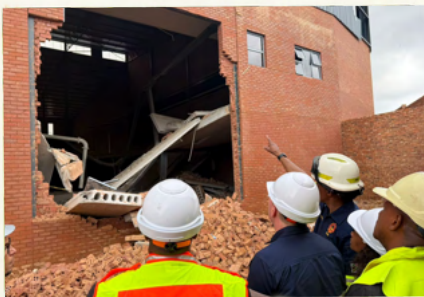
Public Works Infrastructure



As we move further into the year, I want to begin by sincerely thanking each and every one of you for the hard work, commitment and professionalism you have shown thus far. The pace of work across the Department and our entities has been demanding, yet you have continued to deliver with focus and dedication.

As we approach the Easter period, I would also like to wish all those observing a blessed and peaceful Easter weekend. May this be a time of rest, reflection and renewal for you and your loved ones. For those travelling, please do so safely and return well-rested for the work ahead.

At the beginning of the month, our country was confronted with a tragic reminder of the responsibility we carry as custodians of the built environment. The building collapse in Ormonde, south of Johannesburg, which claimed the lives of several construction workers, is something that must never be normalised. Buildings are not meant to collapse.



Visit to the tragic building collapse site in Ormonde.



public works
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Department:
Public Works and Infrastructure
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



This incident reinforced the importance of the work carried out across our Department. In response, a full technical, governance and regulatory enquiry was initiated to determine the cause of the collapse, identify any negligence or misconduct, and ensure accountability. This process will also inform stronger enforcement and oversight across the built environment sector. Public safety must remain at the centre of everything we do.

Mid-month, our focus on strengthening governance and accountability continued across several fronts. We moved forward with efforts to protect state assets from unlawful occupation and misuse, reinforcing the principle that public property must always serve the people of South Africa. This includes taking decisive steps where individuals seek to benefit improperly from state-owned properties.



Briefing to Parliament on progress with the Department's legislative reform programme.

During this period, we also briefed the Portfolio Committee on Public Works & Infrastructure on progress with the Department's legislative reform programme. Key pieces of legislation currently under development will play an important role in improving infrastructure delivery, strengthening oversight, and ensuring greater accountability within the built environment. At the same time, work is advancing to modernise the legislative framework governing state property as we prepare for the establishment of the South African National Property Company.

These reforms are central to our broader objective of turning the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure into the economic delivery unit of South Africa.

Our work during the middle of the month also took us directly into communities and project sites across the country. One of the most encouraging engagements was with young participants in the Expanded Public Works Programme's National Youth Service in Durban, where practical skills such as bricklaying, plumbing and electrical work are being developed.

This is the future of the EPWP. It must be more than a temporary work opportunity. It must become a pathway to permanent employment, entrepreneurship and long-term economic participation. The work underway to reform the programme is aimed at achieving exactly this outcome.



Visit to the Expanded Public Works Programme's National Youth Service.

Around the same time, we also saw visible progress on major infrastructure projects, including the Johannesburg Deeds Office development. This project stands as a powerful example of what the Department is capable of delivering when professionalism, planning and execution are aligned. It also signals renewed confidence in the revitalisation of our urban centres.



Community Iftar with residents in Fietas, Johannesburg.

Later in the month, we continued engaging with communities and stakeholders across the country. From participating in community engagements during the holy month of Ramadan, to joining discussions on how we unlock South Africa's urban potential, these moments reinforced the importance of partnership, inclusion and social cohesion in the work we do.

Infrastructure is not simply about physical assets. It is about people. It is about dignity. And it is about creating opportunities for all South Africans.

Towards the end of the month, accountability and performance within the construction sector remained a key focus. Significant progress has been made in ensuring that contractors who fail to deliver are held accountable. This marks a decisive shift towards enforcing quality, value and professionalism in public infrastructure delivery.

We also continued to take a firm stance against any attempts to undermine the integrity of our programmes. Allegations of political interference in initiatives such as the Expanded Public Works Programme are taken extremely seriously, and steps are being taken to strengthen transparency and remove any opportunity for abuse.

In addition, oversight visits to major infrastructure projects, including catalytic developments such as fresh produce markets ahead of our meeting of the Minister and MECs in Mpumalanga, have demonstrated the impact that well-executed infrastructure can have in supporting economic activity, empowering small businesses and strengthening local economies. These projects must become the norm, not the exception.



Visit to the Fresh Produce Market in Mbombela.

The month concluded with strong momentum on the investment front, where infrastructure once again took centre stage as a driver of economic growth. Through the work of Infrastructure South Africa, we continue to remove regulatory bottlenecks, accelerate project preparation and unlock investment into the country. This is critical as we work to ensure more shovels in the ground and more cranes in the sky.



Attending the South African Investment Conference in Sandton.

As we reflect on the past month, it is clear that the Department is steadily building momentum across multiple fronts. From strengthening governance and accountability, to unlocking investment, improving project delivery and engaging directly with communities, your work is making a tangible difference.

None of this progress would be possible without your continued dedication and commitment to public service. Each official, across every branch and entity, plays a role in ensuring that this Department delivers on its mandate.

As we move into the next phase of the year, our focus must remain on execution. We must continue to raise standards, strengthen accountability and deliver infrastructure that improves the lives of South Africans.

Together, we will continue working to turn South Africa into a construction site, to restore confidence in the sector, and to ensure that infrastructure becomes a key driver of economic growth and job creation.

Thank you once again for your service, your professionalism and your commitment to building a better South Africa.

Yours in service

DEAN MACPHERSON, MP

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE