



public works
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MEDIA STATEMENT

STATE-OWNED PROPERTIES RELEASED NATIONWIDE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ONE MONTH AFTER HISTORIC ETHEKWINI MOU SIGNING

(Note to editors: The tender documentation for the 24 Department of Public Works & Infrastructure properties released for request for proposal can be found [here](#).)

- The Department of Public Works & Infrastructure has released 24 state-owned properties located across South Africa for requests for proposals from public and private entities.
- The requests for proposals follow a historic memorandum of understanding which was signed by the Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, KwaZulu-Natal MEC Martin Meyer and eThekweni Mayor Cyril Xaba to use public assets for the public good.
- The release of the 24 properties for requests for proposal marks a shift for the department where the state previously retained high-value properties despite the properties serving no purpose.

A month after Public Works & Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson, KwaZulu-Natal Member for the Executive Committee for Public Works & Infrastructure, Martin Meyer, and eThekweni Mayor, Cyril Xaba, signed a memorandum of understanding to use public assets for public good, the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure this week released underutilised state-owned properties located nationwide for requests for proposals. This marks phase one of the programme.

Members of the public and private entities now have until the 13th of March 2025 to make proposals on how these properties can be utilised to ensure that they contribute to the public good, help ignite job creation and add value to their communities. After the 13th of March, the requests for proposals will be evaluated to consider which are feasible before moving ahead with the process which may include long-term leases, public-private partnerships or selling the assets.

“This marks a major milestone for the Department in the 7th Administration where we will make good on our promise to invite private and public role-players on this scale to bring us proposals on how these properties can be utilised towards truly benefitting the people of South Africa, either through repurposing or redevelopment. This means that, where feasible, the state may partner with the private sector to ensure that properties contribute to economic growth and job

creation. We believe these properties will attract significant investment and jobs through their redevelopment,” Minister Macpherson said.

“We are hoping to use these properties as an example of what can be achieved with underutilised state-owned properties country-wide, and we will soon be signing similar memorandums of understanding with other metropolitan municipalities in Gauteng and the Western Cape to expand the process. This process signals a shift from the department that previously hung onto properties despite serving no purpose. With this programme, the era of state-owned buildings standing empty, attracting crime to communities and chasing away investment is ending.”

In this round, 24 Department of Public Works & Infrastructure properties were released for request for proposal located nationwide, with additional properties to be considered for release for request for proposal pending the success of this rounding. The eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality and the provincial Department of Public Works & Infrastructure are following similar processes with the underutilised properties they own.

“I would like to applaud the department public officials under the leadership of The Head of the Property Management Trading Entity, Mr Siza Sibande, whose team have worked tirelessly over the past few weeks to help make our vision of using public assets for the public good. By working together with the Municipality and the Provincial Government, we are charting a new course for how state-owned properties can be utilised to serve the people of South Africa.”

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