



Time to blow the whistle on looters of state properties...

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Move to recover land, farms houses and other properties stolen and transferred and occupied before 1994 and houses sold below market venue , other properties and farms Department of Public Works and Roads is expected to take lead in the province, to help in track down stolen state assets, illegally occupied including houses and farms sold to individuals for a song, prior or immediately after 1994 democratic transition.

To this end, the Chief Directorate: Facility Management of the provincial department plans to up the ante in a joint efforts with Office of the Premier and the North West Office of the Public Service Commission soonest once all duck are in a row.

But in the meantime, members of the public are called upon to call the Public Service Commission's Anti- Corruption Hotline at 0800 701 701 to report state owned properties that were illegally acquire or sold at below market value.

The Operation Bring Back (OBB) programme is an initiative of the National Department of Public Works (DPW) embraced by all nine provinces to recover tracks of land, farms and properties sole and transferred at below market value.

For North West, these would be properties and assets illegally occupied and or stolen from the state by individuals during the free-for-all spree after the collapse of the former bantustan of Bophuthatswana and after.

In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, No 108 of 1996, all state owned national and provincial immovable assets must be vested in the name of the national government or in the name of the nine provinces.

The national government is therefore the custodian of all national government immovable assets. In April 2011, the National Department of Public Works started an OBB programme, which was largely dependent on the public coming forward to report cases of misappropriation.

This was done through a call centre which was launched during a public communication campaign at the time. However, not much was achieved at the time as no cases were and no cases were investigated.

An OBB programme has been launched internally by the National Department of Public Works to specifically deal with identifying, investigating, and recovering possible cases where state properties

have unlawfully and to the to the detriment of the state been:

Disposed of other than through a proper transfer

To another state custodian, private individuals, companies, trusts,

Transferred incorrectly / unlawfully (incorrect property transferred)

Occupied unlawfully or encroached upon

Sold and transferred at below market value where not donated for valid reasons.

ENDS

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