

02 May 2006

Mr F. Bhengu
Chairperson
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
Portfolio Committee on Public Works
P O Box 15
Cape Town
8000

Per Fax (021) 403 - 8190

Dear Mr Bhengu,

Firstly let me express my gratitude for having been invited to make a submission on the Immovable Asset Management Bill (B 1 2006).

It is also encouraging to note that the Portfolio Committee keeps CETA in mind and is considered a key stakeholder on Public Works for a number of relevant and obvious reasons.

CETA is committed towards infrastructure development by virtue of being involved in the facilitation of skills development in the construction sector as relevant skills will enhance the quality of infrastructure development as coordinated by the Department of Public Works within a government ambit.

The following should be noted:

1. Is a parastatal established through Skills Development Act
2. Its existence is based on the NSDS cycle (5 Years)
3. Is governed amongst others by the PFMA of 1999
4. Gets funding primarily through levies received from its member organizations.
5. Cannot own immovable assets



Submission in relation to the Bill:


1. The bill covers the major important aspect in relation to responsible use and maintenance of state assets which reflects very good sustainability principles. The bill should ensure that all state assets are accounted for and all asset registers completed. It might be important to commission a process of ensuring that all state assets are accounted for and are used for the purposes intended for, especially if one considered the homelands as defined in the Bill.

2. In as much the bill limits its scope to provincial and national departments. Would like to suggest that SETA's are included in the use of government immovable assets. There are currently 23 SETA's most with regional offices. If they rent space from government premises they might save cost on rent and maximize their cash flow for skills development.

3. CETA is currently in the process of stabling Construction Centers of Excellence (CCOE), and it might be appropriate to engage in a partnership with Public Works in the identification of immovable assets that could be used for this purpose, especially from those not currently used but might be relevant for training of relevant construction related trades. As refurbishing of such could be used as sites for training in the first instance, and thereafter as centers of excellence (CCOE). The aspect of a partnership in relation to infrastructure development and productive use of assets between CETA and the Department of Public Works becomes paramount.

4. In respect of SETA's having Accounting Officers as defined in the PFMA (Act 1 of 1999) the maintenance of those specific assets will probably fall within their jurisdiction, which will allow Department of Public Works to have more personnel contributing to the asset management, which will in turn minimize the number of forgotten buildings. This will enhance the aspect of sustainability/sustainable development.

Yours faithfully,


T. Thejane
Chief Executive Officer