

Update: Botha Sigcau building fire and alternative accommodation - Visit by Office of Premier

A meeting was held with the Office of the Premier on 31 March 2026 to provide an update on the Botha Sigcau Building fire incident and outline interim working arrangements as the facility remains uninhabitable. Management reported that the building is still inaccessible owing to ongoing flare-ups, with the most recent occurring on 29 March 2026. Infra-red imaging from COGTA's drone indicates that parts of the building remain extremely hot, and smoke was still observed as recently as 30 March 2026. As a result, technical teams, including structural engineers and law enforcement agencies, have not yet been able to access the building for investigations.

Alternative accommodation

Management presented various options for temporary relocation, however, most identified sites are not yet fully ready for occupation and require urgent intervention:

- **Social Development:** Calton House requires completion of tiling, air conditioning, and blinds, whilst space at KD Matanzima Building is partially suitable.
- **Health:** Umtata Library (Men's Clinic) has electrical faults; Ikhwezi Lokusa Special School is still under renovation; the COVID Unit site lacks water, electricity, and network infrastructure.
- **Education:** Trinset facilities present major challenges, including poor ablution conditions, leaking roofs, and lack of electricity and internet connectivity across classrooms, library, and hostel.
- **Transport:** Identified sites (Training Centre, Mthatha Depot, Mechanical Workshop, Government Garage) all require critical repairs, including network installation, water supply, electrical work, and infrastructure upgrades.
- **Agriculture:** Proposed sites require extensive renovations, including restoration of water, electricity, and structural integrity, with significant cost implications.
- **COGTA, DEDEAT, DHS:** To be confirmed.
- **SAPS:** Bosasa Building, state of readiness to be confirmed.
- **Deeds Office:** 40 Blakeway Street, state of readiness to be confirmed.
- **DSRAC:** Nelson Mandela Museum, state of readiness to be confirmed.

The PSA raised serious concerns regarding the readiness, safety, and suitability of these facilities, noting that many are not compliant for immediate occupation. It was emphasised that no employee should be relocated to unsafe or inadequately prepared workplaces. Additionally, labour highlighted that relocation to areas outside town, such as Trinset and Tsolo Road, will impose financial burdens on employees. The employer must therefore provide transport or alternative incentives to mitigate these impacts. In addition, a provincial task team will be formed to look into the matter.

Members can *WhatsApp* Ms Shukuma on 082 880 2936 regarding any developments with the Botha Sigcau matter.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER