

**MINISTRY**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Department of Public Works l Central Government Offices l 256 Madiba Street l Pretoria l Contact: +27 (0)12 406 2034 l +27 (0)12 406 1224

Private Bag X9155 l CAPE TOWN, 8001 l RSA 4th Floor Parliament Building l 120 Plain Street l CAPE TOWN l Tel: +27 21 468 6900 Fax: +27 21 462 4592

 [www.publicworks.gov.za](http://www.publicworks.gov.za)

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 3803 [NW4378E]**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.: 45 of 2018**

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**DATE OF REPLY: 20 DECEMBER 2018**

**3803. Dr M J Figg (DA) asked the Minister of Public Works:**

What was the (a) address, (b) value, (c) size, (d) reason for not being utilised, (e) amount of rates and taxes paid on and (f) amount spent on the maintenance of each under-utilised and unutilised property owned by his department (i) in the (aa) 2015-16, (bb) 2016-17 and (cc) 2017-18 financial years and (iii) since 1 April 2018? **NW4378E**

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**The Minister of Public Works**

**REPLY:**

The estimated value of all vacant properties under the custodianship of the Department, based on the property use, type, condition and zoning amongst other valuable characteristics is R7,4 billion.

State-owned properties are vacant due to various reasons including the following:

* Residential properties no longer required by Clients of the Department of Public Works;
* Lack of demand for the utilisation of specific properties either by Government or the private sector; and
* Lack of funds by the Department to rebuild, refurbish or develop the property for utilisation.

The Department pays rates and taxes to municipalities annually for all properties within a certain municipality and not on individual properties.

The Department commissions maintenance projects on utilised properties in line with the available funds. There is no maintenance budget for vacant properties.