

MEDIA STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Social facilitation to lead the fight against construction site invasions

15 December 2023 – The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Minister, Honourable Sihle Zikalala, says public facilitation is the key to fighting criminality of site invasions and extortion that has crippled projects in construction. This requires involving local communities in co-creating infrastructure combined with fair, meaningful subcontracting on construction projects to mobilise communities in protecting projects, securing infrastructure, and isolating criminal elements involved in project invasions.

The Minister was addressing members of the National Stakeholder Forum (NSF) at the Hilton Hotel in Sandton, Johannesburg on Tuesday, 12 December 2023, where challenges limiting the construction industry's capacity to deliver infrastructure, stimulate economic growth, and create a better environment for the survival of businesses were discussed.

Infrastructure underpins the country's economic growth and development, the Minister said, and the industry therefore needs to address the blockages for accelerated infrastructure delivery and for projects to hit the ground. "As we roll out infrastructure projects it is critical that there are benefits to local communities. It is found that where there is community participation early in the process there is a higher chance of successful project rollout. Within the DPWI we have established a dedicated capacity to promote the social facilitation framework that was approved by Cabinet. The Department will harness the support of its entities to support the incorporation of social facilitation in infrastructure projects", he continued.

"We need to expand the reach of the cidb Register of Contractors to the private sector, thereby deepening the development and transformation of the construction industry. This will be supported through amendments to the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Act 38 of 2000. We also support the establishment of a construction industry ombudsman which will provide cost-effective mechanisms for resolving disputes in the industry and to provide support for vulnerable role players that seek redress on disputes", the Minister added.

Echoing the Minister's words, the Chief Executive Officer of the Construction Industry Development Board (cidb), Bongani Dladla said: "A topic like this is quite important to us and moving it beyond discussions and seminars but getting it to designing solutions through our commitment to partnerships with all role players. We look forward under the leadership of DPWI to an NSF that is solution-driven and answers key solutions on how we can improve the delivery of infrastructure in a transformative manner that ensures inclusive growth of the industry."

The NSF was established to advise the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure and the cidb on matters affecting the development of the construction industry, including policy and regulatory constraints. Construction industry bodies, infrastructure clients, contractors, built environment professionals, academics, and people with skills, expertise, and experience in the industry are represented on the forum.

Poor practices, policy and regulatory challenges in the construction procurement environment, enterprise development, and professionalisation of the construction industry are among key

development blockages that will form the focus of the NSF during its two-year tenure which began in October 2023.

The cidb is a statutory body established under the executive authority of the DPWI. It was established by the Construction Industry Development Board Act 38 of 2000 to regulate and develop the construction industry through strategic interventions and partnerships.

Ends.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Sophie Mabela
Communications Specialist
sophiem@cidb.org.za
060 540 9334 | 012 482 7244

Follow and engage with the cidb online:

Website: <http://www.cidb.org.za/>

Facebook: Construction Industry Development Board
<https://www.facebook.com/cidbSouthAfrica>

Twitter: @cidb_sa
https://twitter.com/cidb_sa

LinkedIn: Construction Industry Development Board SA
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/cidb-sa/>

YouTube: cidb South Africa
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUCAbdPhQ3na5apwlnjCSfA>