

**VOTE OF THANKS BY CIDB BOARD CHAIRPERSON, KHULILE NZO, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE CIDB-DPWI 2025 NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT AT
BIRCHWOOD HOTEL & OR TAMBO CONFERENCE CENTRE, GAUTENG,
SOUTH AFRICA.**

14 NOVEMBER 2025

Opening and Acknowledgements

Good Afternoon!

To our Programme Director, the Honourable Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala, thank you for guiding us through this powerful day. Minister Macpherson, Esteemed MECs, fellow Board Members, the visionary leadership from the DPWI, my dedicated cidb colleagues, and every single stakeholder, delegate, and participant who has graced this room.

It is a true honour to deliver this Vote of Thanks.

I know many of you have been looking forward to this part of the day. Partly because your brains are tired from all the deep thinking, and partly because, let's be honest, you get to look at this face one last time before we conclude.

I want you to know I moisturised this morning just for the closing session. I understand the assignment: look good, say thanks, and send you home inspired.

This summit, and the energy we've felt these two days, is proof that the cidb is not just a regulator, but the Brand Leader of the South African construction space. We are the trusted authority that defines standards, drives transformation, and convenes the essential dialogues. Our brand is built on trust and effectiveness, and we intend to keep setting the pace.

Acknowledging Government and Stakeholders

Firstly, let us acknowledge the core partnership that makes all this possible: the Ministry of Public Works and Infrastructure and the entire DPWI team. Minister Macpherson, your leadership has not just set the agenda; it has set the pace.

Deputy Minister Zikalala, your presence and guidance have been instrumental. We thank the whole Public Works team for their tireless, often unseen, work in preparing and executing this national platform.

This summit, themed: "Unlocking Infrastructure Delivery: Removing Barriers to Raise Industry Performance," is a testament to the belief that government and industry must work as one.

We were profoundly honoured yesterday morning to receive the Keynote Address from His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa. His message was clear: Infrastructure is the engine that drives economic growth and social transformation. His commitment of R1 trillion in infrastructure spending is a vote of confidence in every person in this room. We must respond with a commitment to a solution-driven approach that delivers on this mandate. This is the non-negotiable handshake we make today: less talk about the problem, more action on the solution. We have the roadmap; now we must start laying the foundation.

And to our stakeholders - the contractors, the engineers, the architects, the emerging businesses, the financiers, the academics, and the professional bodies, you are the muscle, the brains, and the capital that builds our nation.

We have convened here not just to complain about barriers, but to collectively commit to a solution-driven approach. This is the non-negotiable handshake we make today: less talk about the problem, more action on the solution. We have the roadmap; now we must start laying the foundation.

Major Themes, Efficiency, and Elegance

Over these two intensive days, we have tackled the core challenges of our sector across our four commissions:

1. Industry Performance: Looking for benchmarks and resilience.
2. Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation: Preparing for the future we must build, not just the one we inherited.
3. Transformation, Skills Development, and Inclusivity: Ensuring that the opportunities we create are accessible to everyone, especially our youth and emerging black businesses.
4. Governance and Regulatory Compliance: Because effectiveness demands adherence and ethical practice.

This brings me to the topic of efficiency and effectiveness. In the construction industry, these aren't just buzzwords; they are the difference between a project that delivers prosperity and one that sinks taxpayer money. We are moving past the time of excuses. We must be efficient with our resources and effective in our outcomes. We must build faster, smarter, and with absolute integrity.

And speaking of effectiveness, can we just pause for a moment to appreciate the sheer intellectual firepower and elegance we've seen on the stages, especially from our MECs and the Commission Rapporteurs? Ladies, you didn't just present the resolutions, you owned the stage with gravitas and grace.

You not only shattered glass ceilings; you redesigned the entire infrastructure. And you did it looking incredibly sharp, which, let's be honest, is a talent. Thank you for showing us how success is done with style.

Team Acknowledgement

Now, I must turn my attention to the team I am privileged to serve: the incredible staff of the cidb.

Earlier this morning, we proudly witnessed the Award of Certificates to our Construction Management Systems Graduates. That moment was a visible reminder of the cidb's commitment to continuous skills development and the professionalisation of our industry. This is how we ensure efficiency - by training the best.

To Mr. Bongani Dladla, our CEO, and every member of his executive team: you have orchestrated a summit that is world-class. You are the engine room of the construction revolution.

To all the support staff, the logistics crew, the security, the sound engineers, the translators, and those moving the furniture: you are the unseen joints and trusses that hold the whole structure up.

The success of the cidb, and indeed, the success of this summit, is a powerful demonstration of teamwork. We are the definition of a collective. We have laid out ambitious plans, and it is only through your combined, dedicated efforts - often working ridiculous hours - that we move from a plan on paper to a tangible reality. Thank you for your commitment to excellence; it truly makes the difference.

Conclusion

As we sign these resolutions and close this remarkable gathering, let's carry the energy and clarity we've gained here back to our provinces and sites. We have identified the barriers, and we have committed to being the solution.

This has been a profoundly successful summit. But success is not a destination; it's a constant movement forward.

I want to leave you with a thought, a quote that I believe defines our mission. It's an adaptation of something a great man once said:

"We shape our infrastructure; thereafter, our infrastructure shapes us."

The roads, the schools, the hospitals, the power plants - what we build today is the environment in which our children will grow, innovate, and thrive tomorrow. Let's build them an environment worthy of their potential.

Thank you for your attendance, your participation, your insight, and your commitment. Drive safely. And remember, the work starts now!

I look forward to seeing every single one of you, looking just as good as you do today, at next year's summit.

Thank you.

Ends.