

PRESS RELEASE

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Construction sector signs landmark 2025 Summit Declaration to turbocharge infrastructure delivery

Government, business and labour agree on tougher performance rules, action against site crime and expanded support for small contractors to unlock jobs and make South Africa a permanent construction site.

Boksburg, 14 November 2025 - The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), in partnership with the Construction Industry Development Board (cidb), today concluded the 2025 National Construction Summit at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre in Boksburg, Gauteng.

The two-day summit brought together over 1500 delegates from all three spheres of government, organised labour, professional bodies, emerging contractors, financiers, and civil society under the theme “Unlocking Infrastructure Delivery: Raising Construction Industry Performance.” It concluded with the signing of the 2025 National Construction Summit Declaration, which commits partners to turbocharging the construction industry for improved performance and accountability and sets out a shared vision and a series of time-bound actions to rebuild confidence in the sector and accelerate infrastructure-led growth.

The Declaration affirms that construction remains a cornerstone of South Africa’s economic and social development. It acknowledges that the sector is still held back by project delays, cost overruns, skills shortages, transformation gaps and governance failures.

The summit took place amid weak growth, disrupted projects and financial strain facing the sector that’s now beginning to turn the corner. Construction remains a major employer and growth driver, with recent labour force data showing strong net job creation and the third quarter of 2025 delivering one of the largest employment gains of any sector. The 2025 gathering also built on the Durban National Construction Summit on Crime-Free Construction Sites, where stakeholders adopted the Durban Declaration and committed to a joint approach to tackling site disruptions.

Over two days, delegates worked through plenary sessions and four thematic commissions. The recommendations from these commissions were consolidated into the 2025 National Construction Summit Declaration, which will guide implementation over the next 18 months.

Central to the Declaration is a commitment to publish a Unified Performance Improvement Framework for the industry by 30 June 2026. This framework will track performance across infrastructure clients, professional service providers and contractors, identify non-performing clients, and enable the blacklisting of contractors and professionals who fail to deliver.

The Declaration also positions the B.U.I.L.D Programme as a central lever for enterprise and skills development, including commitments to train at least 1 000 contractors on construction

management systems and 3 000 beneficiaries under the cidb Skills Development Standard in 2026.

On social stability and community participation, the Declaration commits government and industry to full implementation of the Integrated Social Facilitation Framework (ISFF) across infrastructure clients by 30 June 2026. This includes direct support to departments, municipalities and state entities to apply the framework from project inception, and the creation of a formal professional registration category for social facilitators, so that community interests are represented fairly, localisation and subcontracting are managed transparently, and grievances are resolved before they escalate into conflict or extortion.

The Declaration commits to publishing a National Building Information Modelling (BIM) Framework by 30 September 2025, standardising and digitalising project management processes in the public works system and updating building codes and procurement policies to reflect sustainability, energy efficiency and climate-resilient design.

Finally, the Declaration seeks to clarify and strengthen the public works infrastructure mandate by moving towards a single legislative and regulatory home for the built environment under DPWI and its entities.

Minister of DPWI, Dean Macpherson, said: “The Declaration is not just a document - it is a mandate for action. It provides us with a clear, united roadmap to accelerate project delivery and restore the integrity of the construction value chain. This will help restore confidence in the industry, which will support further investment and, most importantly, job growth as we work towards turning South Africa into a construction site. Indeed, as I mentioned at the start of the conference, the construction industry has turned a corner. Last year, the National Construction Summit tackled the construction mafia head-on, and we have since seen a meaningful reduction in construction site stoppages nationwide. This year, we aimed to build on this foundation to further support and grow the industry, and I have no doubt that the Declaration we’ve adopted will help us achieve that goal.”

The Deputy Minister of DPWI Sihle Zikalala, said: “These past two days have shown that when we prepare projects properly, engage communities early and protect sites from criminal elements, construction can create jobs at scale. The latest labour force survey shows that our sector created hundreds of thousands of jobs in the third quarter of this year alone. The Integrated Social Facilitation Framework is our game changer. It will ensure fair, transparent localisation through subcontracting and create real employment opportunities for people living near projects. The Declaration turns these priorities into commitments that we will track and report on.”

Bongani Dladla, CEO of cidb, said: “The National Construction Summit has been our chance to reset how South Africa plans, procures and delivers infrastructure and to move decisively from talk to action. That means building projects around people from the outset. If we get this right, the 2025 National Construction Summit Declaration will not sit on a shelf; it will be a working roadmap for higher-quality work. By June 2026 we should demonstrate visible progress against the commitments made at this Summit.”

Ends.

ISSUED BY: THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE (DPWI),
AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (cidb)

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