

## **SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Gauteng Contractor Development Outreach Roadshow**

**26 June 2026 | Emerald Hotel, Sedibeng District Municipality**

#### **Acknowledgements**

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Hon. Nkululeko Dunga, MPL, MEC for Finance, Gauteng Province;

Hon. Kedibone Diale-Tlabela, MPL, MEC for Roads and Transport, Gauteng Province;

Cllr Lerato Maloka, Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality;

Cllr Hassan Mako, Executive Mayor of Emfuleni Local Municipality;

Mr Khulile Nzo, cidb Board Chairperson;

Dr Lindelani Matshidze, Chairperson of Agrément South Africa;

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Representatives of state-owned entities, development finance institutions and infrastructure delivery agencies;

Industry associations, professional bodies and academic institutions;

Contractors, exhibitors, speakers, members of the media and distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning.

## **Opening**

We are gathered here today because infrastructure development is not only about building roads, bridges, schools, clinics, water systems, houses and public facilities.

Infrastructure development is also about building people, enterprises, skills and a capable construction industry that can deliver the infrastructure our communities need.

Every infrastructure project represents more than a contract. It represents an opportunity to create jobs, grow local businesses, transfer skills, strengthen communities and expand participation in the economy.

This is why contractor development must be treated as a central part of infrastructure delivery.

A capable contractor base is not separate from infrastructure delivery. It is the foundation upon which successful infrastructure delivery depends.

If we want infrastructure that is delivered on time, within budget and to the required standard, we must invest in the contractors who are expected to deliver that infrastructure.

## **Why Gauteng and Sedibeng Matter**

Gauteng occupies a strategic position in South Africa's infrastructure and economic landscape. It is the economic hub of our country and a centre of opportunity, innovation, movement, enterprise and ambition.

But Gauteng also carries significant infrastructure pressures. The province continues to experience population growth, urban expansion and increasing demand for reliable infrastructure systems.

This means that we must continue investing in roads, water and sanitation, public facilities, human settlements, transport infrastructure and economic infrastructure that supports growth and improves the quality of life of our people.

Here in Sedibeng, infrastructure investment must also support local economic participation. It must create opportunities for emerging contractors, small businesses, suppliers, artisans and workers.

Communities must not only see infrastructure being built around them. They must also participate in building that infrastructure.

That is the purpose of this Roadshow.

### **We Listened to Contractors**

This Roadshow is informed by what contractors themselves have told us.

Ahead of this engagement, contractors were asked what is holding back the growth of their businesses and what support they need most.

The message was clear.

Nearly half of respondents, **47%**, identified access to public sector opportunities as the biggest challenge limiting their growth.

A further **24%** identified access to finance as a major barrier.

The survey also showed that **53%** of contractors have struggled to access loans or guarantees over the past year.

In addition, **70%** of respondents identified partnerships and subcontracting opportunities as one of the most valuable forms of support they would like to see.

These insights confirm that the challenges facing contractors are practical, immediate and serious.

Contractors are asking for access to opportunities, access to funding, skills development, business support, partnerships and a fair chance to grow.

As government, we must listen to these concerns and respond with practical interventions.

This Roadshow is therefore evidence of a government that listens, engages and works with partners to respond to the real challenges faced by emerging contractors.

### **Responding to Access to Funding**

One of the strongest concerns raised by contractors is access to finance.

Many emerging contractors have the ambition, technical ability and willingness to work, but are held back by limited access to working capital, guarantees and project finance.

Without financial support, contractors struggle to take up opportunities, manage cash flow, buy materials, pay workers and complete projects successfully.

This is why the **R300 million cidb–SEDFA Construction Fund** is an important response to the funding challenge facing emerging contractors.

The Fund is aimed at strengthening access to financial support for contractors and improving their ability to participate more meaningfully in the construction economy.

Access to finance is not a side issue in contractor development. It is central to business growth, project execution and contractor progression.

If we are serious about building sustainable contractors, we must address the financial barriers that prevent them from growing.

### **Strengthening Contractor Capability Through Construction Management Systems**

Access to funding is important, but funding alone is not enough.

Contractors also need strong business systems, better project planning, contract administration, financial management, compliance systems and the ability to manage projects professionally.

This is why the rollout of **Construction Management Systems** to emerging contractors is an important part of the contractor development agenda.

These systems are intended to strengthen the way contractors manage their businesses and projects. They will support improved planning, compliance, contract management, financial controls and project delivery performance.

Importantly, these systems are being implemented in partnership with centres of excellence, including institutions such as the **University of Johannesburg**.

This is the kind of partnership we need in the construction sector: government, the cidb, academia and industry working together to provide contractors with practical tools and structured support.

A contractor with stronger systems is better positioned to deliver quality work, grow sustainably, create jobs and participate in larger opportunities.

### **Building Skills Through the Certificate in Construction Management**

The development of contractors must also include structured training and skills development.

In July 2026, the cidb will officially launch the **Certificate in Construction Management for Grade 2 to Grade 6 cidb-registered contractors**.

This programme will be rolled out through the cidb **B.U.I.L.D Programme** in partnership with academic institutions, including the **Durban University of Technology, Walter Sisulu University** and the **University of the Free State**.

The Certificate in Construction Management will support emerging contractors with practical knowledge and skills in areas such as construction management, project planning, financial management, contract administration, compliance and business management.

Many contractors do not fail because they lack ambition. They often fail because they have not been given adequate access to structured support, mentorship, systems and business development opportunities.

Through this programme, we want to ensure that contractors are better equipped to run sustainable businesses, deliver projects successfully and progress through the cidb grading system.

Contractor development must build capability, support progression, improve performance and help contractors become sustainable enterprises.

## Connecting Contractors to Opportunities

The strongest message from contractors was the need for greater access to opportunities.

That is why this Roadshow has brought together key infrastructure clients and development partners.

Today, contractors have an opportunity to engage with stakeholders such as **SANRAL**, the **Independent Development Trust**, **local government**, **SEDFA**, the **Gauteng Office of the Premier**, the **Department of Water and Sanitation**, **Sedibeng District Municipality**, **Rand Water**, **SARS** and other public sector partners.

This is deliberate.

Contractors must not only hear about opportunities after they have closed. They must understand the pipeline, procurement requirements, compliance obligations and how to position themselves to participate.

This Roadshow is designed to connect contractors directly with the institutions that plan, fund, procure and implement infrastructure projects.

Access to opportunities must be supported by access to information. Access to information must be supported by compliance. Compliance must be supported by capability. Capability must be supported by funding, training, mentorship and partnerships.

That is how we build a construction sector that is inclusive, competitive and sustainable.

## From Participation to Progression

Over the years, significant work has been done to broaden participation in the construction industry.

But participation alone is not enough.

The real test is progression.

Are contractors growing? Are they moving from lower grades to higher grades? Are they building sustainable businesses? Are they able to access larger and more complex projects? Are they creating jobs and improving delivery outcomes?

These are the questions that must guide our contractor development work.

We must ensure that emerging contractors are not trapped at entry level.

We must ensure that support programmes help contractors build technical, financial and managerial capability.

We must ensure that public infrastructure investment contributes to transformation, skills development and enterprise growth.

This requires a coordinated approach between national government, provincial government, municipalities, the cidb, infrastructure clients, state-owned entities, development finance institutions, professional bodies, academic institutions and the private sector.

No single institution can transform the construction sector alone. But together, we can create a stronger, more capable and more inclusive industry.

### **Contractor Development Is Not an Event**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Contractor development is not an event.

It is not a once-off engagement.

It is an ongoing commitment to building a high-performing, transformed and sustainable construction industry.

This Roadshow is part of a broader programme of action.

The **R300 million cidb–SEDFA Construction Fund**, the rollout of **Construction Management Systems**, the upcoming **Certificate in Construction Management**, infrastructure opportunity engagements, masterclasses, partnerships with academic institutions and collaboration with infrastructure clients all form part of the same commitment.

That commitment is to ensure that contractors are not left to navigate the sector alone.

It is to ensure that contractors have access to information, finance, training, systems, partnerships and opportunities.

It is to ensure that emerging contractors are supported to grow, compete and succeed.

When contractors succeed, infrastructure delivery improves. When infrastructure delivery improves, communities benefit. And when communities benefit, our economy grows.

## **Call to Action**

To the contractors here today: use this platform.

Engage the institutions that are here. Ask questions. Understand the requirements. Use the masterclasses. Build networks. Strengthen your businesses. Position yourselves for opportunities.

To infrastructure clients and public entities: contractor development must be linked to real project opportunities. It must be built into the way we plan, procure and implement infrastructure.

To the cidb and its partners: continue strengthening practical support that responds to the real needs of contractors.

And to all of us: let us remember that the strength of our infrastructure programme depends on the strength of the construction industry that delivers it.

## **Closing**

The future of Gauteng's infrastructure depends on the strength of its contractor base.

When we develop contractors, we strengthen infrastructure delivery.

When we strengthen infrastructure delivery, we create jobs, grow businesses and improve communities.

The contractors gathered here today are not only building projects. They are helping build Gauteng's future.

Together, government, industry and contractors can build a construction sector that is capable, inclusive, competitive and ready to deliver the infrastructure our communities deserve.

The foundation of infrastructure delivery is a strong contractor base.

Let us work together to build that foundation.

I thank you.



