

**SETTING THE SCENE AND REFLECTIONS ON NCS RESOLUTIONS AND
CONTRACTOR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
BY CIDB BOARD MEMBER, KHULILE NZO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONTRACTOR DEVELOPMENT ROADSHOW AT
EMERALD HOTEL, SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG
26 JUNE 2026**

Opening and Acknowledgements

Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala,

Executive Mayor of Sedibeng,

Councillor Lerato Maloka;

Our esteemed MECs,

My fellow cidb Board Members and our CEO, Mr. Bongani Dladla,

Members of the media,

Programme Director,

Good morning!

And most importantly, good morning to the visionaries, the risk-takers, and the builders in this room, our contractors.

As I sat preparing for today's engagement, I had to laugh at myself. Last night, like millions of you, I watched Bafana Bafana face down Korea at the World Cup.

I'll be honest: I didn't think they had it in them. I had to eat a massive plate of humble pie because our boys did the unexpected. They broke the script. They shifted the paradigm.

And it made me think about why we are actually here today.

We are not gathered in Sedibeng just to tick a compliance box or go through the motions of another government roadshow. We are here because the South African construction industry desperately needs to break its own script.

As Chairperson of the cidb Board, I do not view our mandate through a lens of casual administration. I view it with absolute, uncompromising seriousness.

Infrastructure is not just concrete, steel, and bitumen. Infrastructure is the physical manifestation of economic dignity.

When a road is delayed, an economy suffocates. When a hospital or a school is built poorly, our people suffer. That is why the work we do at the cidb matters, and why the capacity of your businesses is a matter of national urgency.

Moving from Participation to Capital Accumulation

If we look at the programme, the theme for today is: ***"Development Through Partnership."***

But let us subject that phrase to some rigorous, critical thinking. What does "partnership" actually mean in a modern economic landscape?

For too long, "development" in our sector has been treated as a form of corporate social responsibility or a regulatory hurdle. We register a business, we hand over a certificate, and we wish you luck.

That is not development. That is administrative processing.

True development must be measured by sustainable capital accumulation, asset ownership, and structural transformation. My strategic objective for the cidb is to move our contractors away from the destructive cycle of hand to mouth tendering.

We need to transition from entry level survivalism to institutional permanence.

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When we reflect on the resolutions of the **National Construction Summit**, we are looking at a macro-economic blueprint designed to disrupt the status quo. The Summit

laid down a mandate for structural reform, and today, we translate those high-level resolutions into localized, operational priorities through three pillars:

- **Pillar 1: Access to Liquidity (The SEDFA Launch):** We know that the greatest constraint to growth is cash flow. We cannot talk about sustainable development while small contractors are frozen out of commercial banking. That is why, just last month, we partner-launched the R300-million Construction Fund with SEDFA (Small Enterprise Development & Finance Agency).

This fund is a direct, structural market intervention designed to inject affordable blended finance into emerging, black-owned enterprises. It moves us past the talking phase into active capital deployment.

- **Pillar 2: Institutional Capability (The Construction Management Certificate):** Financial injection without operational capability is a recipe for business failure. Under our B.U.I.L.D Programme, we have formally rolled out the cidb Certificate in Construction Management. On 7 July we will launch the learning initiative in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape, and the Free State through our partnership universities.

We are bringing this institutional capacity-building framework to Gauteng. This isn't about giving you a workshop certificate; it is about providing the formal business mastery required to graduate into higher cidb grading levels.

- **Pillar 3: Information Symmetry:** Small contractors cannot grow if they do not see the economic horizon. Today, we are bringing the Gauteng Infrastructure Project Pipeline directly to you. This is about the democratization of data giving you the foresight to plan, invest, and scale before a tender is even gazetted.

A Partnership of Accountability

Let us be completely candid with each other. A partnership is a two-way street of radical accountability.

The state represented here by the DPWI, SANRAL, and our provincial and local government leaders, must commit to creating a predictable, fair, and transparent operating environment.

They must commit to paying on time, honouring contracts, and eliminating the bottlenecks that kill small businesses.

But as contractors, your side of the ledger requires absolute professional excellence. We must eliminate the culture of corner cutting.

Growth requires discipline. It requires moving from the mindset of an individual operator to the mindset of a corporate executive.

The Paradigm Shift

If Bafana Bafana can rewrite their narrative on the global stage when nobody expected it, then the South African construction sector can do the exact same.

We have the intellect, we have the grit, and we have the commercial opportunities right here in Gauteng.

Let us use this day not just to listen, but to deliberate strategically.

Let us challenge the facilitators, network with intention, and leave this room with partnerships that are commercial, viable, and transformative.

The cidb is fully committed to this fight. I am fully committed to this fight.

The question I leave you with today is: Are you ready to build an enterprise that outlives you?

Thank you very much.

ENDS.