



**Ministry of Human Settlements
and Public Works**

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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**ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND PUBLIC
WORKS, MS MAGGIE GOVENDER TO THE KWAZULU-NATAL CIDB
WORKSHOP HELD AT THE SOUTHERN SUN ELANGENI ON 30 JULY 2010**

The CEO of CIDB, Mr R Khoza
Officials of local and Provincial Government
Officials of Provincial CIDB
Stakeholders in the Industry
All others present

Will confirm the greeting once CIDB confirm their attendance of VIPS

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you today. July is indeed a month of great significance, the World Cup was here, yes we have felt it, and it would not have been possible without the contractors, consultants and suppliers in the infrastructure industry who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our world class stadium, the Moses Mabhida stadium was built in time for this event. This brings me back to the theme of "Responding to the Requirements for Efficiencies and Empowerment through Strategic Partnerships" that has been set for the day. CIDB convenes its National Stakeholder Forum as constituted in terms of the CIDB Act (Act 38 of 2000). The purpose of the Forum is to inform the CIDB board, Minister of Public Works and the construction industry stakeholders on issues that affect the industry development and improved delivery of infrastructure to the people of South Africa.

Our focus as the Department of Public Works is to ensure that infrastructure delivery to our two client departments namely Health and Education, happens by responding to the requirements for efficiencies and empowerment through strategic partnerships. Therefore, I must thank CIDB for hosting this workshop by bringing together all the stakeholders in the industry, to discuss, deliberate and charter a way forward to deliver on our infrastructure needs timeously, efficiently and cost effectively.

Today we will also be talking and listening to stakeholders who have a valuable contribution to make. President Zuma in his State of the Nation Address this year said, "This year 2010, shall be a year of action. The defining feature of this administration will be that it knows where people live, understands their needs, and responds faster. Government must work faster, harder and smarter".

Therefore our work is cut for us. Given our marching orders, the Department of Public Works through its Expanded Public Works Program exceeded its target of 20 000 jobs by 2158 in the last financial year. These are not jobs in the mainstream economy, but are job opportunities created to provide unemployed people with an income, work experience and training opportunities. Some of you here today, who as contractors on some of our construction sites have assisted in achieving this target. For your part I thank you.

The CIDB is fulfilling its mandate as an enabler/developer, and also as a regulator/enforcer of compliance has achieved the following:

- Access to CIDB registrations for Contractors – grade 1 is done locally, with a total number of 26 648 contractors being registered, the highest in the country. However the question that one asks, how soon and how many will be elevated to the next level? How many of these registered contractors are actively working on construction sites? How many will eventually reach level 9, and in so doing bridge the gap between levels 1 and 9.
- The regulations have created an enabling environment for the empowerment of contractors. The upward mobility of black owned contractors between the grades of 2-6 shows a rise of 72-96% of all contractors. Level 8 and 9 still pose a challenge for us as CIDB and Government, and off course yourselves, because in order for you to move up the grades you need to meet all the requirements. Currently there are only 5 black owned companies in KwaZulu-Natal, out of 10. This workshop I hope will deliberate these figures and respond to the need to improve efficiencies and empowerment through strategic partnerships.
- There is also a need to create an enabling environment for lower level contractors to be mentored by the higher grades (8 and 9), I am hoping to see more joint ventures between the established contractors and the emerging ones happening to bridge the gap and in so doing allow everyone to enjoy the economic benefits that the construction industry provides. It should not be the case where the rich get richer at the expense of the lower level grade contractors. There should be a system where as you reach higher, you take some of the others along with you. This is partnership in its true sense.

As we are entering Women's month, I would also like to acknowledge the strides that CIDB have taken in ensuring the economic emancipation of our women. It is pleasing to note that the latest stats reveal that there are 1225 women owned companies in construction out of a total of 2770. This in percentage is 44% and growing. Currently there is one level 8 women owned contractor and I salute you

for making strides in what was once perceived as a male dominated field. We hope to encourage school leavers to enter the construction sector not just as engineers or professional but also to train as tradesmen or women in plastering, bricklaying, tiling, etc. For me it was indeed enlightening on a recent trip to King George Hospital to see women contractors engaged in the field of construction.

I would also like to personally extend an invitation to all women owned companies to attend the Women in Construction and Property Summit on 6 July 2010 at the EThekweni Regional Office.

I thank you.

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