

Minister Nxesi says the notion that BBBEE means free hand-outs must end

By Shudufhadzo Mudau

12 July 2018

The Department of Public Works (DPW) Minister Mr TW Nxesi says his Department has taken a hard stance on poorly performing contractors who tarnish the image of the industry and has established its Restriction Committee that will restrict service providers from doing business with Government, if they breach contract conditions or are involved in any fraudulent or corrupt acts. He was addressing delegates at the Construction Sector Charter Council's Strategy Planning Session in Midrand, Gauteng on 12 July 2018.

The Minister urged representatives in the construction sector to put an end to the notion that Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) means free hand-outs and lowering standards. He said that BBBEE meant levelling the playing fields and providing opportunities to people who were previously excluded. "But, from the side of Government, it also means providing a service – completing work on time, to budget and according to the specifications," explained Minister Nxesi.

He also congratulated the Council on the successful consultations and gazetting of the Amended Construction Sector Codes and for providing ample notice of the new BBBEE reporting requirements for Public Works entities. Minister Nxesi also told delegates that Public Works needed to work closely with the Charter Councils as these bodies have similar mandates to transform the Built Environment.