



public works & infrastructure

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MINISTER MACPHERSON CONCLUDES VISIT TO CHINA BY SIGNING DECLARATIONS OF INTENT

Article and Pictures by James de Villers

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, has on Friday concluded his visit to China by signing two declarations of intent with the China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) and ASI Global in China following an official State Visit by President Cyril Ramaphosa to help achieve the vision of turning South Africa into a construction site, growing the economy and create thousands of new jobs.

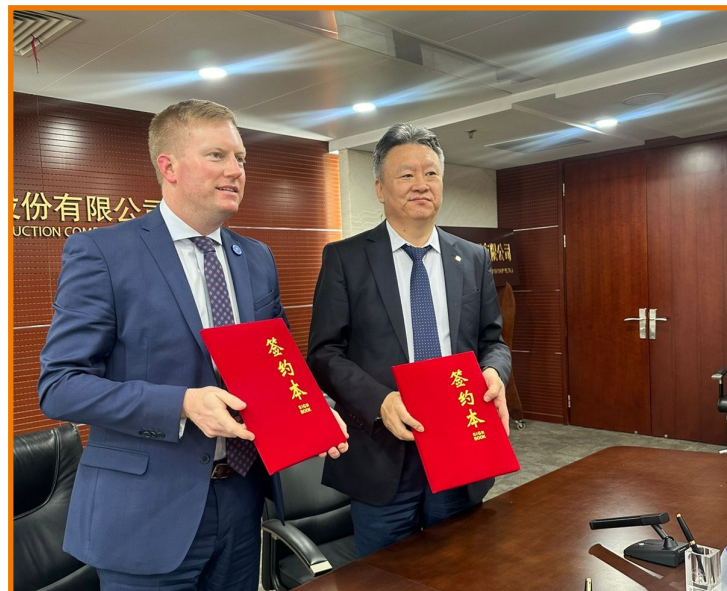
The declaration of intent with the CCCC will work towards inviting the company to bid through the Public Management Finance Act in the construction of municipal works and buildings, the construction and development of public owned buildings and the development of fishing harbours and small ports. Meanwhile, the declaration with ASI Global will work towards the entity helping to develop construction talent in South Africa as well as their professional development.

"Shortly after I was appointed as Public Works & Infrastructure Minister roughly two months ago, I vowed that my aim will be to use the portfolio to turn the country into a construction site in order for us to grow the economy and create thousands of new jobs. The two declarations of intents signed during bilateral meetings in China today therefore marks an important step towards us achieve that goal," Minister Macpherson said.

"The CCCC and ASI Global are two very important players in their respective fields, and the declarations of intents means that we can now invite them to make their expertise available to help develop our infrastructure and construction capabilities in South Africa which will benefit the South African people across the country."

The Minister said that in the months ahead, the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure will build on these declarations of intent to further develop agreements towards unblocking any challenges which may stand in the way of launching construction projects in South Africa.

"I look forward to inviting the CCCC and ASI Global to join us as we work towards our dream of turning the country into a construction site. If we truly want to see rapid economic growth and job creation, the assistance of entities such as the CCCC and ASI Global, and many others across the world, will be crucial and I, therefore, look forward to see how they work to help us improve South Africa. Let us Build South Africa."



PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPUTY MINISTER APPLAUDS POLICE EFFORT IN FIGHTING EXTORTIONISTS

Article by Bukiwe Cimela, Pictures by Bukiwe Cimela, Letiwe Mbatha & Master Builders South Africa

Deputy Minister of Public and Infrastructure, Sihle Zikalala, has applauded the South African Police Service for their determined and energetic efforts in dealing with the scourge of extortions across the country.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Master Builders South Africa in Gqeberha today, Deputy Minister Zikalala said that many people thought government was bluffing when he indicated that the full might of the state would be unleashed on thugs. He indicated that the government is acting in fighting all forms of extortions, including protection fees and construction site takeovers.

Deputy Minister Zikalala said the battle is fully enjoined on fighting extortionists. "While supporting economic transformation, fighting the exploitation that characterises subcontracting, and eliminating late payments, we must equally be steadfast that we cannot allow an important sector like construction to be captured by dangerous criminals who do not hesitate to take lives to get what they want."

He said the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure will continue working with stakeholders to support community facilitation and to prevent disruptions at construction sites. He has called on all role-players to protect whistle blowers and to rally behind law enforcement officials. Deputy Minister Zikalala has also applauded the signing into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Public Procurement Act, saying it will allow the department to ensure that businesses owned by women, youth and people with disabilities participate in the construction projects of the department.

"National Treasury is now engaging relevant stakeholders to initiate the process of developing the regulations that will enable government to initiate the implementation of the PPA. The Policy Unit at DPWI, working with the CIDB, CBE, ASA and the IDT are working jointly with National Treasury on the regulations that will give effect to the PPA" concluded DM Zikalala.



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