

MINISTER TACKLES CORRUPTION

Nxesi says local companies can do it!

By GIYANI SHIVAMBO

THULASI Nxesi is going to crack the whip on corrupt public works officials.

Nxesi, the public works minister, made this promise while addressing a meeting of the African Federation of Construction Contractors Association in Joburg this week.

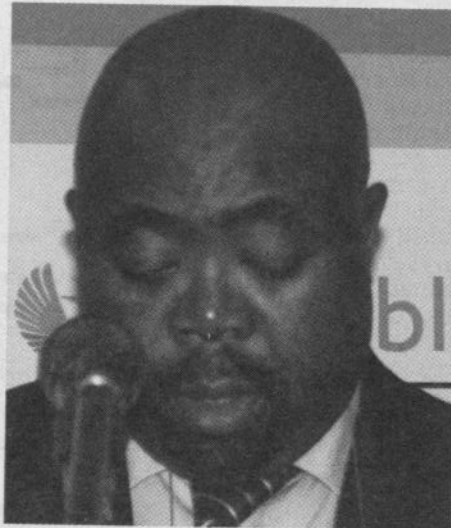
The minister said corruption is the biggest challenge facing the construction industry.

"As the newspaper headlines will tell you, corruption is everywhere. I face corruption in my department and in the country," said Nxesi.

He has come under fire for not making public the findings on President Jacob Zuma's homestead in Nkandla. The minister said it's a security issue and therefore the details are being withheld from the public.

Nxesi said it was important for African bodies in the engineering and construction industries to work together to stop the invasion of the continent by foreign construction giants and contractors.

He said Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world and infrastructure development



Public Works Minister Thulasi Nxesi says Nkandla details are a security issue.

Photo by Giyani Shivambo

is at the core of that growth.

"We need to ensure that we do things ourselves. I do not accept that those from Western Europe or the East must come and work here in South Africa or on the continent," said Nxesi.

He was in Namibia recently as the guest of their public works department, where they discussed ways of sharing information, transferring skills and promoting exchange programmes between the two countries.