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# Nxesi joins Treasury to clean up public sector

SPHIWE MASILELA

**PUBLIC** Works Minister Thulas Nxesi says his department is working closely with the Treasury to crack down on corruption in the public sector, and tightening procurement processes.

He was addressing the Inaugural Project and Construction Management Professions Conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

The two-day symposium is a platform for government, industry, civil society and academic institutions to drive the growth, development and transformation of the construction industry in South Africa.

"I believe that the work we are doing now in public works to tighten up procurement processes - which forms part

of a much larger initiative led by National Treasury - is key to combating collusion and price-fixing, and to ensuring value for money and delivery to the public," Nxesi said.

The conference is themed: Towards Growth, Development and Transformation of the Project and Construction Management Professions.

Nxesi said the conference goes to the heart of government priorities in relation to infrastructure roll-out as a tool to leverage regional economic

integration and development and to drive job creation, skills development and empowerment.

"The conference will improve the relationship between government plans and private sector service providers. I believe that it is taking place at a crucial time for the building sector in our country. There is now a common understanding that infrastructure development has to drive economic and social development in the coming years."

Nxesi acknowledged that there were

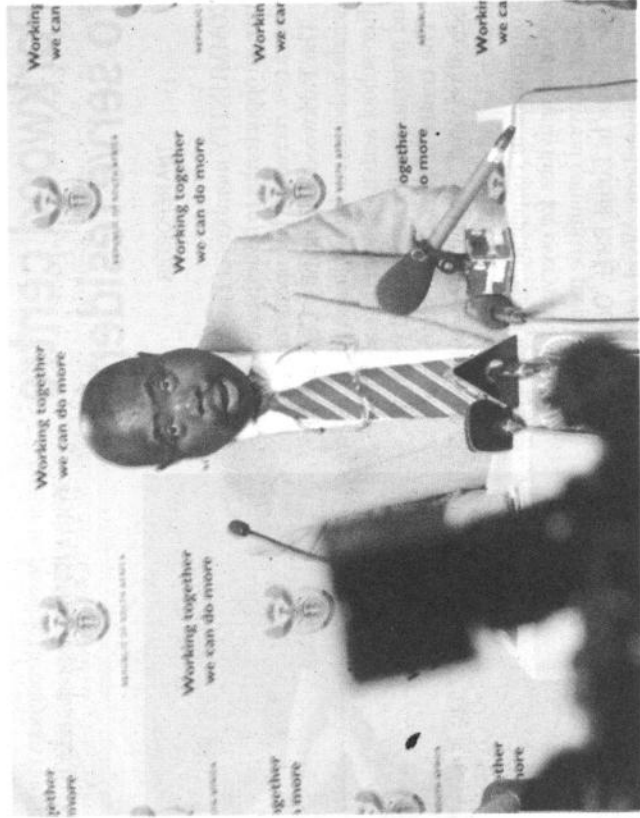
many challenges facing his department. "We cannot ignore the massive impact that the infrastructure roll-out will have on our sector.

"It is both a challenge and it also constitutes a massive opportunity for transformation.

"Some of the challenges include working smarter, faster and in a coordinated way between departments and levels of government to get the job done. I have argued that as public works we have to do away with silos so that we achieve the necessary integration."

Among other delegates were Minister of Economic Development Ebrahim Patel, Minister of Works and Transport in Ghana, Abraham Byandala. The conference ends today.

[sphiwem@thenewage.co.za](mailto:sphiwem@thenewage.co.za)



**CRACKING DOWN:** Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi wants his department to root out corruption in the public sector. PICTURE: HERBERT MANDA