

# WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR NEED MORE SUPPORT – NXESI

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Public Works Minister [Thulas Nxesi](#) on Friday implored big contractors to support women in the [construction](#) industry through subcontracting work.

Addressing women in the [construction](#) industry at a [Construction](#) Industry Development Board (CIDB) sponsored event in [Pretoria](#), he said it remained a moral imperative for bigger contractors – even big women-owned contractors – to assist smaller contractors.

“It is also now a legal necessity, on big contracts, to subcontract to the designated groups – those who have been disadvantaged, including women,” he noted. He stressed that women contractors needed to ensure that they were registered with the CIDB, as well as the Central Supplier Database of the National Treasury, and have their tax matters in order with the South African Revenue [Service](#).

“If all of this is in order then they are eligible to tender,” he said. He also noted that the department was adopting an initiative to review its current procurement plan and designate tenders for women.

“This is in keeping with our target of awarding 75% of all of our tenders to the designated groups.” The department is also adopting a sector approach to implementing initiatives to empower women in [construction](#), and has an obligation to translate the legislation into procurement policies which consciously support women-owned contractors, he said.

Nxesi highlighted that the department was guided by the CIDB, which has developed standards to support procurement in terms of [building](#) development goals into contracts. This includes ensuring skills development to further professionalise women contractors to deliver quality work, on time and within budget.

He stressed that women contractors must – like their male counterparts – be competitive and embrace excellence in their work. He pointed out that the department has taken a hard stance on poor performing contractors that tarnish the image of the industry and has established a 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.

“This is in line with the stance of President [Cyril Ramaphosa](#) in seeking to root out fraud and corruption. It will also contribute to ensuring ethical standards are maintained in the sector – which must be good for the [construction](#) industry in general,” he said.