

## Hijacking of sites a worry – report

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MINISTER of Public Works Thulas Nxesi has received a detailed report detailing the current state of the South African construction industry and its challenges.

Nxesi on Friday welcomed the annual report from the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) seeking to update the minister about industry changes that ought to influence policy at departmental and Cabinet level.

Numerous stakeholders representing various companies, regulating bodies and business forums gathered at Forties Hotel in Hatfield to engage Nxesi on desired changes and innovations in the sector.

Nxesi said: "As a public enterprise whose work is pivotal to the development of a truly professional construction industry that can hold its own across the world, while taking advantage of global opportunities, the CIDB shoulders great responsibility.

"The tone of this annual report, and those that have gone before, demonstrate that this role is extremely serious."

He committed himself and his department, as stated in his 2018 budget speech, to work closely with entities in the Public Works jurisdiction to provide policy leadership to wider construction property sectors.

"With the CIDB my focus will be predominantly on quality assurance and empowerment."

CIDB board member and social,

ethics and stakeholder committee chairperson Dr Natalie Skeepers, said some of the industry's challenges highlighted in the report included hijackings of construction sites and insufficient support for beginner entrepreneurs.

She said the organisations was aware that there were a lot of small businesses that needed support to succeed and government could not help them all.

However, she said construction was a tough industry and the department ought to continually find ways to assist and empower deserving and committed small businesses so that they did not quit.

Nxesi added that: "I have watched the CIDB grow in stature over many years and I have no doubt that the permanent niche it has carved for itself in the sector is well deserved.

"It has a crucial role to play in transformation of the construction sector through its regulatory framework and support for emerging businesses.

"Construction will remain a mainstay of the South African economy and the CIDB will remain a mainstay of construction.

"As such, it will enjoy the full support of all at the Department of Public Works through the continuation of our long-standing relationship founded on the shared vision of a transformed, professional and effective construction industry that is an asset to the country and an example of excellence to the global community."