



Public works  
minister Patricia de  
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# De Lille warns crooks in construction industry

Bid to police corrupt activities

By **Nonkululeko Njilo**

Public works minister Patricia de Lille has issued a stern warning to “crooks” implicated in corrupt activities within the built environment, costing the country billions, that they will be dealt with harshly.

De Lille was speaking at the launch of the Infrastructure Built Anti-Corruption Forum (IBACF) by the anti-corruption task team alongside the Special Investigating Unit (SIU).

The forum was established to monitor infrastructure projects more effectively and put systems in place to detect and

prevent corruption.

“Corruption within the built environment has run rampant for too long.

“The state has structures in place but government cannot do this work alone and that is why we have brought private sector, public entities and civil society together in this forum so that we can work together on more effective ways to detect, prevent and act against corruption,” she said.

The establishment of the forum was in line with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) that was approved by cabinet in November to escalate the fight against corruption and fraud in the country.

De Lille admitted that though the government had measures in place to combat

corruption, it could not do so alone, hence the private sector had to be roped in.

The forum is made up of representatives from the NPA, the Hawks, the Financial Intelligence Centre, Corruption Watch, the Council for the Built Environment, Master Builders SA, the SA Council for the Architectural Profession and Consulting Engineers SA, among other bodies.

Meanwhile, SIU head advocate Andy Mothibi said the construction sector was vulnerable to price fixing, bribery, kickbacks, awarding of tenders to non-deserving contractors and issuing of illegal environmental permits for large developers to develop in sensitive environmental areas.