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Infrastructure has, for years, been identified as a top priority in South Africa as a means to bring socio-economic change and for the country to overcome economic shocks.

Construction World has a focus on both civil engineering and building, and while building buoyed activity in the built environment for many years during the increasing decline of the industry from an infrastructure point of view, private sector building has been on the decline in recent years as the economic climate increasingly had an effect.

Private sector building is intrinsically linked to infrastructure investment, and one can only hope that with the less the opaque political situation and the renewed focus on rebuilding the country, infrastructure development will be embraced as a means to lift households out of poverty.

There are three areas where Dean MacPherson and his administration need to get projects approved as soon as possible: housing, roads and water and sanitation.

Housing

Studies have shown that the informal

housing generates 11% of the total rental income in South Africa. This means that the more South Africans own houses, the more people can have a stream of income from potential spaces they can rent out. The bottom line is that this will lead to the improvement of living standards while being a driver of economic growth.

Roads

It is a known fact that road development is directly linked to economic growth. The World Bank's study by Fedderke and Bogetic, analysed 30 years of data in South Africa between 1970 and 2000 and found that an increase of 1% in road network, leads to a 2,8% increase in productivity growth. This is a clear indication that the improvement of the road network will have a hugely positive impact.

Water and sanitation

Infrastructure is interrelated and an improvement in the housing situation will require the inhabitants of these houses to have access to clean running water and sanitation systems.

This is not just a South African problem. Worldwide water-related

health issues cause the death of millions, a situation that can be salvaged by the availability of running water for drinking, sanitation and hygiene.

Wilhelm du Plessis
Editor



Last chance

In this issue we publish the last call for entries for Best Projects 2024. Turn to page 20 for an overview of the awards and the criteria for entering. The electronic entry forms can be downloaded from our website. Entry is free. Share your company's excellence in the execution of a project with the entire built environment.

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