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Title: Minister commits to strengthening South African infrastructure

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Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, recently addressed the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP)

Minister commits to strengthening South African infrastructure

Rebuild South Africa's infrastructure! This was the key message from Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson during his address to the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP). The Minister spoke to SACQSP at a Gala Dinner held at Coastlands uMhlanga on Monday, 21 October.

Macpherson said that the aim of the discussion was to highlight not only the challenges faced by their sector, but to find solutions. He shared that interferences such as the "construction mafia" as well as fee tendering have led to challenges which have hindered infrastructure delivery to the country.

"The quantity surveying profession represents the technical expertise and the ethical backbone that can help us overcome these hurdles and build a future where infrastructure drives our economic growth, creates jobs, and improves the quality of life for all South Africans," Macpherson said.

Macpherson highlighted some of the challenges which include:

- The disruption and hijacking of construction sites by criminal syndicates.
- The inability of some projects to be completed on time and within budget.
- The scourge of corruption that undermines public confidence in

the construction sector.

- Poor project management and planning that leads to inefficiencies.
- A lack of adherence to safety and quality standards, particularly in public works.

Macpherson shared that one of the pressing concerns he had was the growing issue of the construction mafia, as over the past few years construction sites across the country were being disrupted by criminal syndicates who demand a share of the profits or forcefully take control of projects. "This is not only illegal, but it is also devastating to our economy. It drives up costs, delays projects, and in some cases, halts construction altogether. The impact is felt not only by construction companies and workers but also by the communities that desperately need these projects to improve their infrastructure," he added.

He shared that another concern is that projects are delayed, over budget and poorly executed.

"At the heart of my vision is the belief that infrastructure is the foundation of a nation's economy. It provides the physical and social systems needed for sustained growth and development. Through infrastructure, we can improve productivity, attract investment, and enhance the well-being of every South African. But to do this successfully, we need you - our country's quantity surveyors," Macpherson concluded.