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President Cyril Ramaphosa will tomorrow deliver the keynote address at the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium South Africa (Sidssa), where government officials, infrastructure experts, and financiers will explore ways to fast-track the country's public infrastructure rollout.

Speaking at a briefing in Cape Town, where the two-day event will take place from today, Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson said the symposium comes at a time when South Africa is making significant progress on infrastructure development. "We are making great progress across the length and breadth of South Africa. The goal is clear: accelerate delivery, stimulate growth, and turn South Africa into a construction site," said Macpherson.

He said the symposium, organised by Infrastructure South Africa (ISA), will highlight infrastructure's role in driving economic recovery, attracting investment, and creating jobs.

Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Sihle Zikalala said government was working hard to ensure that private businesses invest in public infrastructure projects.

One of government's initiatives meant to make it easier for the private

sector to invest in public infrastructure projects was the development of BBBEE regulations.

"In his recent budget speech, the finance minister indicated that the regulations on the BBBEE were being finalised. Once finalised, the regulations will make it easier for the private sector to invest in public infrastructure.

"There is work currently underway to attract investors, not only from South Africa but also from outside. The finalisation of the BBBEE regulations will fast-track that process," he said.

ISA head Mameetse Masemola said the agency's role is to facilitate, coordinate and oversee strategic infrastructure implementation to ensure projects are viable and bankable.

Of the 53 projects entering the pipeline in the past year, most are in the energy sector. Masemola noted that complex regulatory requirements often delay delivery. "In some instances, up to 85 licences are needed before final approval," she said.

A key theme of the symposium is public-private partnerships (PPPs), with recent regulatory changes aimed at making it easier for private businesses to invest in capital-intensive infrastructure projects. Another ISA priority is mobilising private capital to support public infrastructure.