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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **MINISTER MACPHERSON WELCOMES \$1 BILLION INVESTMENT UNLOCKED THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE SOUTH AFRICA**

- Public Works & Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson has welcomed Infrastructure South Africa's role in helping to unlock a \$1 billion (approximately R17 billion) investment pledge by UPL at the South African Investment Conference in Sandton.
- Infrastructure South Africa facilitated key stakeholder engagements to advance a large-scale bioethanol project, including support for project preparation and financing discussions.
- The Minister said the investment highlights the role of Infrastructure South Africa in removing bottlenecks, unlocking investment, and driving economic growth, job creation, and rural development.

The Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, has welcomed Infrastructure South Africa's contribution to the successful hosting of the South African Investment Conference in Sandton on Tuesday, and in particular its role in helping to unlock a \$1 billion investment pledge by global agricultural company UPL announced at the conference.

The investment amounting to approximately R17 billion and led by UPL Chairman and Group CEO Jai Shroff, is linked to a large-scale bioethanol production facility in South Africa. The project will utilise sugarcane and maize as a feedstock and support the development of an integrated agricultural and energy value chain.

Infrastructure South Africa, an entity of the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure, played a key facilitative role in advancing the project by bringing together stakeholders across the agricultural, energy, and financial sectors. This included supporting engagements between UPL and a major development finance institution to explore project preparation and financing opportunities, as well as broader collaboration to move the project towards implementation.

The project has significant potential, including the cultivation of approximately 400,000 hectares of sweet sorghum and the production of up to 1.3 billion litres of bioethanol annually. This will inject significant amounts of money directly back to small and large scale farmers. This positions South Africa as a potential leader in the biofuels sector, while supporting rural development and job creation.

Minister Macpherson said Infrastructure South Africa is playing an increasingly important role in unlocking investment by removing bottlenecks, coordinating stakeholders, and supporting project preparation.

“When I was appointed Public Works & Infrastructure Minister 21 months ago, I committed to turning the Department into the economic delivery unit of South Africa to help grow the economy and create much-needed jobs. The \$1 billion investment, facilitated by Infrastructure South Africa, is clear evidence of the progress we are making in achieving that goal,” Minister Macpherson said.

“This investment demonstrates what is possible when government plays an active role in facilitating partnerships, removing obstacles, and aligning stakeholders behind a common objective. It also highlights the growing importance of Infrastructure South Africa in ensuring that projects of this scale move from concept to implementation as we work to build a better South Africa.”

**Enquiries:**

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