

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR NTOPILE  
KGANYAGO, MP, ADDRESSES DELEGATES AT A GALA DINNER  
AHEAD OF THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL CONSTRUCTION  
CONFERENCE.**

**DATE:               26 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**VENUE:             EAST LONDON, EASTERN CAPE**

- The MEC for Public Works, Mr Christiaan Martins
- Members of the Provincial Legislature
- Senior Government Officials
- Our Partners from the Private Sector
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies & Gentlemen.

Let me thank the Province of the Eastern Cape for their invitation. Service delivery imperatives in the province require that we do whatever it takes to make the lives of our people better. Consequently I have lost count of number of times I have accepted these invitations, propelled by the commitment as government, to leave no stone unturned in finding lasting solutions for service delivery improvement, poverty alleviation and nation – building.

As we prepare to convene under the umbrella of the construction industry, we need to remind ourselves of the role and the contribution of this industry to the reconstruction and development programme of the country. In summary a transformed construction industry should be a leading catalyst to the country's growth and development. The sector is centrifugal to economic growth, job-creation, skill development, infrastructure provision and ultimately the creation of a better society for a better life for all.

However, the success of this industry is largely dependent on constructive cooperation between government in its role as a client and a regulator and the private sector as suppliers and creators of wealth. A stable society founded on the rule of law and preponderance of progressive economic policies is a prerequisite for growth and development. The legend of the history of the Department of Public Works in particular and the government in general in creating an enabling environment for the growth, development and transformation of the construction industry, is equally matched by the vigor and commitment of the industry to defines quality projects on time and within specifications.

The next two days of deliberations and resolutions, it is hoped, will help to highlight challenges of growth and development and at the same time develop a positioning framework within which the industry will define its role as part of its concrete strategy to make a difference. As they do that, the Industry role players particularly small and medium businesses need to be reminded to look beyond the government order book to consider taking up other competitive challenges in the private and commercial sectors of our economy.

For the financial institutions, it should also be a period of an opportunity to showcase practical and functional financial models that take into account particularly challenges including literacy levels, of our entrepreneurs, distribution of wealth as well as history and culture of enterprising in South Africa.

Government will continue to promote a reconstructive agenda and identify basic, essential and special priority infrastructure projects for delivery. At the same time government will address any limitations perceived to hinder effective procurement tendencies. These include issues of capacity, budgeting, project and quality management, tender management and payment of contractors – among others.

I wish the Province a successful conference.

I THANK YOU.