

DEAN MACPHERSON



*Dear Team*

### Public Works & Infrastructure,

Nothing could have prepared us for the busy month May promised to be, as we truly acted on our commitment to move from words to action. Indeed, during May, communities across South Africa began to experience the fruits of the work we are doing to turn the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure into the economic delivery unit of South Africa, to use public assets for the public good, and to turn South Africa into a construction site.

*Thank you:*

In this regard, I would like to thank the thousands of public servants who have joined us on this journey to reform the Department to ensure that we can build a better South Africa. Without your contribution, none of the initiatives we've launched or the gatherings we've hosted would have been successful. You are the bedrock of this Department, and I thank you for your service



One of the defining moments of the month was attending the one-year anniversary of the George building collapse, which claimed the lives of 34 people and injured many others. The gathering, where families of the victims shared their heartbreaking stories, was a sober reminder of the importance of the work we do, not only to ignite job growth but also to keep our people safe.

Last week, I received the final investigative report from the Council for the Built Environment (CBE), through the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), and will be carefully studying the report before returning to the affected families to communicate the findings, as previously promised.

It is imperative that we restore dignity to the community and to the affected families following a tragedy that, I believe, could have been prevented.





May also saw the launch of one of the key initiatives of the seventh administration: the 'Adopt-A-Municipality' programme, rolled out through Infrastructure South Africa and endorsed by the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC) last year. The programme will see Infrastructure South Africa working with the Metsimaholo, uMngeni, and Govan Mbeki local municipalities to address infrastructure delivery concerns through dedicated capacity support. If successful, this pilot will be expanded nationwide to ensure that more municipal infrastructure projects are completed on time and within budget.



I also met with the Minister of Police, Senzo Mchunu, and his team to fast-track plans for the construction of a new state-of-the-art forensic laboratory in KwaZulu-Natal, with a long-term goal of ensuring facilities of this nature exist in every province. A facility like this will help to clear backlogs, improve conviction rates, and restore confidence in the justice system, particularly at a time when South Africa is facing unbearably high levels of crime. In this way, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is playing its part in fighting crime and restoring the rule of law.



Fighting corruption remains a top priority. That is why, in May, I convened a joint meeting with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) Head, Advocate Andy Mothibi, and representatives of the Global Infrastructure Anti-Corruption Centre (GIACC) to strengthen collaboration and develop stronger safeguards to detect and eliminate corruption in public infrastructure projects. Our goal is clear: no project must be derailed by criminality or mismanagement.



We also launched an audit of our entire workforce within the Department to eliminate so-called 'ghost workers'—individuals who receive salaries despite not showing up for work. As part of this process, every single employee will be required to physically present themselves for verification. Officials in my own office have already undergone verification because we believe in leading by example. This initiative will ensure that every rand spent on human resources contributes to a more efficient, ethical, and accountable Department, while addressing potential abuse head-on.



Later in the month, I travelled to the Free State to attend NAMPO Harvest Day, one of the largest agricultural exhibitions in the Southern Hemisphere. There, I engaged with stakeholders in the agriculture sector and emphasised the Government of National Unity's support for agriculture as a key engine for economic growth and job creation. I will also be holding follow-up meetings with representatives of Grain SA and Agri SA to address concerns raised, particularly around the state of rural roads. I believe that, by working together, our Department can play a meaningful role in strengthening the sector and safeguarding food security.



Through the CBE, we also hosted a Ministerial Dialogue with leading academics from across South Africa to explore how we can 'bridge the gap' between academic research, public policy, and infrastructure implementation. I firmly believe that stronger collaboration between government and academia will help us deliver smarter, more sustainable infrastructure, while also empowering communities and improving lives.



One of the most meaningful days in May took place in Mbombela, Mpumalanga, where we handed over ten state-owned properties to MEC Khethiwe Moeketsi and her Department to be used as shelters for victims of gender-based violence. This forms part of our broader commitment to repurpose public properties for the public good, bringing an end to the days when government buildings stood idle and instead ensuring they play an active role in building safer, more supportive communities.

Later that same day, we hosted an Infrastructure Imbizo to listen first-hand to community members about the challenges they face. These Imbizos—pioneered under the seventh administration—bring together all three spheres of government to address infrastructure issues head-on and work collectively to find solutions. I look forward to hosting more of these engagements in the months ahead.



# SIDSSA 25 26-27 May

Century City Conference Centre

Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium South Africa

**SCALING SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT • DRIVING INCLUSIVE GROWTH • BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**



public works  
& infrastructure  
Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





May culminated in the successful hosting of the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium South Africa (SIDSSA) 2025 in Cape Town, under the leadership of Infrastructure South Africa. Over two days, ministers and delegates from across the continent gathered to align our respective infrastructure agendas and better integrate South Africa into the African Build Programme. I believe SIDSSA marked a turning point—not just in terms of vision, but in terms of action.



At the symposium, we launched the second edition of the Construction Book, featuring over 250 construction-ready projects valued at more than R268 billion—nearly double the value of the previous edition. We also announced the top seven catalytic projects that will receive project preparation funding support from a first-of-its-kind R600 million allocation. These projects have now been fast-tracked and will play a critical role in boosting economic growth and job creation.

To support this implementation push, I announced the appointment of a non-statutory advisory panel to my office focused on public asset management and infrastructure development. As promised after my appointment last July, this panel brings together experienced professionals from both the public and private sectors. Their first meeting will take place in July and will help sharpen the Department's delivery focus in the months ahead.

### Looking ahead:

June we will sustain the momentum we've built. We will be handing over properties for GBV shelters in the Western Cape, hosting an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) listening tour in Gauteng, and conducting oversight visits to ensure that infrastructure projects are delivered on time and within budget. The workforce verification process will intensify. I will also travel to Brazil to participate in a BRICS Ministerial Meeting on urbanisation and human settlements, where I will share the work we're doing and learn from our counterparts around the world.



Above all, we remain focused on ensuring that communities feel the impact of our work. While there is still much to do, we are already seeing signs of progress.

By working together, we are building South Africa.

*Best regards,*

**DEAN MACPHERSON**

**MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**