

DEAR TEAM

Public Works Infrastructure



As we approach the end of an exceptionally busy and productive year, it is important to pause and reflect on how far we have come in our mission to turn the department into an economic engine of South Africa. Furthermore, I hope that everyone who celebrated Diwali earlier this month had a joyful and meaningful time with loved ones.

Since taking office, we have been focused on reforming the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure into a delivery-driven institution that restores confidence in the state's ability to provide quality infrastructure and manage public assets with integrity. The progress made this year is a direct result of the hard work, professionalism, and commitment of every public servant across our Department and its entities. I want to thank each of you for your dedication. It is because of your efforts that we can look back on this year with pride and look ahead with confidence.

October was a month defined by international engagement, domestic delivery, and action to improve accountability across the sector. We began the month with the European Infrastructure Roadshow, where I led a series of meetings in Germany and France aimed at attracting new investment and strengthening partnerships for South Africa's infrastructure pipeline.



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





European Infrastructure Roadshow meetings in Germany and France.

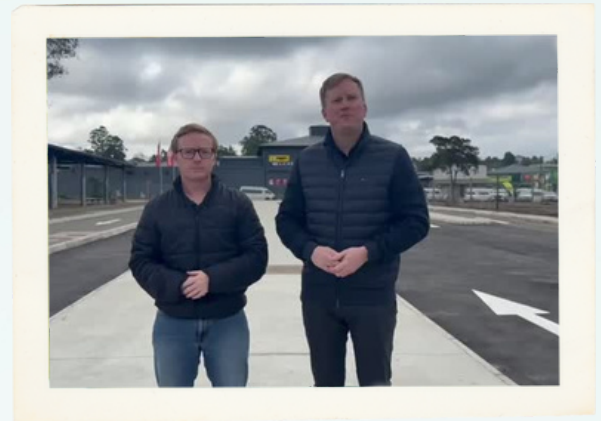
In Germany, I met with senior executives from KfW, Deutsche Bank, and Afrika-Verein to deepen cooperation and unlock financing for catalytic projects. This was followed by engagements with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and GIZ, focused on project preparation, capacity building, and green infrastructure investment. In France, I met with the Mouvement des entreprises de France (MEDEF) to showcase our R268 billion Construction Book and to build on the work that French companies are already doing in South Africa. These engagements reflected a strong appetite among investors to partner with us and to support the growth of our infrastructure programme. They also reaffirmed that South Africa's infrastructure pipeline remains credible, bankable, and attractive to global partners.



The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the United Kingdom.

Later in the month, during my visit to London, I signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the United Kingdom to strengthen cooperation on infrastructure delivery. Through this partnership, the UK will provide capacity support worth nearly R10 million to our Special and Strategic Delivery Unit to help us accelerate project delivery through Project Capstone, improve public asset management through Project Speed, and support municipalities through Infrastructure South Africa's Adopt-a-Municipality initiative. This agreement represents a significant step in modernising how we plan, manage, and deliver infrastructure, and in positioning the Department as a credible, capable institution at the centre of South Africa's economic recovery.

Closer to home, I travelled to the uMngeni Local Municipality alongside Mayor Christopher Pappas to see how disused public works land has been repurposed to create new economic opportunities for the community. This project now supports 280 new jobs and stands as a clear example of how effective collaboration between national and local government can unlock the full value of public assets for the public good. It is through partnerships like these that we turn policy into tangible outcomes, ensuring that the work of this Department translates directly into jobs and development at the local level.



Mayor Christopher Pappas alongside Minister Dean Macpherson.

At the end of the month, The Deputy Minister and I convened a special meeting of all MECs for Public Works and Infrastructure from across the nine provinces to adopt a Recovery Plan for Underperforming Construction Projects. For too long, stalled and neglected projects have slowed service delivery and eroded public confidence. This plan marks a turning point by enforcing accountability, blacklisting non-performing contractors, and introducing clear measures to ensure that projects are completed on time and within budget which was endorsed by all MECs. To this end, I must commend Director General, Sifiso Mdakane and DDG, Batho Mokhothu for driving this process at a technical level.



All MECs for Public Works and Infrastructure from across the nine provinces.

Following the MINMEC, I presented the South African Construction Action Plan to the public which sets out six key actions to reform the sector and restore accountability across the public works system. These include introducing contractor blacklisting, improving project cash flow, implementing digital tracking of projects, streamlining supply chain management, improving audit outcomes, and professionalising the public sector's built environment.

The plan's central goal is to transform Public Works and Infrastructure – both nationally and provincially – into effective economic delivery units capable of completing projects with speed, discipline, and transparency. It is a clear demonstration of our commitment to reform and to building a Department that delivers results.



South African Construction Action Plan, endorsed by all MECs

Looking ahead, November will be another busy and significant month. We will be signing a historic Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Justice to assist with the maintenance of the Johannesburg High Court precinct, handing over properties to the provincial government in KwaZulu-Natal, and hosting the National Construction Summit at the Birchwood Conference Centre in Gauteng from 13 to 14 November. These initiatives will build further momentum as we work to restore confidence in the construction sector and strengthen delivery across all spheres of government.

Each of these milestones,

reflects the determination, teamwork, and professionalism of Team Public Works and Infrastructure. As we enter the final stretch of the year, let us continue working with the same focus and purpose that have defined our progress so far. Together, we are proving that this Department can lead from the front, drive economic growth, and deliver infrastructure that changes lives.

Yours in service,

DEAN MACPHERSON, MP

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE