

Media Statement

Friday 16 August 2013

MEC Maloyi remains committed to empower women in construction

Following challenges arose in deliberations during a one day Women in Construction Summit held in Rustenburg, the North West Department of Human Settlements, Public Safety and Liaison has committed to train contractors across the province in completing construction tender documents and supply chain processes as part of its resolutions.

In his address, the Departmental MEC, Nono Maloyi said his department is committed in women empowerment and it will fully implement resolutions taken during the summit.

“As the Department we will demonstrate the seriousness of the summit by ensuring the implementation of resolutions taken here,” said Maloyi who declared his interest in women empowerment.

MEC Maloyi said the empowerment of women in construction and other vulnerable groups like children and people living with disability are some of key aspects of service delivery and economic development in the province. “We need to deal away with the stereotyped mentality that construction is mainly for the man dominion. We have seeing women proving themselves and doing well in competing against their male counterparts,” he said.

Completion of construction tender documents, lack of capacity, funding and mentorship for women and emerging contractors were on top of the agenda on deliberations during the summit where more than 500 women in construction outlined challenges they are faced with.

Speaking on behalf of women attended the summit, Ms Motsei Modise requested the department to assist them in interpretation of terms and conditions stipulated in contracts from financial institutions through its (department) legal directorate.

She further challenged the department to establish an incubator programme which will specifically deal with mentorship to emerging women contractors.

“The Department should have a clause that deals with sub-contracting. The appointed contractor must be compelled to appoint a sub-contractor and provide mentorship role,” said Modise, who encouraged emerging and unemployed young women to join different women

organizations such as South African Women in Construction (SAWIC). “Such organizations they continuously strive to create a positive image of the industry and the role of women in the non-traditional field of construction.”

Hundreds of women contractors committed themselves to complete their projects with the approved number of units allocated to them. The commitment follows MEC’s concern about women contractors who were appointed by the department and failed to complete their projects.

“As much as we are king to take an aggressive approach in empowering women in the construction industry, we are faced with a huge challenge of those who are been cheated with fronting, delivering shoddy houses and those who leave project sites without completion,” said Maloyi.

The summit was held under the theme; “Economic *emancipation of women in construction sector.*”

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ENQUIRIES: Ben Bole (Acting Departmental Spokesperson)

TEL : (018) 388 4824

CELL : 071 566 1399

FAX : (018) 391 0328

ISSUED BY THE NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, PUBLIC SAFETY& LIAISON