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**Department of Public Works
Departament van Openbare Werke
Lefapha La Ditiro Tsa Setshaba**

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MEC YAWA AND PPC CEMENT LAUNCH PARTNERSHIP IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

North West MEC for Public Works, Honourable Howard Yawa and the Chief Operations Officer for PPC Cement, Dr Orrie Fenn today launched a partnership to develop skills among emerging contractors in the construction sector.

The Launch held at the PPC Slurry Plant east of Mafikeng was attended by amongst others, Members of the North West Construction Liaison Committee and other construction industry players.

The partnership for the training of 94 new entrants in the construction sector will empower emerging contractors in understanding and applying business finance, tendering for construction contractors and establishing health and safety for a work area.

The skills development programme modules could be credited towards an NQF Level two learnership qualification in construction contractor management.

Handing over a cheque of R100 000 to MEC Yawa, Dr Orrie Fenn said that the initiative supports government's vision to create work and fight poverty. He further said that PPC Cement provided the funding in order to provide the trainees with the necessary skills to become active economic players in the future.



Accepting the donation an overjoyed MEC Yawa commented PPC Cement for recognising that the transformation of the construction is not just the responsibility of government alone, but the collective responsibility of all involved in the construction sector.

MEC Yawa said that the history of PPC Cement is closely linked to the growth and development of South Africa's infrastructure. He said that since its establishment in 1892 it has produced cement for many of the country's most famous landmarks and construction projects such as the Union Buildings, the Gariep dam, Van Staden River Bridge, the Huguenot Tunnel and much of the southern Africa's infrastructure.

MEC Yawa further said that the contribution should set as a challenge to other construction industry players to come forth and lend a hand of support.

"South Africa will only succeed when the private and business sector embrace the public sector for the common good of all its citizens." said MEC Yawa.

MEC Yawa called on other construction industry players to support SMME development for an economy that benefits all South Africans.

The Department has also contributed R100 000,00 towards the skills development programme. Thus far 39 contractors in the Central Region have already received training and a roll out to other regions of the North West Province is in the pipeline.

**ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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