



A promise to pay up fulfilled lives up to its promise to pay emerging contractors...

Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2016

The Department of Public Works and Roads has to date paid more than R30 million in less than two months to 47 contractors under the Vukuphile Constructor Development programme.

All, except three companies were paid before the Christmas period with the remainder fully paid by this month.

The move confirmed a commitment and promise made earlier to affected contractors by the department after going public with a promise to "pull all stops to effect payments" provided:

Companies who claimed to be owed monies by the department were able to provide proof that indeed they have rendered services.

Furthermore, the affected companies were expected to prove that the monies claimed were also commensurate to the services they claim to have rendered for the department.

Amounts claimed by emerging contractors ranged between R81 000 and R2.4 million. Claims arose from a range of activities performed over a certain period, which included:

Cleaning of Mahikeng; road maintenance; road marking and replacement of old road signage with new ones.

Outstanding payment due to a contractor could not be paid in December last year as arranged because banking details of the respective claimants were outdated.

Reasons for the prolonged delay in payments due to affected contractors, arose from a protracted legal dispute between the department and one of the service providers previously tasked with the monitoring of Vukuphile Contractor Development activities in the province.

The department took the decision to pay rather than allow the dispute it had with a service provider to disadvantage the livelihood of small and emerging contractors.

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