



Putting heads together to make Public Works and Roads work...

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A call for all hands on deck to help build the capacity of the state, initiatives to change expenditure into revenue and contribution to job creation all cut across the main menu during the two-day engagement on infrastructure hosted by the department of Public Works and Roads.

With stake holders drawn from all sectors in the built environment, government sought to solicit and establish public private partnerships, with the view to help fast-track infrastructure delivery in general, and capacitate government delivery arm of such infrastructure.

“Let us all build the capacity of the state and not individuals...and also contribute to job creation,” said Public Works and Roads acting MEC, Ontlametse Mochware.

With a pool of innovations and ideas ranging from, alternative building methods, energy saving, newly launched brick making machines with increased outputs, including options to create labour intensive job opportunities in sector, the department resolved after lengthy deliberations with stakeholders to peruse the following outcomes for implementation.

These included:

To partner with CIDB and embark on a road show across the province before end July to enlighten interested communities on Contractor Development. Against the backdrop of a shrinking budget and piling backlog of road maintenance (surface and gravel) compounded by the need to upgrade from gravel to surface requires approximately at least R36 billion, consensus was expedite the establishment a Road Agency for the province. Formulate a provincial Revenue Policy and finalise policy dealing with Borrow Pits to level the playing fields to by end of July.

Included in this, will be the policy that would enable small constructors to source heavy duty machinery (yellow fleet) for road construction and maintenance.

The department of Public Works and Roads to draw-up an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) job creation plans for all provincial departments to for the Community Based Programmes unit to have a functional EPWP structure inclusive of personnel in the four districts.

Head of the department, Pakiso Mothupi cautioned service delivery would not be possible “if the state machinery is not working”.

He said decision of the two-day engagement required “leadership not scared to take decision”

Mothupi expressed optimism that plans would be in place to start implementing new proposed initiatives by September this year.

ENDS

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