

SPEECH BY MEC FOR PUBLIC WORKS-HONOURABLE HOWARD  
YAWA, MPL AT THE PUBLIC WORKS -PPC PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH  
AT THE PPC SLURRY FACTORY PLANT NEAR MAFIKENG 12  
SEPTEMBER 2005

Programme Directors

The Chief Operations Officer for PPC-Dr Orrie Fenn

The Head of the Department the Department of Public Works-Dr  
Lydia Sebego

The President of North West NAFCOC-Mr. M.A.Lekoma

The President of the National Federated Builders Industry -Mr. Sy  
Ramodike

Senior Managers from PPC

Senior Managers from government

Consultants and Contractors

Distinguished guests

Members of the Fourth Estate, the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the relationship between my department and South Africa's first cement and lime manufacturing company, Pretoria Portland Cement (PPC).

Infrastructure development is indeed at the heart of the policy of the government for achieving economic growth and improving the quality of life of the majority.

The history of PPC is closely linked to the growth and development of South Africa's infrastructure. Since the establishment of PPC in 1892, it has produced cement for many of the country's most famous landmarks and construction projects. These include the Union Buildings, the Gariep dam, Van Stadens River Bridge, the Huguenot tunnel and much of the rest of southern Africa's infrastructure.

I hope that Dr Fenn will agree with me that PPC Slurry Plant established in 1915 as the second plant after the Hercules Plant is one of the strategically located and productive PPC plants that make up the giant that PPC is.

When my department approached Mr. Nico Roets the Area Sales manager for the North West Province to consider support mechanisms for emerging business enterprises involved in the supply of cement as part of our supply chain management system, we discovered in PPC a partner committed to empowerment and transformation.

The hundred thousand rands (R100 000,00) that we have received from PPC today represents a new partnership towards empowerment of new entrants into the construction sector and therefore an important contribution towards skills development.

As a department we have appointed a service provider for the roll out of the skills development programme. Training for ninety-four emerging contractors has already commenced. The modules for the skills development programme include

- understanding and applying business finance
- Tendering for construction contracts,
- Establish health of a work area.

This skills development programme forms a basis that could allow the contractors to study towards an NQF Level two Learnership qualification in construction contractor.

As a department we are proud to be associated with the giant of the Cement Manufacturing Industry, PPC and are confident that the partnership we are launching today will contribute towards the creation of competitive business enterprises and the delivery of quality public infrastructure.

The recognition by PPC that the transformation of the construction is not just the responsibility of government alone but the collective responsibility of all involved in the construction industry is encouraging and should set as a challenge to other construction industry players.

Indeed South Africa will only succeed when the private and business sector embrace the public sector for the common good of its all its citizens. We call on other construction industry

players to support SMME development for an economy that benefits all our people.

We hope that our partnership will stimulate the competitiveness of emerging contractors in the second economy particularly those involving women, youth and the disabled so that they are also brought into the mainstream of our economy.

We look forward to a mutually beneficial and sustainable partnership that will benefit the people of the North West Province.

Ke a leboga.