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## MEC Keynote Address

The opening keynote address by Siphokazi Lusithi focused on infrastructure as a catalyst for socioeconomic growth in the Eastern Cape. The presentation highlighted the importance of infrastructure investment in enabling economic participation, improving service delivery and stimulating regional development.

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## 3RD ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION & INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT & EXPO

### Constructing South Africa's Growth: Innovation, Infrastructure & Inclusive Growth

Held on 7 May 2026, the summit created a platform for practical engagement around infrastructure delivery, economic inclusion and sustainable development. From strategic keynote addresses to implementation-focused panel discussions, the programme reflected both the urgency and complexity of infrastructure development in South Africa.

The event opened with welcoming remarks from Ms. Divinity Roji, General Manager of Imbizo Events & Exhibitions, who positioned the summit as a collaborative platform designed to bridge public and private sector engagement while driving actionable conversations around infrastructure growth.



## From Planning to Implementation

Representing SANRAL, Moloko Masenya unpacked the role of state-owned entities in driving road infrastructure development. The presentation emphasised strategic stakeholder engagement, project coordination and the importance of roads infrastructure in enabling economic mobility and connectivity.

A high-level panel discussion titled From Plans to Projects: Fixing the Gaps in Infrastructure Delivery brought together leaders from human settlements, engineering and municipal development sectors. Contributions from Thoza Qwanyashe, Sphamandla Mhlongo, Khanya Cakata and Cladius Nhwu focused on implementation bottlenecks, intergovernmental coordination, project execution challenges and the need for accountability in infrastructure delivery systems.

Moderated by Mvuyisi Litye, the discussion reinforced the importance of aligning planning with execution capacity and community impact.

## Financing Infrastructure in Practice: From Capital to Implementation



Infrastructure financing emerged as one of the strongest themes throughout the summit. Industry experts explored how infrastructure projects are funded in practice and what barriers continue to limit participation across the value chain.

The panel discussion on How Infrastructure Deals are Structured and Funded in Practice featured insights from Sifiso Kambule, Pumza Gwabeni and Nocwaka Joka. Discussions centred on blended finance models, investment readiness, public-private collaboration and the importance of making funding mechanisms more accessible to emerging businesses and contractors.

An individual presentation by Yanda Ntsaluba addressed access to finance for contractors and unpacked the realities facing SMEs attempting to scale within the construction and infrastructure sector. The session highlighted how financial inclusion remains essential for unlocking sector-wide growth and sustainable participation.

## Sustaining Infrastructure Performance: Delivery, Maintenance & Reliability

This session shifted the focus toward long-term sustainability and operational resilience.

In a strategic address on Closing the Skills Gap in Infrastructure Delivery, Nomfanelo Mqoqi-Mondi highlighted the growing demand for technical skills, institutional capacity and industry collaboration to strengthen infrastructure implementation and maintenance across municipalities.

The panel discussion on Asset Management and Maintenance of Water and Electricity Infrastructure addressed one of the country's most pressing challenges: sustaining infrastructure performance beyond project completion.



The session featured Malcolm John Figg, Gaster Sharpley and Phumlani Mbulawa. Discussions examined infrastructure deterioration, maintenance planning, governance challenges and the need for long-term investment in utility systems and public infrastructure reliability.

## Enabling Readiness & Participation: Compliance to Opportunities

The final session focused on enterprise participation, procurement access and supplier readiness within the infrastructure economy.

Presentations by Bantu Magqashela and Welekazi Ndika explored procurement pathways and supplier opportunities available within major infrastructure programmes.

The closing panel discussion on Enterprise Development featured Mkhululi Mtakatya, Qhamani Mjali and Shana Potgieter.

Moderated by Lulama Jakavula, the discussion addressed contractor compliance, tax education, enterprise support systems and the practical realities businesses face when attempting to access infrastructure opportunities.

### Key Takeaways from the Summit

- Infrastructure development cannot succeed without stronger implementation capacity and accountability.
- Sustainable infrastructure requires equal focus on maintenance, skills development and operational reliability.
- Access to finance remains a major challenge for emerging contractors and SMEs.
- Public-private partnerships continue to play a critical role in enabling infrastructure delivery.
- Enterprise development and procurement inclusion are essential for ensuring infrastructure growth translates into broader economic participation.

The 3rd Annual Construction & Infrastructure Summit & Expo was not only a platform for dialogue, but a reflection of the growing urgency to move South Africa's infrastructure agenda from discussion into measurable action.