

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE



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Department of
Public Works & Infrastructure
FREE STATE PROVINCE

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Presentation Structure

“A prosperous Free State through facilitation of sustainable built-infrastructure”

- 1. Introduction and Background*
- 2. Problem Statement*
- 3. Vision - Facilitation of Sustainable Built Environment*
- 4. Consulting Engineers as Service Providers*
- 5. Collaboration with Public Works and Infrastructure*



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Introduction and Background

The **mandate** of Public Works sector is to:

- Provide accommodation for the state;
- Manage the property portfolio of the state;
- Maintain the property under its custodianship;
- Advise on Built Environment policy;
- Regulate and transform the Built Environment;
- Provide oversight to the entities and professional councils within its space;
- Coordinate and report on the concurrent mandates;
- Develop norms and standards across the public works sector; and
- Coordinate government's job creation initiative (focusing on labour intensive opportunities).



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Introduction and Background

The Free State Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has grown its capacity in relation to competent technical competent workforce comprising of various occupational groups registered with relevant professional bodies, namely:

- Professional Engineers;
- Professional Quantity Surveyors;
- Professional Architects;
- Professional Construction Project Managers;
- Professional Technologists; etc.

We spent R 260 000 pa on renewing of professional registrations (30 professionals for 2022/23)

The Department has also grown significantly in terms of its built related workforce inclusive of :

- Artisans;
- Works Inspectors (Building; Civil; Electrical; Mechanical; etc.)



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Problem Statement

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana announced in his budget speech of February 2023 that Government would spend **R903 billion** on infrastructure over the next three years.

In contrast - **Mr. Webster Mfebe the CEO of SA Forum of Civil Engineering Contractors** says that " *the government's infrastructure roll-out program is not on track. He furthermore cited the latest Afrimat Construction Index that shows the industry declined by 2,2% in the fourth quarter. He linked this statement to Stats SA which reported that construction industry liquidations rose by 32% in the past year and 94 companies closed down.*

Bearing the afore mentioned in mind it is critical that government and the private sector should join hands to prevent liquidations and the consulting firms closing down and to stop leakages funds meant for infrastructure development;

We must all give effect to the successful roll-out of the infrastructure vision and commitment of the President of the Country.



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Vision - Facilitation of Sustainable Built Environment

The idea of facilitating sustainable built infrastructure to achieve a prosperous Free State is an excellent goal that can bring many benefits to the Province.

Sustainable infrastructure is essential for economic development, social welfare, and environmental protection.

- **Economic growth:** Can boost economic development and create new job opportunities (Public transport for mobility and tourism in the region);
- **Energy efficiency:** Can help to reduce energy consumption, which can lead to significant cost savings for individuals, businesses, and government. (Building designs that can help reduce energy consumption and costs);
- **Environmental protection:** Can help to reduce the impact of human activities on the environment. (Use of sustainable materials and practices can reduce carbon emissions and waste);
- **Social welfare:** Can improve the quality of life of the people living in the province (Promotion of sustainable livelihoods);



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Vision - Facilitation of Sustainable Built Environment

To achieve a prosperous Free State through sustainable infrastructure

- It is essential to implement policies that promote sustainable practices in all aspects of construction and development;
- This includes encouraging the use of green building practices, renewable energy sources, and energy-efficient technologies;
- It ensures accessible to all members of the community, including those in low-income areas;
- Investing in skills development within government and in the private sector is essential for building sustainable infrastructure;
- Skills development should encompass various aspects of sustainable infrastructure, aligned with national and international best practices;
- The Department should collaborate with industry experts and organizations to develop training programs ; generate ideas and to assist in the rollout of sustainable infrastructure.



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Consulting Engineers as Service Providers

Consulting Engineers provides an essential expertise and guidance to clients.

The Free State Government has lost millions of public funds due to leakages and poor project planning and implementation (Asbestos; RDP Houses; Roads and Hospital projects etc)

We need Competent Consulting Engineers to ensure that quality projects are delivered safely, on time, and within budget:

- **Technical expertise:** Provide a specialized knowledge of engineering principles and practices and ensures that designs and implementation meet client requirements and adhere to industry standards;
- **Project management:** Provide project management services to clients, overseeing every aspect of a project from start to finish. This includes developing project plans, managing timelines, and coordinating with contractors, suppliers, and other stakeholders;
- **Cost management:** Management of project costs, cost estimates and cost-saving measures;
- **Quality control:** Projects meet quality standards and regulations;
- **Risk management:** Identification and management of project risks (stakeholder; quality; implementation; design; procurement etc)



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Consulting Engineers as Service Providers

*We therefore request the Consulting Engineers to **claim their space** in the Province and assist in the following:*

- Technical evaluation of prospective qualifying contractors to improve the quality of contractors' appointment for implementation of infrastructure projects;
- To provide guidance and support to Architects and QS on the latest building regulations and technologies to enhance their service delivery;
- To provide training, mentorship, support and executive coaching to public sector professional candidates in order to address the lack of adequately skilled registered professionals;
- To be involved in the development of policies and strategies that promote skills development; capacity building in the infrastructure sector and promotion of sustainable infrastructure delivery.



Consulting Engineers as Service Providers

The following concerns are noted:

- High number of consulting engineers that are disqualified at tender stage in the appointment of panels due to not following tender instructions and CSD non-compliance **(Case Law)**; in some cases, due to acts of corruption;
- Consulting Engineer firms that are closing down ; liquidated or relocating from the Province;
- Consulting Engineers that are contributing to poor quality of work; cost overruns;
- The growing number and quantum of variation orders and scope changes as a result of poor planning;
- Lack of enforcement of contract provisions (penalties; mora etc);
- Some firms have too many projects on hand as a result deploys inexperienced engineers
- Turnover of experienced engineers that affects on going projects;



Collaboration with Public Works & Infrastructure

Collaboration between Consulting Engineers and; Public Works and Infrastructure departments is essential for successful project outcomes;

Public Works and Infrastructure departments are responsible for managing public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water systems, and public buildings;

Consulting engineers bring technical expertise and project management skills to the table, making them valuable partners for sustainable delivery of infrastructure projects;

Collaboration is required in the following areas :

- **Project Planning:** Can help identify potential issues and recommend solutions, leading to better outcomes for projects.
- **Cost Savings:** identify ways to reduce project costs while maintaining quality (recommend alternative materials or designs that may be more cost-effective without compromising safety or functionality)



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Collaboration with Public Works & Infrastructure

- **Innovation and Research:** Collaboration can lead to innovative solutions to infrastructure challenges. (bring new ideas and technologies to the table to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure projects;
- **Community engagement:** Consulting engineers can provide expertise and advice on how to engage with communities effectively, leading to better outcomes and greater community support for projects (Construction Mafia's and Business Forums; Community disruptions);

Consulting Engineers should play five basic roles in insuring the successful implementation of the projects

Expert ; Manager; Researcher; Counsellor and Politician



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Conclusion



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