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**GAUTENG
CONSTRUCTION**

EXPO

2024 ////////////////



Premier Lesufi

Sets the Construction
Industry Abuzz
@ReAgaMmogo
Expo



15 FEB | **JOBURG EXPO**
2024 | **CENTRE**





Premier Lesufi Sets the Construction Industry Abuzz @ReAgaMmogo Expo



Article by: Tiisetso Ngoedi and Zubenathi Ngqikiza
Photography by: Tshisi Thangavhelelo & Delron Phokane



I stand in front of you today to say, Gauteng is rising. We will change our cities, change our townships and demolish hostels

- Gauteng Premier, Panyaza Lesufi



The Gauteng Premier, Panyaza Lesufi set the built and construction industry abuzz yesterday when he delivered the keynote address at the inaugural Re Aga Mmogo Gauteng Construction Expo, held at the Johannesburg Expo Centre. In an effort to foster economic empowerment and inclusivity, this groundbreaking event is specifically designed to cater for Small Medium, Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) owned by women youth and persons with disabilities in construction and built sector.

Premier Lesufi said, "I stand in front of you today to say, Gauteng is rising. We will change our cities, change our townships and demolish hostels. As the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) we believe that

the construction industry is the new economy that we are going to defend. The only question you need to answer is, 'Are you ready to move with us to the next level? We are the generation that is ready to take Gauteng to the next level. We are ready to build highways and bridges in our Province and create more job opportunities. We need new technologies and people with capabilities. We also need to change our attitudes. Let the best tender be the best winner, not the one with connections. We want to declare that as the Provincial Government we are ready to take Gauteng to the next level, because with you, we are capable to improve and innovate our townships and cities".

Premier Lesufi gave a stern warning to contractors to ensure that construction

projects finish on time to avoid being blacklisted by Government, "I want to urge SMMEs to finish the construction of projects that they have started within time and budget, to maintain their image as well as to open chances of growing their businesses. We cannot be associated with failure. We want to have our own banks to eliminate financial barriers, for those who need funding. When you leave this venue, I want you to say you are ready to move with us to the next level".

The Expo kicked-off in a plenary session, where industry leaders and GPG officials welcomed and engaged SMMEs on the state of affairs in the construction sector, issues affecting designated groups which included advancing transformation, inclusion and equality in the built industry as



well as unlocking the opportunities for the designated groups within the built industry. SMMEs who benefitted from Government programmes also shared their testimonies.

The MEC for the Department of Human Settlements and Infrastructure Development, Lebogang Maile encouraged SMMEs to collaborate and use this opportunity to receive information, "We want all the problems of SMMEs solved. Not for you to come here and listen to speeches and go home. This exhibition is not a talk shop. The main challenge is the dissemination of information. That is why we called you here today to come and receive information. Information is power. Do not leave without going to any of the stalls, we have people here who have benefitted, and others will share their success stories. Thank you all for coming through. Please network and find solutions to some of your problems. I hope this exhibition will add value." MEC Maile acknowledged challenges in the construction sector, adding that Government needs to do more for People living with Disabilities.

Amongst the speakers was the Office of the Premier's Director for Disability Rights, Zain Bulbulia who spoke about Universal Access and Design (UD&A) in the built and construction sector, "As a Province we want to see more universally designed buildings that are fully accessible to all our citizens. We have made an intervention as the Gauteng Provincial Government to ensure that no one is left behind.

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We are putting much emphasis on elevating opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities. We emphasise the contribution of private sectors to infusing inclusion and diversity in every project. The impact of this intervention will be unique. We invite all partners from private sector, organised labour, individuals at large to walk this journey with us. This collaborative initiative is a unique one, to bring all designated groups together. We are the only Province to have its policies on the designated groups. I am proud to say that GPG has achieved 2% on procurement for persons with disabilities, with 109 companies owned by persons with disabilities”.

The Chairperson of the South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) and top-ranking woman in the construction industry, Clara Sikelelwa Sodlulashwe-Mwenze encouraged women in the industry to stop complaining about what is not done for them but rather comply as compliance leads to success. She further warned that women should refrain from pulling each other down.



Another speaker was a young industry leader who serves as the Chief Transformation Officer for the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) Industry Expert, Thembakazi Moya, stated that to create opportunities for the targeted groups within the built industry, designated groups must be decisive and take action. She added that this can be accomplished through offering young people chances for networking, employment, training, and skill development, to be sustainable, they also need to improve collaboration between the public and

private sectors. Professional Project Manager and Senior Civil Engineer from the South African Institute of Civil Engineering (SAICE), Innocentia Mahlangu said, “In my profession, women make up just 10% of professionals. There are deeply rooted systemic barriers that we encounter in the industry such as societal prejudices and of course economic inequalities. These issues include limited access to finance, discrimination from finance institutions, limited access to training, mentorship and market. Women are limited to opportunities of network, this Expo seeks to address the root

causes of these inequalities. Today, we are taking a bold step in the right direction. We need to build an inclusive and sustainable industry. We can do this by mobilising an ecosystem of change makers, leveraging innovative partnerships, partnering with enterprises that are owned by persons with disabilities”.

The Re Aga Mmogo Expo is a dynamic platform, where more than 70 exhibitors, including government departments and agencies, construction companies, public funding institutions such as

commercial banks, and institutions of higher learning as well professional bodies from across the Provincial Government are showcasing their services.

With the convergence of stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors, the Expo became a collaborative initiative where the Provincial Government adopted a pro-active and hands-on approach to create an enabling environment for all the construction and build sector SMMEs owned by designated groups.





Designated SMMEs Speak on the Barriers to entry in the Construction Sector

Article by: Nthabiseng Malatji and Hajira Ally
Photography by: Tshisi Thangavhelelo & Delron Phokane

Infrastructure News engaged with the designated Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to hear first-hand barriers to entry encountered in the built and construction industry.



Mpho Mapahtsoe

My company is focused on cleaning and facilities and it has been difficult as a woman to strive in this sector. We need mentorship and coaching. Women are mostly undermined. It is important that we receive support.



Samantha Masuku

Women are typically not seen in the construction industry. It is already a challenge to be taken seriously. However it gives me as a woman the drive to push harder and exceed expectations. I am looking forward to collaborating and engaging with other businesspeople in this sector.



Richman Ndindwa

For persons with disabilities, it has always been a challenge finding work in the construction industry. People see us and already conclude that we cannot do the job. There is also not enough information on how to go about in this industry for Persons living with Disabilities, and there is no drive to give us opportunities.



Khayelihle Mwelase

No one comes into construction industry with experience. Persons living with Disabilities are not given enough opportunities to advance in the industry. Government needs to host more of these Expos so that we can collaborate as SMMEs. We need to unlock all the opportunities for designated groups in the construction space. We need an enabling environment.



Thendo Mudau

I would say that some of the barriers I have experienced when entering the industry as a young person is lack of experience and the lack of enough opportunities for starting up. I look forward to see the opportunities that are there for us as the youth.



Johannes Molepe

As someone who is deaf, I have observed a significant challenge facing many deaf individuals in the construction industry. The lack of resources to facilitate easier navigation and create a more accessible work environment. For instance, since we cannot rely on auditory cues, visual aids are essential. Implementing lights to signal hazards or approaching construction vehicles would greatly enhance safety and efficiency for deaf workers on construction sites or in workplaces.



Manini Mbongwa

I have been in the construction industry for 22 years. One of the difficulties we encounter is retaining qualified and skilled individuals. We often struggle with recognition as business professionals, being seen more as 'tenderpreneurs' due to the project-based nature of our work. Despite investing in training and skill development, employees often leave for better opportunities, as our industry is perceived as less stable. Consequently, we constantly find ourselves training new personnel to fill the gaps.



Exhilarating Exhibition @ReAgamMogo Gauteng Construction Expo



Article by: Gadushe Kondlo
Photography by: Tshisi Thangavhelelo, Delron Phokane & Thomas Chauke

The exhibition component of the inaugural Re Aga Mmogo Gauteng Construction Expo 2024 got off to a very good start when the Gauteng Premier, Panyaza Lesufi flanked by the MEC for Human Settlements and Infrastructure Development, Lebogang Maile conducted a walk about and interacted with exhibitors.

With over 50 exhibitors in attendance, Hall 8 of the Nasrec Expo Centre, where the exhibition was held, was a hive of activity as delegates moved from stall to stall, interacting with exhibitors and gathering what many said was, "valuable information" from the different organisations.

The Re Aga Mmogo Gauteng Construction Expo 2024 truly lived up to expectation as the exhibition attracted over 2000 visitors and delegates from across the targeted groups (women, youth, Persons with Disability and military veterans) who are eager to become part of the construction industry and for those who already have a foot in door as budding and emerging SMMEs, but wish to grow and have more impact in the construction industry value chain.

Visitors were spoilt for choice and offered a wholistic informative package to qualify and empower them to do business with the Gauteng Provincial Government. Organisations invited to participate at the Exp were grouped in the following categories: Government Departments and Government Entities / Agencies; Funding Institutions; Sectorial Regulatory bodies and Non-profit Organisations (NPOs) and private companies.

One of the highlights of the expo in Hall 8 was the inclusion of a pop-up stage complete with its own fully fledged programme where carefully

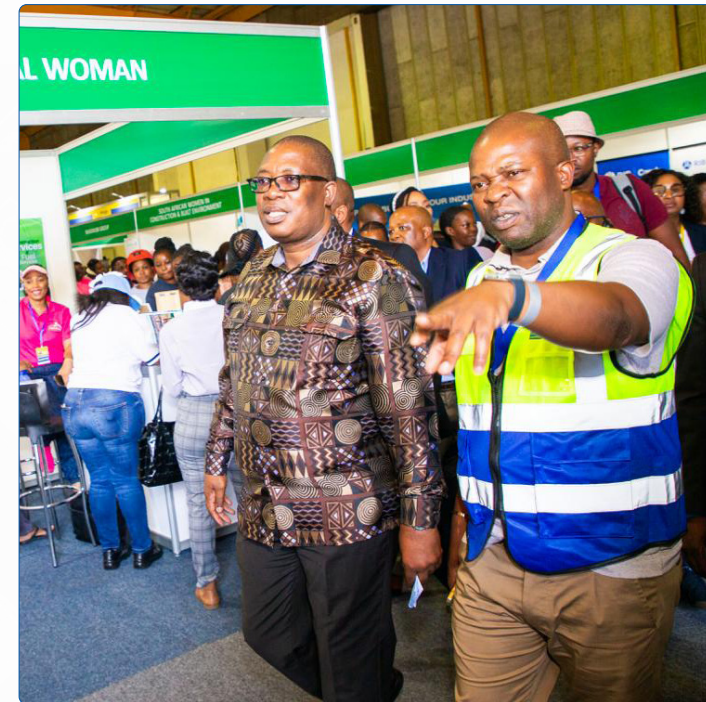


selected representatives from relevant institutions made brief presentations on their service offerings and fielded questions under the following thematic topics: Skills Development, Training and Mentoring; Funding Opportunities; Business Incubation; and Regulatory Compliance.

Dinaledi Nteleki from The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) a regulatory body for project managers said their participation at the Expo is aimed at encouraging SMMEs to

professionalise their participation in the construction sector by taking up their candidate training and mentoring programme.

The Vice Chairperson and Director of South African Women in Plumbing and Trades (SAWIP), Kile Mteto asserted their role in advocating for women artisans within the sector and how SAWIP provides technical skills training in plumbing and further offers mentoring, trades test and business skills.



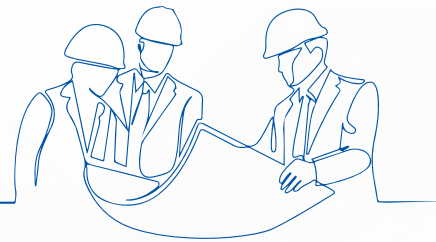
Natasha Mgengwana of Mila Stakeholder Management and Relations and Social Facilitation entity, highlighted the importance of social facilitation saying, "although focus in the built environment is on brick and mortar, it does not stop there, focusing on socialising the person or beneficiary and community is of equal importance."

It was clear by the palpable exhilarating atmosphere at the exhibition that this was a culmination of hard work from the coordinating team behind the scene, and an overflowing passion of the various exhibitors about their service offering that fully aligned with the foresight of the provincial executive in calling for the, Re Aga Mmogo Gauteng Construction Expo 2024.





Unlocking the Power of SMMEs @ReAgaMmogo Gauteng Construction Expo



Article by: Sthabile Cele
Photography by: Tshisi Thangavhelelo & Delron Phokane

The Re Aga Mmogo Construction Expo has emerged as a beacon of hope for capacitating and enhancing the skills of construction and built environment Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) owned by designated groups. These groups include businesses owned by women, youth, persons with disabilities and military veterans. Recognised as significant contributors to economic growth and job creation in the sector, these SMMEs experience challenges stemming from under-capacitation and financial disadvantages. However, through the various pop-up seminars conducted at the Expo, a transformative journey towards empowerment and inclusivity is well underway.

Participants attending the Re Aga Mmogo Construction Expo accessed a plethora of opportunities to successfully overcome barriers in the construction industry. Government, public sector agencies, businesses, funding institutions, institutions of higher learning and professional bodies, collaborated to facilitate these workshops.

The pop-up sessions provided a vital opportunity for participants to enhance their knowledge, keep abreast of regulations and acquire critical skills to obtain sustainable competitive advantage.

The first session, chaired by Malusi Shezi, the CEO of the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA), focused on Skills Development, Training and Mentorship Opportunities with contributions from Malusi Shezi and Jabu Seriti. The Chairperson of MV Development Agency, Nonkonzo Molai elaborated on programmes to promote economic participation for military Veterans. Dr Mahachi from UJ Engineering and Built Environment,



provided insight on innovative building technology and the future of construction. Zandile Nokwanda from the South African Institute of Black Property Practitioners (SAIBPP) discussed training and mentorship opportunities within the property sector for designated groups.

Thandeka Molefe the Director of Thamleaf Construction Projects said, "this initiative by the Gauteng government infrastructure sector is highly appreciated as it is not easy for women to get into the construction industry and understand all that is needed. To have all these speakers' giving information under one venue, enabling us to enhance our knowledge

and access the funding and regulation industry in one day is amazing. I enjoyed the first session and I'm looking forward to rest."

The second session, chaired by Shiraaz Lorgat from Acting Chief Investment and Development Officer from Gauteng Partnership Fund, delved into funding opportunities. Solly Mabandla from the National Empowerment Fund discussed on funding opportunities for designated groups within the construction and property sectors. Dinga Mahlangu from Standard Bank, elaborated on funding growth and expansion opportunities for women owned SMMEs. Dudu Phoswa from the Social Housing Regulatory Authority



Thandeka Molefe

(SHRA) spoke about opportunities for SMMEs in the social housing value chain. Next, the Chairperson of BRICS Women Alliance (BWA), Lebogang Zulu presented opportunities for construction SMMEs across the BRICS member states. The Chairperson, of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Karabo Mohale discussed opportunities for youth SMMEs in construction. Nosipho Khenkela from Small Enterprise Funding Agency (SEFA), presented on Summary presentation outlining funding opportunities for construction SMMEs. The third pop-up session, focused on Business Incubation, aimed to nurture emerging enterprises. Chaired by key Lebogang Zulu, the Chairperson of BRICS Women Business Alliance (WBA).

The final pop-up session which centred on Regulatory Compliance was chaired by Dudu Phoswa a seasoned training and capacity building professional. Expert from the South African Revenue Service (SARS) presented on the Regulatory compliance for SMMEs to manage annual tax returns and tax certificates. Andiswa Ndlovu, elaborated on the CIDB Registration and grading for small and micro business owned by the designated groups. Mpho Phala from Phamakgo Distributors had this to say about the Expo, "The Expo is very informative because it gives one knowledge of where to go when you need assistance in construction industry or whatever



the Government have to offer interns of business, for people with disability, not only people with disabilities but also women and youth in construction. For me this Expo is very powerful and I'm grateful for what I've learnt today. I'm going to share the information with others especially those who were not here. I will disseminate the information gained today to everyone even those in other provinces about where to go when they require information in the construction industry.

Throughout the pop-up sessions, the chairpersons facilitated open discussions, allowing participants to pose questions and share insights. This inclusive and collaborative atmosphere fostered the exchange of knowledge and learning - enriching the overall experience of the Expo.

The Re Aga Mmogo Construction Expo unlocked insights and fostered collaboration paving the way for a more inclusive and prosperous future in construction industry.



Mpho Phala



ReAgaMmogo Fosters Partnerships - SMMEs share their Experience



Article by: Nthabiseng Malatji and Hajira Ally
Photography by: Tshisi Thangavhelele & Delron Phokane

Infrastructure News engaged with the designated Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) who shared their views on the Re Aga Mmogo Gauteng Construction Expo



Nomalanga Mana

I have learned a lot and happy that I will share the information with others in my community. It would be a waste of time to come here and not use this information. Hence, I will do my best to better myself and my company through this experience.



Katlego Mmisi

I learned about a lot of things that I did not know such as job opportunities and how to access the tender tracking tools. This was a very informative Expo for the youth, as these opportunities will empower us to create our own job opportunities and break the barriers that we face.



Silindile Mkhize

The Expo was informative. I enjoyed being in the room and learning from those who have gone before us. The conversation, especially with Ms. Clara, who emphasised on the importance of finishing projects, was interesting. As a woman in business entering the construction space, today's Expo provided valuable insights.



Thando Skhosana

The Expo was fruitful and exceeded my expectations. I got to learn about different companies and the different ways one can access the construction industry. I also learned about the different Government departments and their roles. I was particularly inspired by the work done by the Department of Infrastructure Development in building schools, hospitals, and property management.



Nkosazana Kondlo

For me, the Expo was highly informative, especially regarding the statistics and the involvement of women in construction. It was truly eye-opening, and I am pleased to see more job opportunities emerging, particularly for those in grades one, four, and six. I eagerly anticipate these opportunities materialising and I am pleased that the Expo was more than just a talk show, it showcased women with expertise in various fields. I am genuinely proud to be a part of this.



Gina Nhlabathi

I think it was a good idea to bring together the stakeholders and have this session. It was empowering especially to the designated groups on how to grow and empower themselves and their businesses. We also learnt about the importance of compliance. This Expo provided everyone that is starting out, as well as those interested in the construction industry with opportunities.



Masentle Mofokeng

As a Person living with a Disability, I gained valuable insights of the construction industry from the plenary session I learned new information about the necessity of having CIBD for compliance. I am thrilled because they mentioned that there will be many opportunities for youth, military veterans, women, and Persons with Disabilities. The Expo also exposed me to many new things that I was not aware of before.