

Women in construction urged to take advantage of Contractors' Framework

The Western Cape Department of Human Settlements has encouraged women in the construction industry to take part in the Contractors' Framework that is geared towards attracting construction companies that have a 51% and more women ownership.



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Human settlements MEC Tertuis Simmers announced that before the end of 2021, the department will open a new framework that will serve as an invitation to female-owned, built-environment professionals, suppliers and service providers to register with the department for projects and work that will be allocated during the 2022/23 financial year and beyond.

“Generally, our frameworks include services such as unblocking of houses; daily emergency and non-emergency work on properties; cleaning and clearing of vacant land owned by the department; maintenance, electrical works, plumbing, painting, civil engineering; and construction of housing units.

“Further to this, certain future tenders that will be issued will specifically target female-owned companies. This will encourage private developers to engage and support women sub-contractors,” Simmers said on Wednesday.

He said in due course, the framework will also provide further clarity around the specific criteria and the scope of work.

Meet all relevant criteria

The MEC emphasised that all those who want to apply to get onto the database should meet all the relevant criteria. He said the primary aim is to create tangible and sustainable opportunities for women within the sector.

“We’ve already engaged the South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) and other stakeholders about this initiative, where positive responses were received. I would like to encourage all women, and not only those who are interested in this industry, to use the opportunity to apply once the framework opens.

“Our goal is to have a minimum of 30% women contractors represented on our projects, but this can only be achieved if the female-owned entities have all their administrative processes and gradings in place. I would like to encourage our women to engage the relevant bodies and entities in the sector about what is required, and what criteria should be met. There is a great need for more women-owned companies in this sector,” Simmers said.

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