

Construction

The South African building industry is an active and vibrant part of our economy. In combination with economic growth and the national/provincial government's infrastructure thrust, major refurbishment projects have occurred in city centres and around KwaZulu-Natal.

The tenacity of this sector was proved when it delivered all infrastructure necessary for hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ first such spectacle. The infrastructure, which was seen by sceptics as behind schedule & infeasible, was delivered well in time for the country hosting of the most popular football event with the King Shaka International Airport opening doors just above a month earlier than required. While the setting/ending of the boom years of before 2010 FIFA World Cup™ may have left a dent in the phenomenal growth of this sector, the sector remains poised to take advantage of eminent opportunities presented by growing globalisation and South Africa and Africa's thirst to become a meaningful part of the global village. In fact, SA companies are some of the champions in paving the way in some of Africa's dare-go areas. The infrastructure development being the first key to unlocking potentials in those areas.



In KwaZulu-Natal, the volumes of property development projects, both resort and residential continue to have had a positive effect on new business in terms of management and securing new management contracts. All this has had implications for staffing, capacity, marketing and sales, as well as service delivery. Moreland has a large number of projects underway. Some of the major projects of this nature include Cornubia in Umhlanga. A private public partnership with eThekweni municipality has seen the establishment of an industrial park. Metallon and the Point Development Company have a large number of mixed-use development projects based on the Durban Point. KwaZulu-Natal has plenty of well developed suburbs with good quality housing to suit most income groups. The Department of Housing is being proactive in addressing the housing shortage in informal settlements.

The government's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) has also created many opportunities for contractors. The EPWP is a nation-wide programme covering all spheres of government and state-owned enterprises that aims to draw significant numbers of the unemployed into productive work accompanied by training so that they increase their capacity to earn an income. One of the key focus areas of the EPWP is the replication of best practice programmes, and the Zibambele Road maintenance programme of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has been identified as one such programme. This programme currently provides work for more than 14 000 people who maintain sections of rural road network across the Province.