

Black construction companies urged to help address housing shortage

Emerging black construction companies owned by women, youth, military veterans and people with disabilities should take the lead in rolling out alternative building technology (ABT) to address the country's housing backlog.



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In her budget speech, human settlements minister Lindiwe Sisulu, said, in an effort to respond to the growing rate of urbanisation facing small and big cities, the government will also use ABT and not only rely on bricks and mortar.

She called on small black construction companies to respond to the Housing Development Agency (HAD) advert inviting them to be part of a panel of companies to build houses. “We have realised that by utilising ABT we can build faster and are able to develop new skills and open opportunities to learn new trades within our communities, it is for this reason we have to put together a panel of companies to support our work across the country. This panel will also be available to provinces, municipalities and all other departments,” she said.

Empowerment

“We are very clear that we want to empower women, youth, military veterans and people living with disabilities. In both the water and sanitation and human settlements sectors, we are committed to supporting more than 50% women empowerment.

“We also want to see businesses employing members of the communities where they build. Transformation of the construction environment, whether it’s building houses or supplying water infrastructure through skills development and preferential procurement process are non-negotiables,” Sisulu said.

The minister also called on empowered infrastructure and construction companies to visit the website of the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, and all agencies under the Ministry to take advantage of the available business opportunities.

The HAD tender can be accessed on the website www.thehda.co.za.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>