

Contractors Development Program

Gamagara Development Forum (GDF) has been hosting various Contractors Development Programme workshops at the GDF offices. The main objectives of the contractors development program is to take all small local contractors and train them by means of accredited workshops (NQF 1 and 2) as well as non-accredited workshops and on site mentoring to ensure a sustainability in their companies. This programme is to also give guidance on different departmental issues that contractors face, assisting them to stay dedicated to clear understanding of the building environment. GDF formed this programme to assist the contractors within the Gamagara region to grow their businesses and get their employees certified as multi-skilled workers.

The first workshop occurred on 28 February 2014 at the GDF offices and all the GDF contractors under the Infrastructure Land and Housing Focus Area were invited to attend. Stakeholders from Anglo Zimele, SEDA, and CIDB were invited to give the contractors advice on how to make their businesses work. Synntech Project Solutions have since taken the responsibility of giving the contractors workshops as they are the ones running with the contractor development programme for GDF. Pieter Enslin the Project Management Office Manager for Synntech said that they are hoping to uplift the local contractors to such a level that they can tender for larger outside projects as well, in order to establish themselves in the construction environment and create much needed employment opportunities to the Gamagara community.

Synntech had their first workshop with the contractors on 15th April 2014, the focus of the workshop was on contractor's accountability file and the contractors were given information about Compensation Fund, Letter of Good Standing and Company induction. Buti Mothabeng, Safety Officer from SIOC-cdt did a short presentation on the changes on the Construction Regulations under Section 43 of the Occupational Health and safety Act of 1993. Pieter says the workshop was a great success. He says they received a good response from the contractors and they commented that they found the workshop to be very informative. There was good interaction during the whole workshop and there was great participation from the contractors.

On completion of the development program each contractor should be in a position to understand how a tender process works, all aspects of bills of Quantity, legal aspects of the construction industry, knowledge of health safety and environmental issues and furthermore understand the Occupational Safety Health ACT, the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Disease ACT, and the BASIC

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT ACT, as well as assisting contractors to become financially viable as a competitive construction company.

Pieter says there has been great progress with the programme, as six contractors improved their CIDB rating from 0 to 1. A further three contractors increased their Construction Industry Development Board ratings from 1 to 2, 1 to 3 and 1 to 4 respectively. The next workshop is scheduled for the 21st May 2014 which will deal with the Joint Building and Construction Contracts conditions. Starting in June 2014 going forward the accredited workshops will kick off.