

## **Boosting Infrastructure Investment by Addressing Governance Gaps** *Government, private sector, multilaterals, and development partners gather in Cape Town as this topic takes center stage globally*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Cape Town, November 2, 2017:** Infrastructure is hard to get right—across the world. Up until now, policy makers focused on improving access to finance. Marking a significant shift, this week representatives from African governments, the global private sector, multilateral institutions, and other development partners meet in Cape Town to participate in the region’s first roundtable on the *governance* of infrastructure, hosted by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). The topic takes center stage as consensus develops globally that a major factor hindering infrastructure implementation is a lack of good governance.

Strong governance structures are critical to governments’ ability to deliver the infrastructure their communities need. When governments are better able to identify, develop, and coordinate their infrastructure pipeline, project financing—both domestic and foreign—will flow. It is indisputably within the power of governments, the business community, and civil society to make this happen. There are many success stories in developing countries to prove it.

With participation from over 120 delegates (including 11 cabinet ministers) and 27 Anglophone and Lusophone Sub-Saharan African countries, the event brings together senior decision-makers including Patrick Dlamini, CEO of DBSA; Honourable Malusi Gigaba, South Africa Minister of Finance; Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary, Southern African Development Community (SADC); and Hartwig Schafer, Vice President of the World Bank.

The roundtable, *Building the Right Infrastructure for Tomorrow*, will offer insights, new ideas, and solution-focused tools such as “InfraCompass” and the online preparation facility “Source” that help improve the governance of public investment in order to deliver essential services and goods—with direct and indirect benefits for the economy and society as a whole. This is the first of a series of roundtables about infrastructure governance that will be organized around the world in the months to come. The next roundtable in Sub-Saharan Africa is planned for May 2018.

In Sub-Saharan Africa only 35 percent of the population has access to electricity. Access to modern transport has declined in the region over the past 20 years, and 23 percent of the population still lacks access to safe water.

The magnitude of these figures masks a more fundamental need. Good governance is essential to avoid white elephants, fraud, waste, and inefficiencies; it is critical to deliver sustainable, inclusive services that promote economic growth, innovation, and increase the quality of life for citizens. It is also paramount to attain the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

The roundtable follows directly from the [2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) on financing for development. It also comes in response to the recommendations of the [2017 Global Infrastructure Forum](#), which called on the multilateral development banks and partners to help strengthen the

investment capacity, policy, and governance frameworks of governments and enhance private sector participation.

Discussion at the roundtable will be guided by this key question: **Why is infrastructure hard to get right?** Participants will focus on how to formulate a holistic vision for their infrastructure programs that anticipates the infrastructure needs of the present and the future—and provides inclusive, sustainable services.

At the opening ceremony, DBSA President Patrick Dlamini said: “I am delighted that DBSA has been able to bring together such an esteemed audience of senior decision makers from across the continent. I hope that this inaugural event will pave the way for a greater understanding of the importance of good governance that is entrenched in the project preparation and implementation stages for infrastructure development globally.”

Access the full agenda at [www.pppknowledgelab.org/infragovernance](http://www.pppknowledgelab.org/infragovernance). The opening ceremony and second session will be livestreamed.

The event is sponsored by the African Development Bank Group, African Legal Support Facility, DBSA, European Investment Bank, Global Infrastructure Hub, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, NEPAD-IPPF, OECD, PPIAF, and the World Bank Group.

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#### **Media Contacts**

Craig Atherfold, Edelman South Africa  
+27(0) 11 504 4000; mobile: +27(0) 83 718 2003; [Craig.Atherfold@edelman.com](mailto:Craig.Atherfold@edelman.com)

Cara Santos Pianesi, World Bank Group  
+1 202 456 2097; mobile +1 202 262 3381 [csantospianesi@worldbank.org](mailto:csantospianesi@worldbank.org)