Western Cape Government

Western Cape Smart Procurement Conference 2026

Executive Report



Innovate. Collaborate. Elevate.

Building a smarter, inclusive and sustainable future together.





PROVINCIAL GOVERNANCE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL TREASURY

SMART SOLUTIONS | INCLUSIVE GROWTH | SUSTAINABLE IMPACT | STRONGER TOGETHER

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ABBREVIATIONS

SPW	Smart Procurement World
AI	Artificial Intelligence
CSD	Central Supplier Database
ePS	Electronic Procurement Solution
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
LGFIPDM	Local Government Framework for Infrastructure Delivery Management
NT	National Treasury
PCC	Procurement Client Centre
ERA	Execution Readiness Assessments
MC	Master of Ceremonies
PRA	Project Readiness Assessment
PPPFR	Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Regulations
PT	Provincial Treasury
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RFQ	Request for Quotations
SCM	Supply Chain Management
WCG	Western Cape Government
WCBD	Western Cape Bid Document
WCSEB	Western Cape Supplier Evidence Bank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 13th Annual Western Cape Procurement Conference took place from 23 – 26 June 2026 at Goudini Spa in Rawsonville located in the beautiful Breede Valley Municipality. The theme was **"Beyond Boundaries: Smart, Sustainable Procurement for a Connected state."** This highlighted the necessity for procurement systems that go beyond organisational and sectoral silos, allowing government institutions to function within an integrated and collaborative procurement framework.

The conference focused on how smart technologies, sustainable procurement practices, and stronger partnerships can enable procurement to function as a strategic instrument for delivering government priorities, strengthening public sector performance, and creating meaningful socio-economic impact across communities.

The conference was deliberately positioned as a strategic intervention to support procurement reform, strengthen Connected State objectives and advance the Western Cape Government's Growth for Jobs and WCIF 2050 priorities. It sought to position procurement as a strategic government capability that connects planning, budgeting, infrastructure delivery, health outcomes, supplier development and economic participation.

Viewed against the strategic proposition approved by Provincial Top Management, the conference successfully validated the growing role of procurement as a key enabler of public value, economic growth and service delivery outcomes. A consistent message throughout the programme was that procurement risk is delivery risk and that procurement reform must increasingly be leadership-led rather than compliance-driven.

With 478 cross sector delegates the programme featured keynote addresses, international case studies and structured engagements with industry specialists across the procurement, infrastructure and health disciplines. These sessions explored critical themes affecting procurement in South Africa and globally, including procurement modernisation, value-based sourcing, digital transformation and the role of procurement in enabling inclusive economic growth.

The 2026 edition builds on this strong base from the 2025 Smart Procurement conference by broadening its reach and deepening its influence. A key enhancement is the introduction of a dedicated Department of Health stream, designed to highlight new avenues for public–private collaboration in health procurement. This stream will place particular emphasis on advancing localisation, promoting supplier diversity, and strengthening community-centred service delivery.

The conference validated the strategic proposition initially presented to Provincial Top Management, namely that procurement is a critical enabler of service delivery, infrastructure development, economic inclusion and public value creation. The discussions and outcomes demonstrated growing institutional maturity and reinforced the need to manage procurement as a strategic government capability rather than a compliance-driven administrative function.

Attendance is aligned to a multi-year outcomes framework that supports the advancement of the Western Cape Infrastructure Framework (WCIF) 2050 and the Growth for Jobs (G4J) priorities. The 2026 event enhances this strategic alignment through the inclusion of the Department of Health and Wellness as a key partner, broadening the province's integrated approach to procurement and infrastructure delivery.



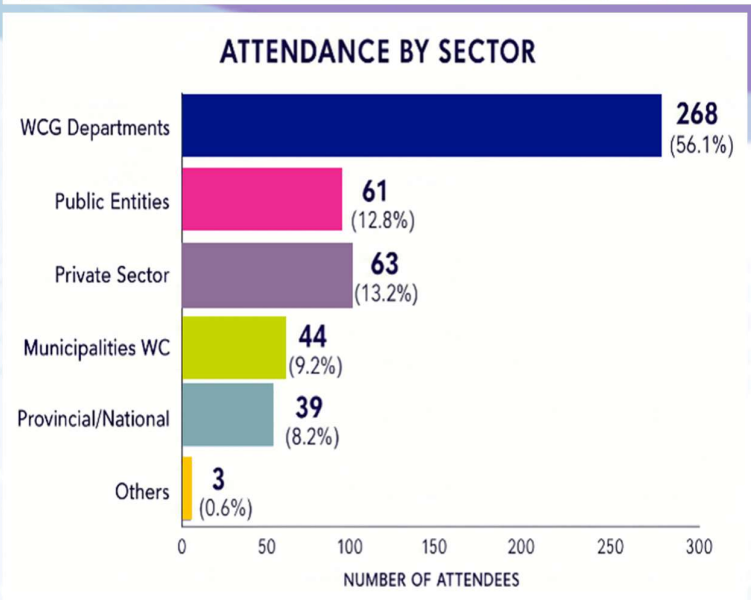
PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

The conference brought together over 478 participants overall, with 302 attendees at the supplier day, demonstrating a strong cross sector commitments to advancing procurement, driving reform and fostering collaboration.

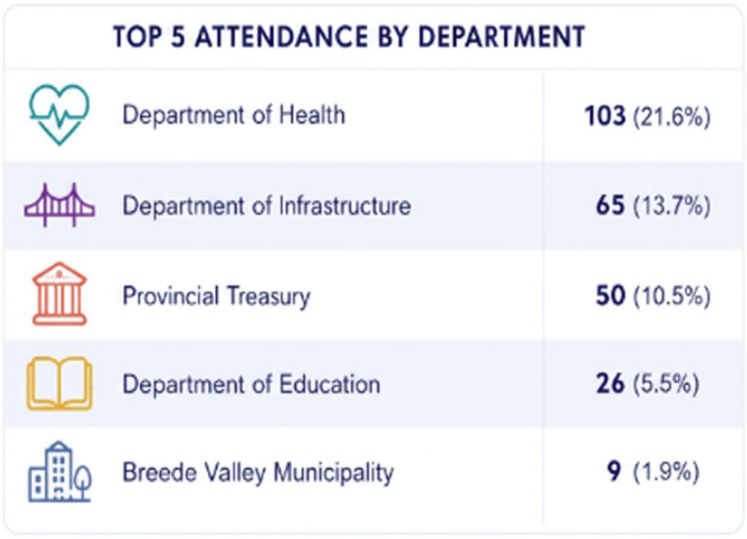
The attendance profile demonstrates that procurement is increasingly recognised as a strategic institutional priority rather than a specialist technical discipline. Strong representation from service-delivery departments, executive leadership, municipalities and external stakeholders reflects growing recognition of procurement's contribution to provincial development and service delivery outcomes.



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Majority of delegates were from **Western Cape Government departments**, accounting for **268 attendees (56.1%)**, reflecting strong provincial government engagement and commitment to procurement reform and service delivery improvement. Participation was further strengthened by representation from the **private sector (63 delegates; 13.2%)**, **public entities (61 delegates; 12.8%)**, **Western Cape municipalities (44**



delegates; 9.2%), and representatives from provincial and national institutions outside the Western Cape.

The **Department of Health and Wellness** recorded the highest attendance, with **103 delegates (21.6%)**, followed by the **Department of Infrastructure (65 delegates; 13.7%)** and **Provincial Treasury (50 delegates; 10.5%)**. This level of participation emphasises the significant focus placed on health, infrastructure, and procurement reform as key drivers of service delivery and government performance.

Beyond attendance statistics, the participation profile demonstrates strong institutional support for procurement reform and confirms the conference's continued relevance as a provincial platform for strategic dialogue, innovation and collaboration across government, municipalities, suppliers and industry.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT, PURPOSE AND POSITIONING OF THE CONFERENCE

The **13th Annual Western Cape Smart Procurement Conference 2026,** held under the theme ***"Beyond Boundaries: Smart, Sustainable Procurement for a Connected State,"*** the initiative convened key stakeholders from across the public and private sectors, including provincial departments, municipal entities, and industry partners. It served as a strategic platform to explore forward-looking approaches that stimulate economic growth, support job creation, and strengthen partnerships between government, business, and investment communities.

This conference also advanced the Western Cape Government's long-term objective of positioning procurement as a strategic lever for inclusive economic development and improved, outcomes-driven service delivery.

The importance of this engagement is highlighted by prevailing provincial pressures, including fiscal constraints, increasing demands on infrastructure delivery, and mounting challenges within the health sector. These pressures are further exacerbated by fragmentation across departments, which can limit coordination and efficiency.

Within this context, procurement becomes a critical enabler. Procurement risk is inherently linked to service delivery risk delays in sourcing infrastructure contractors which hinder project timelines, while inefficiencies in health procurement may affect the availability of essential goods and services.
To address these challenges, procurement must be strategically aligned with key provincial priorities, including:

- **Western Cape Infrastructure Framework (WCIF) 2050**, supporting sustainable, long-term infrastructure investment
- **Growth for Jobs Strategy**, leveraging procurement to drive economic participation and employment creation

- **Digital Government Strategy**, enabling more efficient, transparent, and data-driven procurement systems
- **Public Procurement Reform**, strengthening governance, enhancing supplier diversity, and improving accountability

Through this alignment, procurement is elevated beyond a transactional function to a transformative mechanism that fosters innovation, enables broader market access, and delivers tangible socio-economic impact across the Western Cape.

The conference also provided an opportunity to showcase the Western Cape Government's procurement modernisation journey and Provincial Treasury's leadership role in advancing strategic sourcing, digital procurement, supplier development, procurement intelligence and public procurement reform. Many of the conference themes aligned directly with reforms already underway within the province.

STRATEGIC INTENT AND PROGRAMME POSITIONING

The 13th Annual Western Cape Smart Procurement Conference 2026, convened under the theme "Beyond Boundaries: Smart, Sustainable Procurement for a Connected State," served as a strategic platform to advance procurement as a key enabler of government reform, economic growth, service delivery and public value creation. Bringing together stakeholders from provincial and local government, public entities, industry and investment communities, the conference reinforced the role of procurement in connecting policy, planning, budgeting and delivery to achieve improved outcomes for citizens.

The conference was strategically aligned to the Western Cape Government's broader development agenda and long-term priorities, including the Western Cape Infrastructure Framework (WCIF) 2050, the Growth for Jobs Strategy, the Digital Government Strategy, and national Public Procurement Reform initiatives. Within this context, procurement was positioned not merely as an administrative or compliance function, but as a strategic lever to stimulate economic participation, improve infrastructure delivery, strengthen service delivery outcomes, enhance supplier development and support inclusive growth.

The conference responded directly to several pressing provincial challenges, including fiscal constraints, increasing infrastructure investment requirements, growing demands on health services, and the need for greater coordination across government institutions. A central message throughout the programme was that procurement risk is service delivery risk. Delays, inefficiencies or poor procurement decisions can directly impact infrastructure delivery, healthcare outcomes, economic development and public trust. As such, effective procurement was consistently positioned as a critical capability for achieving government priorities and improving institutional performance.

A key objective of the conference was to promote a "One Government, One Value Chain" approach, strengthening integration across departments, municipalities and sectors while reinforcing procurement's role as the link between strategy, planning, budgeting, sourcing and delivery. The programme highlighted the importance of collaboration, data-driven decision-making, strategic sourcing, commercial acumen, digital enablement and procurement intelligence in building a more capable, connected and responsive state.

Importantly, the conference deliberately elevated procurement reform from an SCM agenda to a leadership agenda. Throughout the programme, procurement was framed as a shared executive responsibility requiring active ownership by Ministers, Heads of Departments, Municipal Managers, Chief Financial Officers and senior leadership. The conference emphasised that sustainable procurement

reform can only be achieved through alignment between leadership, planning, budgeting, procurement and operational delivery.

The conference also provided an opportunity to showcase the Western Cape Government's procurement modernisation journey and Provincial Treasury's leadership in advancing strategic sourcing, digital procurement, supplier development, procurement intelligence, professionalisation and public procurement reform. Many of the themes explored during the conference directly reflected reforms already underway within the province, demonstrating practical progress towards a more integrated and outcomes-focused procurement system.

Ultimately, the conference positioned procurement as an instrument of modern statecraft through which government can deliver infrastructure, healthcare, economic inclusion, innovation, resilience and long-term public value. More than a conference, it served as a strategic leadership and delivery intervention designed to strengthen partnerships, share emerging practices, accelerate reform and reinforce procurement's role at the centre of economic development, service delivery excellence and a connected state.



PROGRAMME AS A STRATEGIC DELIVERY ARCHITECTURE AND KEY OUTCOMES

The conference programme was deliberately designed as a **strategic delivery architecture** to advance procurement as a driver of service delivery, economic growth, institutional reform and public value creation within the Western Cape. Rather than serving solely as a knowledge-sharing platform, the conference brought together leaders from government, municipalities, public entities, industry and development partners to align priorities, strengthen collaboration and address real-world delivery challenges.

Through a combination of executive dialogues, delivery laboratories, sector-specific engagements, case studies, supplier interactions and capability-building workshops, the programme emphasised practical implementation, innovation and measurable impact. The focus consistently shifted beyond procurement compliance towards strengthening the systems, partnerships and capabilities required to improve government performance and delivery outcomes. In doing so, the conference

reinforced procurement's role as a strategic instrument for enabling a more connected, capable and responsive state.

Collectively, the conference outcomes demonstrated a clear progression in procurement maturity across the Western Cape Government and highlighted several strategic themes that will shape the future direction of procurement reform and delivery.

Procurement Positioned as a Strategic Lever for Public Value

A consistent theme throughout the conference was the repositioning of procurement from a transactional and compliance-driven function to a strategic capability that enables infrastructure delivery, economic growth, healthcare outcomes, resilience and broader public value creation. Procurement was increasingly recognised as a key mechanism through which government can achieve tangible social and economic outcomes.

Advancing the "One Government, One Value Chain" Approach

The conference reinforced a strong commitment to greater integration across planning, budgeting, procurement, contract management and implementation disciplines. Delegates recognised that achieving better outcomes requires a coordinated, end-to-end value chain approach that breaks down organisational silos and strengthens collective accountability for delivery.

Procurement Reform Established as a Leadership Imperative

A significant outcome was the recognition that procurement reform is fundamentally a leadership responsibility. Ministers, Directors-General, Heads of Departments, Municipal Managers, Chief Financial Officers and senior executives consistently emphasised that sustainable reform requires executive ownership, strategic direction and accountability across the entire procurement value chain.

Procurement Risk Recognised as Service Delivery Risk

The programme highlighted the direct relationship between procurement performance and service delivery outcomes. Delegates acknowledged that procurement failures can impede infrastructure delivery, healthcare services, disaster response capability, economic participation and citizen trust, reinforcing the importance of proactive planning, execution and oversight.

Digital Procurement and Data-Driven Decision-Making Prioritised

Technology emerged as a central enabler of procurement modernisation. Discussions emphasised the growing importance of artificial intelligence, procurement analytics, automation, cybersecurity, digital platforms and real-time decision-support tools in improving transparency, efficiency, strategic sourcing and risk management.

Infrastructure Delivery Remained a Strategic Priority

Strong emphasis was placed on accelerating infrastructure delivery through improved procurement planning, strategic sourcing, alternative financing models and strengthened public-private partnerships. Discussions recognised infrastructure as a key catalyst for economic growth, investment attraction and job creation.

Health Procurement Identified as a Critical Reform Area

The dedicated health procurement stream reinforced the importance of procurement in supporting integrated healthcare systems, supply chain resilience, innovation and improved patient outcomes.

Delegates highlighted the need for strategic sourcing and partnership-driven approaches to address growing healthcare demands and operational pressures.

Supplier Inclusion and Economic Participation Strengthened

The conference reaffirmed the role of procurement in promoting inclusive economic growth. Particular focus was placed on supplier development, increased participation of SMMEs and women-owned businesses, improved access to funding opportunities and the creation of a more inclusive and competitive procurement ecosystem.

Collaboration Recognised as a Critical Success Factor

A recurring message was that successful procurement outcomes depend on effective partnerships across government, municipalities, industry, civil society and development institutions. Collaboration was identified as essential for addressing complex challenges, driving innovation and achieving sustainable delivery outcomes.

Resilience and Disaster Preparedness Embedded into Procurement

The conference highlighted the importance of strengthening procurement readiness for future emergencies and disruptions. Delegates emphasised the need for advance planning, framework agreements, supplier preparedness, strategic sourcing and resilient procurement systems capable of responding rapidly and effectively to changing circumstances.

Ethics, Governance and Public Trust Remain Foundational

While innovation and transformation featured prominently throughout the programme, delegates reinforced that ethical leadership, transparency, accountability and sound governance remain the foundation of effective procurement. The conference emphasised that meaningful reform requires both innovation and unwavering commitment to integrity and public trust.

From Dialogue to Delivery

Perhaps the most significant conference outcome was a shared commitment to implementation. Across all streams and discussions, delegates emphasised that success should ultimately be measured not by the quality of discussions or policy intentions, but by the extent to which ideas are translated into practical reforms, improved service delivery and measurable outcomes for citizens.

Strategic Direction Going Forward

The conference confirmed a clear strategic direction for procurement within the Western Cape Government: one that is increasingly integrated, digitally enabled, data-driven, collaborative and outcomes-focused. Procurement is no longer viewed primarily as a compliance function, but as a core capability of government and an instrument of modern statecraft that supports economic growth, infrastructure delivery, healthcare outcomes, institutional performance and long-term public value creation. More importantly, the conference reinforced the collective responsibility of leadership, practitioners and partners to convert this vision into sustained action and measurable impact.

Across the two-day programme, a number of clear and consistent themes emerged from the ministerial dialogues, executive discussions, sector-specific tracks, delivery laboratories, and knowledge cafés.
The key takeaways below reflect the most significant insights, priorities, and reform signals arising from the conference. Collectively, they demonstrate a shift towards a more connected, innovative, data-driven,

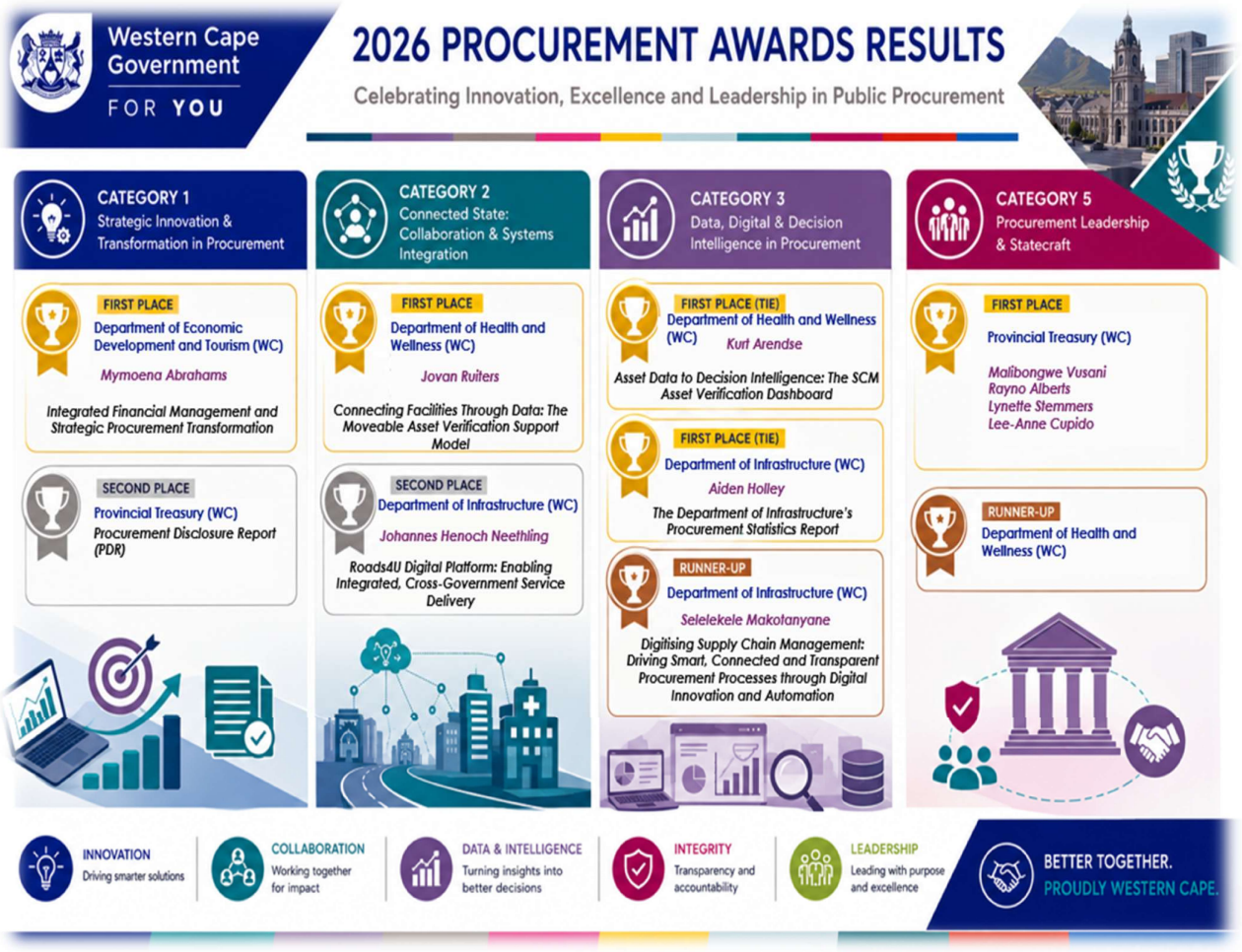
and outcomes-focused procurement system that is positioned to support service delivery, economic growth, resilience, and public value creation across the province.
The conference demonstrated unprecedented alignment across government, municipalities, the private sector, suppliers, and civil society around a common vision: using procurement as a strategic instrument to deliver infrastructure, improve services, strengthen resilience, drive economic inclusion, and create sustainable public value through a connected state approach.



GALA AWARDS NIGHT

The Smart Procurement Gala and Awards Evening, held under the elegant **Masquerade** theme, provided a memorable celebration of excellence, achievement and collaboration within the procurement and supply chain profession. Delegates embraced the occasion in formal attire and themed masks, creating an atmosphere of sophistication, prestige and celebration.
The evening was officially opened by **Minister Deidré Baartman**, who reflected on the importance of leadership, innovation and recognising excellence in advancing procurement as a strategic enabler of service delivery and economic development.

As one of the flagship events of the Smart Procurement programme, the Gala and Awards Evening offered a valuable opportunity for networking, relationship-building and engagement among government leaders, industry partners and procurement professionals. The programme culminated in the awards ceremony, where outstanding individuals, teams and institutions were recognised for their exceptional contributions, achievements and commitment to advancing procurement excellence.
The **2026 Procurement Awards** recognised outstanding achievements in procurement innovation, digital transformation, collaboration, leadership, and service delivery across the Western Cape Government. The awards showcased how departments are leveraging procurement to improve governance, strengthen decision-making, enhance transparency, and deliver greater public value.



Key winning initiatives included:

- **Department of Economic Development and Tourism** for procurement transformation and financial management innovation.
- **Department of Health and Wellness** for connected systems, asset verification, and data-driven decision-making.
- **Department of Infrastructure** for digital innovation through the Roads4U platform and procurement intelligence initiatives.
- **Western Cape Provincial Treasury** for leadership in procurement reform and governance.

The awards demonstrated the province's continued shift towards smart, connected, transparent, and outcomes-driven procurement, reinforcing the conference theme of **"Beyond Boundaries: Smart, Sustainable Procurement for a Connected state."**



The evening successfully combined celebration, recognition, and professional networking, while the Masquerade theme added a memorable touch of elegance and charm to an already remarkable occasion. The event concluded on a high note, leaving attendees inspired and looking forward to next year's gathering.



SUPPLIER'S DAY HIGHLIGHTS

WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIER DAY

CONNECT • ENGAGE • GROW

Stronger suppliers. A more inclusive economy.

A platform for **opportunity, partnership** and **progress.**

The Supplier Day programme focused on strengthening supplier participation, economic inclusion and access to procurement opportunities within both the public and private sectors.

Together we build a more inclusive economy

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES | **PANEL DISCUSSIONS** | **PRACTICAL PRESENTATIONS** | **SUPPLIER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

THE PROGRAMME PROVIDED BUSINESSES WITH INSIGHTS INTO:

- Funding opportunities
- Digital procurement systems
- Ethical business practices
- Regulatory compliance requirements
- Pathways to participate in government and corporate supply chains.

1 Procurement as a Driver of Inclusive Economic Growth

Minister Deidre Baartman reinforced the role of procurement as a powerful instrument for economic inclusion, job creation and enterprise development. Particular emphasis was placed on supporting SMMEs, women-owned businesses and historically disadvantaged groups through targeted procurement opportunities.

2 Women-Owned Businesses Reached a Significant Milestone

The Minister highlighted that the World Bank is conducting an independent assessment to determine whether the Western Cape Government has become the first government globally to achieve more than 30% of its procurement spend with women-owned businesses, positioning procurement as a practical tool for economic transformation.

3 Digital Procurement Strengthened Supplier Access

The eProcurement session demonstrated how the Western Cape Government's Electronic Procurement System (ePS) has improved transparency, supplier participation, governance and operational efficiency, while creating a more accessible and equitable procurement environment.

4 Supplier Inclusion Through Digital Enablement

The integration of the ePS, CSD and WCSEB was highlighted as a key enabler of supplier onboarding, reducing barriers to entry and expanding access to procurement opportunities for emerging suppliers and SMMEs.

5 Access to Funding Remains a Critical Growth Constraint

The funding panel highlighted the importance of understanding the broader funding ecosystem, including loans, grants, blended finance and alternative funding models, while emphasising the need for stronger business readiness and credible funding applications.

6 Ethical Business Practices Create Competitive Advantage

This presentation reinforced that trust, transparency, ESG principles and strong governance are increasingly becoming prerequisites for supplier success and long-term participation in procurement markets.

7 Supplier Readiness Extends Beyond Compliance

Speakers emphasised that suppliers must demonstrate business maturity, governance, sustainability and operational capability to remain competitive in both government and private-sector supply chains.

8 Corporate Market Access Demands Strategic Positioning

The Clicks supplier onboarding presentation provided practical guidance on meeting corporate procurement requirements, highlighting the importance of compliance, business readiness and alignment with buyer expectations.

9 Regulatory Compliance Remains Essential in the Health Sector

SAHPRA highlighted the importance of compliance, licensing and regulatory adherence in ensuring safe and effective medical devices and diagnostic products while facilitating responsible market participation.

10 Supplier Support Must Be Practical and Accessible

The closing exhibition and networking session provided hands-on support to suppliers through CSD registration assistance, WCSEB onboarding, ePS training and direct engagement with government departments.

11 Stronger Government-Supplier Engagement Was Encouraged

Dedicated exhibitions and networking opportunities created direct engagement between suppliers and departments, helping businesses better understand future opportunities, procurement requirement and support mechanisms.

12 Procurement Ecosystems Require Collaboration

A recurring message throughout the day was that supplier development, economic participation and inclusive growth require coordinated action between government, business, funders, regulators and industry stakeholders.

Supplier Day successfully demonstrated that procurement is not only a mechanism for purchasing goods and services, but also a **strategic tool for economic inclusion, supplier development and enterprise growth.**

The programme reinforced the importance of **digital enablement, funding access, ethical business practices and collaborative support systems** in creating a more inclusive, **transparent and sustainable procurement ecosystem.**



Western Cape Government

Inclusive Participation | Economic Growth | Supplier Development | Good Governance

A more inclusive, prosperous Western Cape

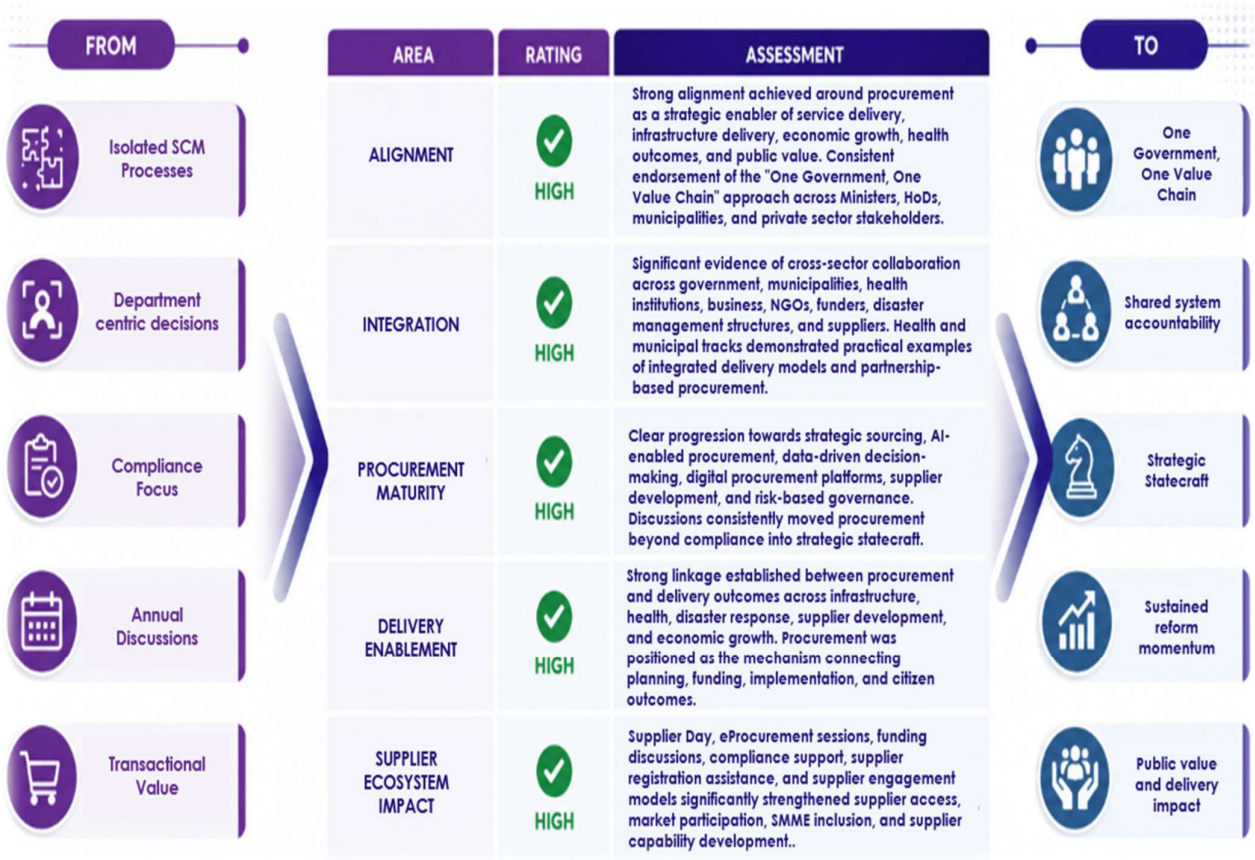
CONFERENCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT, OUTCOMES AND FORWARD STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Assessment Against Intended Outcomes

Measured against the strategic proposition presented to Provincial Top Management, the **13th Annual Western Cape Smart Procurement Conference 2026** substantially achieved its intended objectives.

The conference successfully elevated procurement discourse beyond compliance and transactional processes towards strategic themes including procurement reform, strategic sourcing, digital procurement, artificial intelligence, governance, infrastructure delivery, supplier development, resilience and collaborative problem-solving. Strong participation from provincial departments, municipalities, public entities, suppliers, professional bodies, industry experts and international thought leaders reinforced the conference's position as a leading platform for procurement innovation, capability development and reform.

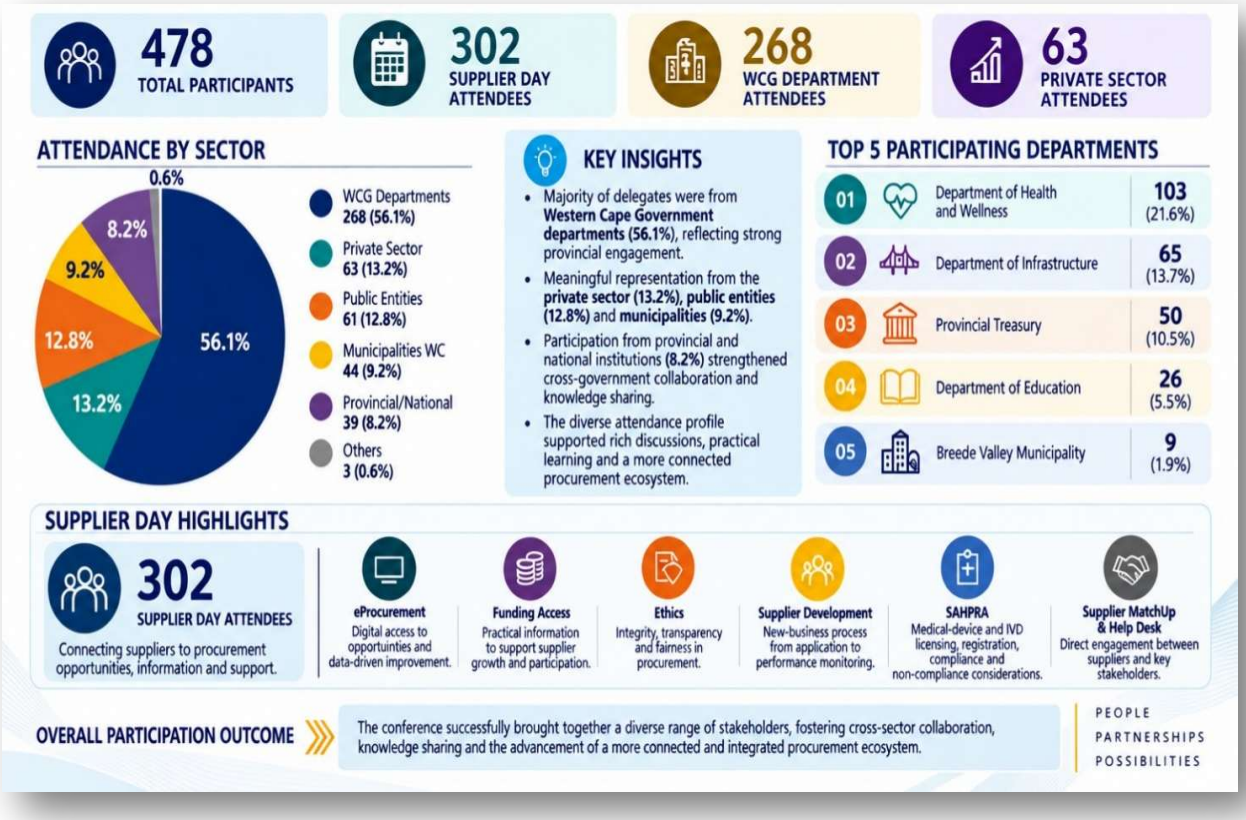
Most significantly, the conference validated the proposition that procurement is increasingly recognised as a strategic delivery capability rather than an administrative support function. Discussions consistently highlighted the direct relationship between procurement performance and infrastructure delivery, healthcare outcomes, fiscal sustainability, service continuity, economic participation and public trust.



Participation and Performance Overview

The conference attracted **478 delegates**, demonstrating strong interest in advancing smart, strategic and collaborative procurement across the public sector. This included **302 participants attending Supplier Day**, reflecting sustained engagement between government and the supplier community.

Participation was drawn from a broad range of stakeholders, including Western Cape Government departments, municipalities, public entities, national and provincial government institutions and private sector organisations. This diversity supported the conference's objective of strengthening collaboration and creating a more connected procurement ecosystem.



Attendance was particularly strong from key service-delivery departments:

- Department of Health and Wellness: 103 delegates
- Department of Infrastructure: 65 delegates
- Provincial Treasury: 50 delegates
- Department of Education: 26 delegates

The strong representation from these departments ensured that discussions remained grounded in practical delivery priorities, including healthcare procurement, infrastructure implementation, strategic sourcing and digital transformation.

Supplier Day continued to be a significant success, with sessions focusing on supplier development, eProcurement, ethics, regulatory compliance, access to funding and supplier-government engagement opportunities.

Stakeholder Perception and Feedback

Post-conference feedback confirmed high levels of delegate satisfaction and reinforced the conference's relevance as a platform for capability development and thought leadership.

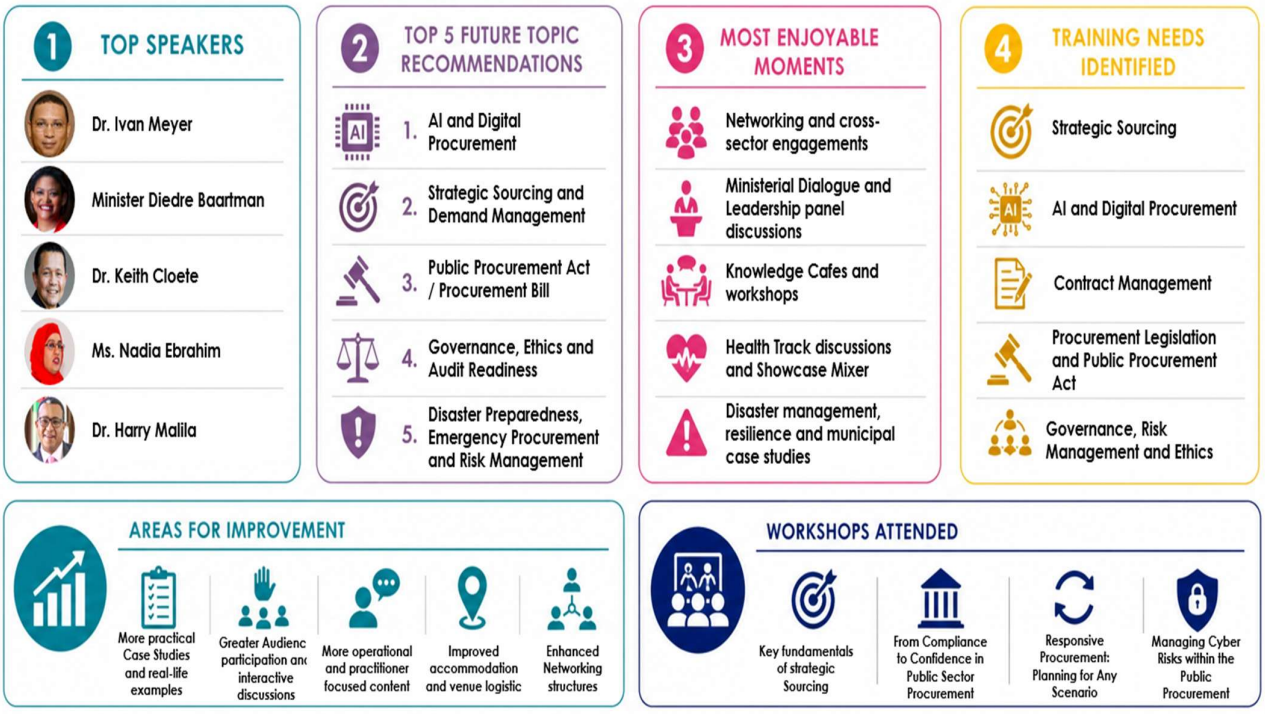
Participants identified the following as the most valuable aspects of the conference:

- Leadership and Ministerial engagements.
- Networking and cross-sector collaboration.
- Knowledge Cafés and interactive workshops.
- Health Procurement Track sessions.
- Disaster resilience and case-study engagements.

Priority themes identified for future programmes included:

- Artificial Intelligence and Digital Procurement.
- Strategic Sourcing and Demand Management.
- Public Procurement Reform.
- Governance and Ethics.
- Disaster Preparedness and Risk Management.
- Contract Management and Supplier Performance.

The feedback reflects a clear shift in practitioner priorities from operational procurement concerns towards strategic capability development, innovation, reform and modernisation.





Programme Evolution: 2025 to 2026

The 2026 conference built significantly on the foundation established in 2025. Attendance increased from **389 delegates in 2025 to 478 delegates in 2026**, representing growth of approximately **23%**, while Supplier Day attendance remained consistently strong. More importantly, the conference demonstrated clear programme maturity.

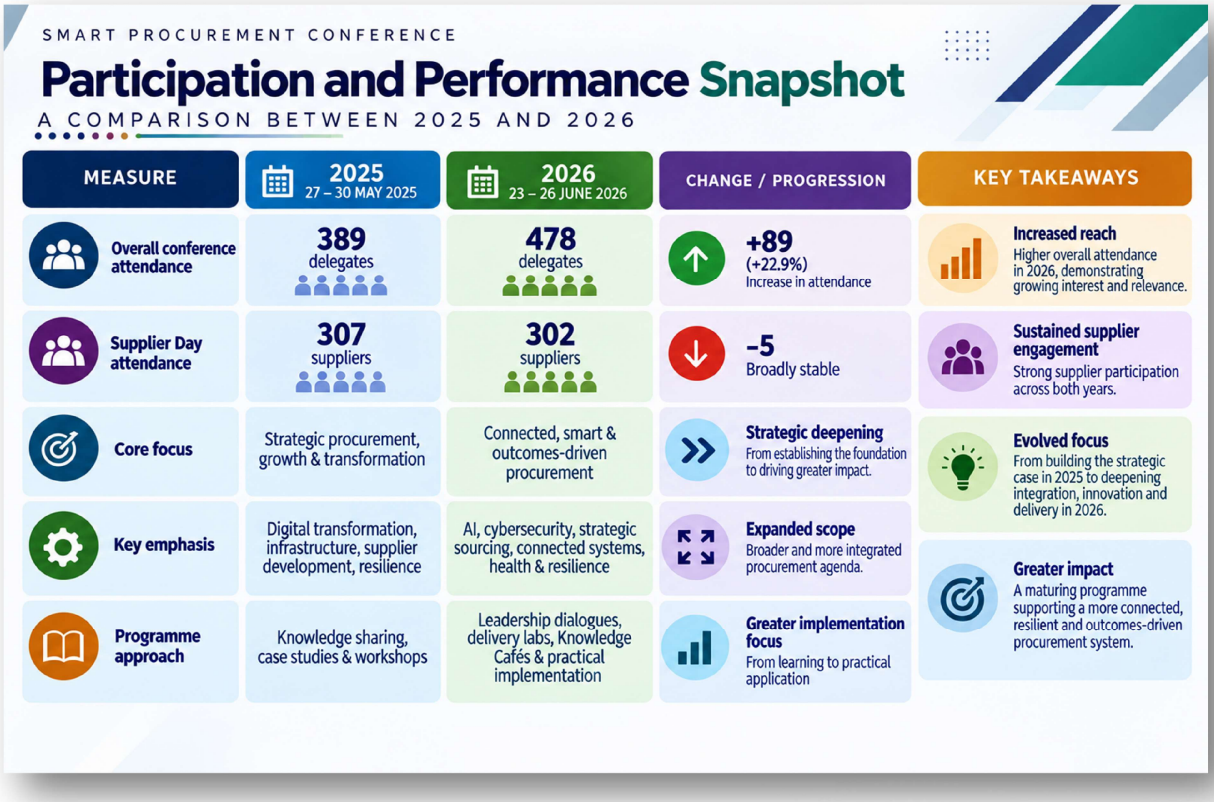
2025 Focus

- Strategic positioning of procurement.
- Procurement transformation.
- Service delivery and growth.

2026 Focus

- Connected Government.
- AI and digital enablement.
- Cybersecurity.
- Strategic sourcing.
- Supplier partnerships.
- Health procurement reform.
- Infrastructure delivery.
- Implementation-focused solutions.

The progression reflects the transition from establishing the strategic procurement agenda towards embedding procurement as a system-wide capability focused on measurable outcomes and implementation.



The Western Cape Procurement Reform Journey

The conference also served as an important platform to showcase the Western Cape Government's procurement modernisation trajectory.

Key initiatives highlighted included:

- Strategic sourcing.
- Supplier development.
- Digital procurement.
- Procurement intelligence.
- Data-driven decision-making.
- Collaborative procurement approaches.
- Professionalisation and capability development.

Importantly, many of the priority themes emerging from Smart Procurement World 2026 mirror reforms already underway within the province, demonstrating strong alignment between international procurement trends and the Western Cape Government's transformation agenda.
This alignment reinforces Provincial Treasury's role in positioning procurement as a strategic enabler of government priorities, fiscal sustainability and service delivery excellence.



FORWARD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The conference identified a clear strategic agenda to guide the next phase of procurement reform and delivery across the Western Cape.



Measuring Procurement Impact

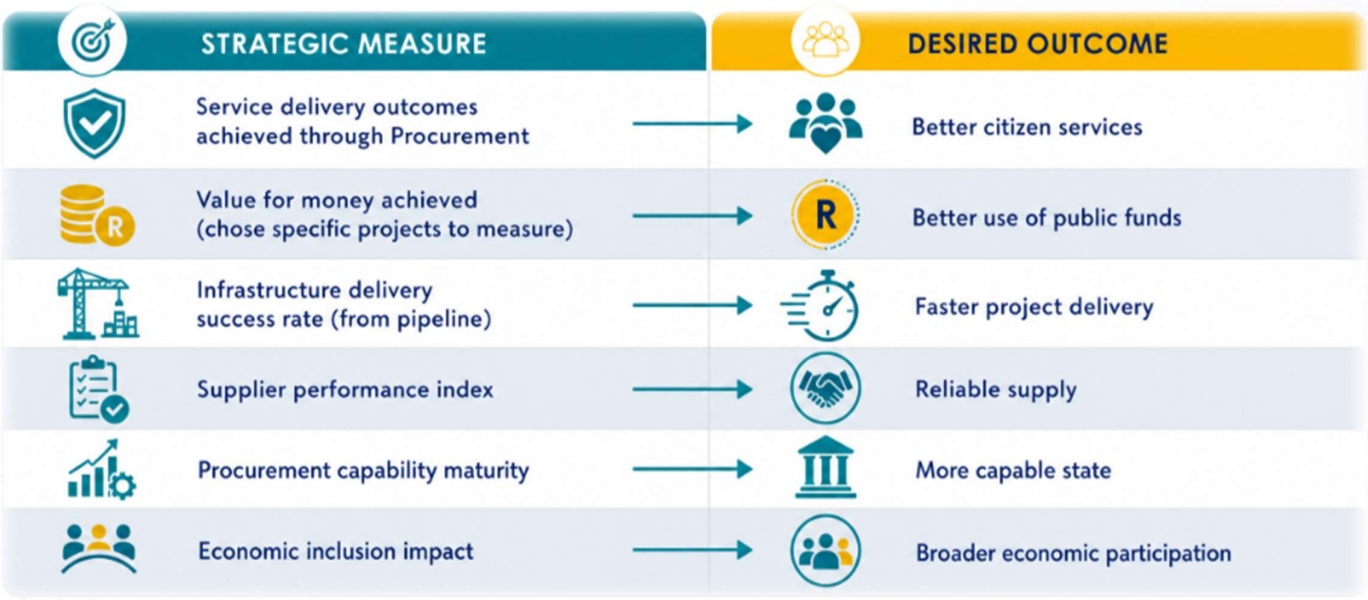
A recurring theme throughout the conference was the need to move beyond traditional procurement performance metrics and focus more deliberately on outcomes and public value.

To support this shift, consideration should be given to the development of a **Provincial Executive Procurement Dashboard** focused on:

- Infrastructure delivery outcomes.
  - Strategic sourcing implementation.
  - Supplier performance and resilience.
  - Supplier development outcomes.
  - Economic inclusion indicators.
  - Digital procurement adoption.
  - Governance and integrity measures.
  - Procurement reform implementation.

Such a dashboard would enable executive leadership to monitor procurement's contribution to provincial priorities and decision-making in a more strategic and integrated manner.
Ultimately, procurement impact should not be measured solely by compliance levels, savings achieved or the number of tenders awarded. The true measure of procurement success is the extent to which procurement enables infrastructure delivery, improves healthcare outcomes, strengthens supplier performance, promotes economic inclusion, delivers value for money and improves the lived experience of citizens.
In this regard, the conference reinforced a fundamental principle:

Procurement creates value when it translates planning, expenditure and sourcing decisions into measurable service delivery outcomes and tangible public value.
A simple executive dashboard could contain only six measures and the following is recommended:



Procurement impact should be measured not only by compliance, savings, or the number of tenders concluded, but by the extent to which procurement enables service delivery outcomes. Effective procurement contributes to the timely delivery of infrastructure, improved health outcomes, greater value for money, stronger supplier performance, economic inclusion, and the development of a capable state. The ultimate measure of procurement success is whether citizens experience improved services and public value because of procurement decisions.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME, PRESENTATIONS AND EVENT GALLERY

The conference programme and event gallery serve as a record of the engagements, partnerships, and discussions that informed the key outcomes of the conference.
Programme: 2026 Smart Procurement Conference Programme
Gallery: 2026 Smart Procurement Conference Gallery

SPECIAL VOTE OF THANKS

The success of the 13th Annual Smart Procurement World Conference and Supplier Day 2026 was made possible through the collective commitment, expertise and participation of a diverse community of stakeholders dedicated to advancing public procurement excellence.

Provincial Treasury extends its sincere appreciation to all speakers, moderators, panellists, presenters, exhibitors, sponsors, delegates and our strategic partner, **Smart Procurement World,** whose knowledge, insights and thought leadership contributed significantly to the quality and impact of the programme. Their contributions enriched discussions on procurement reform, strategic sourcing, digital transformation, supplier development, governance and service delivery, helping to shape a shared vision for the future of public procurement.

Special recognition is extended to the **Executive Authority of the Western Cape Government**, including the **Provincial Ministers** whose leadership, participation and continued support reinforce the role of procurement as a strategic enabler of service delivery, economic growth and public value creation.

Provincial Treasury further wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the **Director-General, Heads of Departments, Provincial Top Management and Executive Leadership across the Western Cape Government** for their commitment to the conference and their ongoing support for procurement modernisation, institutional reform and a Connected State approach to service delivery. Their endorsement and active involvement continue to strengthen procurement's role as a strategic government capability and support the advancement of a more integrated, accountable and outcome-driven public sector.

Special acknowledgement is also extended to **departments municipalities, public entities, private sector partners, academia, professional bodies, civil society organisations,** development partners and the supplier community for their active participation and continued commitment to building a more connected, innovative and capable procurement ecosystem.

The conference demonstrated the value of collaboration across sectors, disciplines and institutions and reinforced the principle that effective procurement is a shared responsibility requiring leadership, partnership and collective action. The willingness of stakeholders to contribute their expertise, challenge conventional thinking and engage in meaningful dialogue was instrumental in advancing the conference's objectives and strengthening the procurement reform agenda.
Provincial Treasury further acknowledges the organising committee, conference support teams and all officials whose dedication, professionalism and attention to detail ensured the successful planning and delivery of the event.

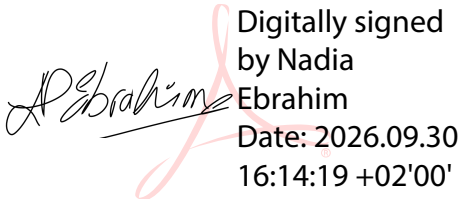
On behalf of the Western Cape Government, we extend our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the conference and to the continued advancement of smart, sustainable and strategically aligned procurement that strengthens service delivery, promotes economic opportunity, supports a Connected State and creates lasting public value for the citizens of the Western Cape.

CONCLUSION

The Conference demonstrated the continued evolution of procurement from a compliance-focused administrative function towards a strategic government capability. The conference successfully reinforced the principles of collaboration, innovation, integration and leadership accountability while advancing important discussions on procurement reform, digital transformation, strategic sourcing and supplier development.

Viewed against the strategic intent approved by Provincial Top Management, the conference can be regarded as successful. The event achieved its objective of positioning procurement within a broader connected-state context, strengthened collaboration across sectors and institutions, reinforced procurement's role as an enabler of delivery and public value, and contributed to the continued maturity of procurement practice across the Western Cape Government. Importantly, the conference demonstrated that many of the strategic shifts proposed at the outset of the programme, including greater integration, shared accountability, leadership engagement and a focus on outcomes over process, are increasingly being reflected in both procurement discourse and practice.

The conference further validated Provincial Treasury's ongoing procurement modernisation agenda and demonstrated growing procurement maturity across the Western Cape Government. The next phase of reform will require continued focus on implementation, integration and outcome measurement to ensure that procurement is increasingly recognised not by the processes it administers, but by the tangible outcomes it enables through service delivery, infrastructure development, economic participation and sustainable public value creation. Leaders who understand procurement as a strategic lever for public value and societal impact.



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