

Department of Employment and Labour, Phumi Maphaha says he wants to see a jail term as a form of sanction to violators of occupational health and safety (OHS) in the construction sector.

Maphaha said this would send a strong message to contractors who are cutting corners.

He said according to 2016 statistics there was an average of 12 500 construction sites in South Africa, involving some 1,4 million workers. He said the sad part was that the industry was responsible for a substantial number of fatalities.

According to Maphaha moves are afoot to not only inspect construction sites, but to visit managers in their offices. "if a structure collapses there is someone to blame".

He said there was a need to go back to a drawing board and do things the right way. He said it was imperative that at conception stages of construction, there was proper health and safety practitioners (which includes SHE Reps) to discuss issues.

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