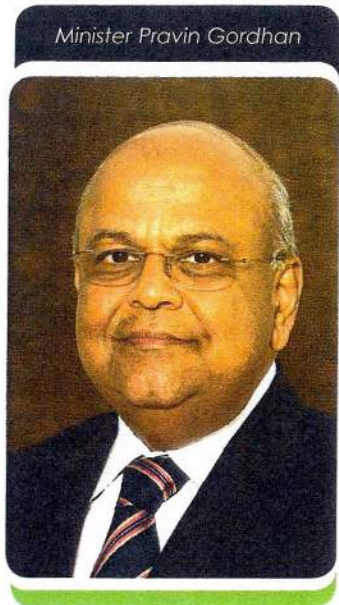


Minister Gordhan's top 10 priorities

Minister Gordhan's priorities while Minister of Finance are parlayed into the following suggestions for his new role as Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs: (Source: Municipal IQ):



Minister Pravin Gordhan

1. **Consolidate Minister Gordhan's authority and leadership as a champion of local government:** Although it may be unnecessary to devise new strategies from that of the Local Government Turnaround Strategy devised five years ago, it is important for Minister Gordhan to stamp his own priorities on a department that has experienced destabilising turnover.
2. **Address service delivery protests:** Minister Gordhan's deployment to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) is sure to address the recurrence of service delivery protests, and there is a need to respond to individual protests so that they are kept under control.
3. **Integrate responses across government, especially around human settlements:** Minister Gordhan is in a position to leverage insight into government's operations to address blockages in infrastructure and housing development. Work with provinces, human settlement and water departments is crucial to coordinate the planning and execution of bulk infrastructure and housing developments.
4. **Address wasteful spending and non-compliance:** Minister Gordhan's budget speeches motivate for keener oversight of supply chain management and procurement processes and standards. It is important that CoGTA ensures the implementation of regulations that promote transparency in the sector.
5. **Unlock infrastructure:** Growing the municipal bond market, leveraging off the asset base of Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and integrating expertise contained in the relatively new Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA) remain vital strategies for developing local government. Minister Gordhan's familiarity with bond markets, the DBSA and development finance will be invaluable in promoting dynamic financial avenues for the sector.

6. **City development:** Work already undertaken by the Integrated Urban Development Framework is important to fast track and integrate with other policy thinking. Issues like accessible and sustainable energy sources will not only promote more sustainable city structures but will alleviate some of the metro service delivery protest issues.
7. **Integrate National Development Plan (NDP) objectives:** Targeted support for failing municipalities can be made by identifying vulnerability through indicators such as those that are used by Treasury. It is important to ensure that municipal development touches poverty-stricken communities of South Africa.
8. **Improve audit outcomes:** It has been seen previously that top-level commitment to improved audit outcomes at the provincial level can drive improvements in financial governance. Minister Gordhan's core strength is financially savvy leadership and it is likely to represent an area of targeted improvement.
9. **Tackle debt:** In the run-up to 2016's local government elections, the integrity of free basic services needs to be bolstered. Improving collection rates will also require focus on municipal billing systems and revenue collection, and there is likely to be pressure exerted on metros, with Minister Gordhan's experience at SARS providing him with insight into workable and efficient revenue collection systems.
10. **Restructure grants:** While restructuring grants is a complex and technical process, it is considered that smaller municipalities are compromised and that demographic challenges are not well incorporated into grant formulae. Gordhan can play a role in translating reforms into accepted practice, removing financial constraints as an excuse for service delivery failure and returning the spotlight to governance and managerial challenges.

5 ISSUES, COULD HELP CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

Need to increase proper & legal infrastructure development.