

SUSTAINABILITY



SIMPLIFIED

LOPES ATTORNEYS INC

**Building on Solid Ground:
A Specialist Profile in Construction Law**



Sustainability
Simplified

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

In the vibrant, intricate world of South African construction, where ambition meets complex challenges, one name stands for unwavering clarity: Lopes Attorneys Inc. We understand that every project, from concept to completion, is a symphony of diverse stakeholders, precise agreements, and rigorous standards, all of which have the capability of collapsing should one not have the right, sound and precise legal advice. Our purpose is to be the conductor, providing the symphony where chaos appears and guiding you through this landscape with expertise and grace.

Our Construction Law practice isn't just about navigating legal complexities. It's about protecting your vision. Whether it's resolving disputes with strategic precision, ensuring meticulous regulatory compliance, or structuring your enterprise for maximum security, we provide bespoke strategies that not only safeguard your investments but reinforce and elevate the very foundation of your success.

Beyond the legal framework, we become a strategic extension of your team. Our deep industry knowledge and proactive approach means we anticipate challenges before they arise, offering you the confidence to focus on what you do best: building the future of South Africa.



CEO & EQUITY PRINCIPAL



OUR VALUES

- **Integrity:** We uphold the highest ethical standards in every matter we handle, ensuring transparency, fairness, and trust in all construction law engagements.
- **Precision:** Construction projects demand attention to detail. We pride ourselves on delivering accurate, clear, and tailored legal solutions that prevent costly disputes.
- **Accountability:** We take ownership of our role in safeguarding our clients' projects and reputations, providing consistent support through every phase of the construction lifecycle.
- **Innovation:** We apply modern legal strategies and forward-thinking approaches to address the complex regulatory and commercial challenges of the construction industry.



WHO WE ARE

The South African construction industry is a dynamic force that builds our nation's infrastructure and drives economic opportunity. Yet, it is also a landscape defined by complexity, high stakes, and significant legal risk. From ambitious multibillion-rand projects to vital community developments, every endeavour demands a legal partner who brings a unique blend of precision, foresight, and resilience.

Lopes Attorneys Inc. is a proudly Level 2 B-BBEE boutique law practice with a strong and growing reputation in construction law. Our expertise is built on providing comprehensive legal services that span the full lifecycle of a project. Our approach is both proactive and strategic. We don't simply react to disputes; we work closely with our clients to anticipate risks, fortify governance, and secure their investments.

What sets us apart is our ability to merge deep legal knowledge with a practical understanding of the construction sector. We advise on everything from regulatory compliance and health and safety obligations to complex procurement processes and the drafting of robust commercial agreements. When disputes do arise, we represent our clients in high-stakes litigation, arbitration, or mediation, ensuring conflicts are resolved efficiently while protecting their long-term interests.

Our team has acted for leading construction companies, developers, and international corporations on matters that involve not only South African law but also cross-border transactions, including Nigeria, Italy, Namibia, Botswana, eSwatini, Zambia, Angola, China, Japan and Mozambique, as well as various states in the European Union. This global perspective allows us to guide clients through an increasingly interconnected world where local regulations and international standards must align seamlessly.

At the core of our practice is a commitment to integrity, professionalism, and excellence. We view every client relationship as a long-term partnership built on trust. Whether we're navigating contractual complexities, regulatory hurdles, or contentious disputes, our objective remains the same: to provide legal solutions that empower you to build with absolute confidence.



KEY SERVICES IN CONSTRUCTION LAW

At Lopes Attorneys Inc., we provide comprehensive legal support crafted to meet the unique demands of the construction sector. We act as your strategic partner throughout the entire project lifecycle, ensuring you have the legal security and guidance you need from initial concept to completion and beyond. Our services include:

Contract Drafting and Negotiation: The very foundation of a successful project is a robust contract. At Lopes Attorneys Inc., we draft and negotiate agreements that are not only clear and enforceable but are also designed to anticipate and mitigate risk. Whether it involves complex contractual arrangements or extensive Due Diligences on potential contracts, projects, or third parties, we ensure that obligations are precisely defined and your interests are fully protected.

Regulatory and Statutory Compliance: Regulatory and statutory compliance form the bedrock of every successful project. We specialise in navigating South Africa's comprehensive legislative framework, ensuring every project adheres to the highest standards of safety, environmental responsibility, and fair procurement. Our expertise extends to advising on international standards, providing our clients with a seamless legal roadmap for cross-border operations.

Construction Disputes and Litigation: Construction disputes are often complex and high-stakes. We provide representation across the full spectrum of dispute resolution, from litigation to arbitration and mediation. Our strategic, solution-driven approach ensures vigorous legal advocacy while prioritising efficient resolutions and the preservation of valuable business relationships and interests.

Project Advisory and Risk Management: We believe in the power of foresight, by focusing on early identification and mitigation of risk through strategic risk assessments and governance structures. Our team provides continuous legal counsel throughout the life of a project, empowering clients to manage contractual performance and ensure compliance with confidence.



KEY SERVICES IN CONSTRUCTION LAW

Corporate and Commercial Advisory: We understand that a company's corporate structure must align perfectly with its long-term vision. We provide expert advice on the complex financing arrangements, mergers, acquisitions, restructurings, and partnerships within the construction industry. Our counsel ensures that every corporate transaction is not only legally sound but also strategically engineered to support and accelerate your business objectives.

Procurement and Tender Processes:

In both the public and private sectors, success hinges on navigating rigorous procurement processes with absolute precision. When disputes arise, we provide expert representation to protect our clients against irregularities and uphold the principles of fairness in every competitive environment.

Employment and Labour in Construction Projects:

A project's legal and ethical foundation is just as critical as its physical one. We provide comprehensive counsel on labour and employment matters, advising on employment contracts, legislative compliance, and dispute resolution, all while addressing critical issues of workplace safety. This ensures every project is built on a basis of legal integrity and a commitment to its workforce.

Cross-Border Projects and International Compliance:

Operating in multiple jurisdictions presents both opportunity and complexity. We provide strategic advice on cross-border construction projects, helping our clients gain a competitive advantage. Our expertise includes ensuring compliance with foreign investment laws, expertly managing international disputes, and guiding the application of global industry standards. This equips our clients with the legal foresight needed to succeed in an interconnected world and market.



NOTABLE MATTERS & IMPACT

At Lopes Attorneys Inc., our construction law team has advised and represented clients in some of the industry's most challenging and high-value disputes. From negotiating multimillion-rand settlements to recovering damages for incomplete or defective works, our attorneys bring a balance of technical expertise, strategic thinking, and commercial awareness to every matter.

The following highlights illustrate the breadth of our experience and the tangible outcomes we have delivered for our clients across South Africa's construction sector:

RESTRUCTURING A R20 MILLION LOAN DISPUTE

We assisted a client facing legal proceedings from a funder after difficulties repaying a R20 million loan facility. The risk included potential closure of operations and dilution of shareholding. Through strategic negotiations, we halted proceedings, secured out-of-court settlements, removed directors as sureties, reduced interest rates, and achieved a payment hiatus. This enabled the client to stabilise operations and continue trading sustainably.

DISPUTING INFLATED SUBCONTRACTOR CLAIMS

Acting for a main contractor in a sewer network rehabilitation project, we challenged irregular claims lodged by a subcontractor for incomplete and defective works. The subcontractor initially claimed over R4.5 million. Through rigorous legal strategy, we reduced the claim to just over R1 million, achieving a settlement that saved our client significant funds for reinvestment in their operations.

RECOVERING DAMAGES IN ROADWORKS DISPUTE

In a roadworks and earthworks project, a subcontractor failed to perform in line with contractual obligations. We assisted our client, the main contractor, to recover damages resulting from this failure. The matter was successfully settled in our client's favour, ensuring minimal disruption to the project's delivery and financial stability.



NOTABLE MATTERS & IMPACT

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN PIPEWORKS CONTRACT

When a subcontractor failed to commence pipe cracking and reaming works valued at over R18 million, despite receiving an upfront payment, we secured timely recovery of the amount. This enabled our client to appoint a replacement subcontractor without incurring further losses and to claim compensation for delays caused by the breach.

SUPPORTING A R5 BILLION PROJECT STRATEGY

We played a key role in assisting a client undertaking a R5 billion project. Our support included negotiating and finalising agreements aligned with leadership and turnaround strategy, establishing governance structures, mentoring management, and implementing financial controls. We also assisted in capital-raising initiatives, securing R31 million to commence operations, while stabilising ongoing projects through structured reporting and performance monitoring.

SETTLING A DISPUTE WITH A FUEL COMPANY

We advised a leading international construction company in settling a dispute with a major fuel company. By reviewing construction agreements and facilitating structured negotiations, we resolved the matter amicably, ensuring our client was remunerated for works already performed while avoiding protracted litigation.



WHY WORK WITH US

In the construction sector, the right legal partner is the single most critical factor in ensuring success. At Lopes Attorneys Inc., we seamlessly merge our mastery of the law with a profound understanding of the realities of the construction industry. This unique combination allows us to provide legal counsel that is not only sound, but strategically aligned with your project's ultimate completion.

SPECIALISED EXPERTISE

We believe that true legal partnership means understanding the entire journey of a project. Our team is your trusted guide through every stage of the construction lifecycle, from inception to dispute resolution. We understand the pressures you face and provide tailored legal solutions that are precisely aligned with your commercial objectives.

PROVEN TRACK RECORD

We have a proven track record of providing strategic counsel to leading local and international construction companies. Our expertise spans high-value disputes, meticulous regulatory compliance, and complex contractual negotiations. This extensive experience translates directly into tangible results and unwavering, results-driven representation for our clients.

STRATEGIC GUIDANCE

Our legal practice is built on the power of foresight. We believe in proactively anticipating challenges rather than simply reacting to them. This approach ensures that risks are identified early, contracts are meticulously drafted to be robust, and your projects stay on their path to successful completion.

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

At Lopes Attorneys, we approach every matter with unwavering precision, professionalism, and a dedication to achieving the best possible outcome for our clients. We act as a strategic partner, committed to protecting your interests and empowering your business to thrive in the demanding construction environment.



MEET OUR TEAM

Our strength is defined by the exceptional caliber of our people. Our team is a collective of seasoned attorneys who seamlessly merge their technical legal expertise with a practical understanding of the construction and infrastructure sectors. Each member brings a distinct background in dispute resolution, corporate transactions, and regulatory compliance, ensuring we deliver solutions that are not only legally sound but also commercially viable.

We take pride in fostering a truly collaborative environment where every team member is committed to advancing our clients' interests. This unified approach allows us to provide the strategic insight and unwavering precision necessary to navigate the complexities of construction law in South Africa and beyond. Together, we work tirelessly to ensure your success.



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CONTACT US

At Lopes Attorneys Inc., our unwavering commitment to client service is defined by our accessibility and responsiveness. Whether you require strategic guidance on a complex construction dispute, need clarity on regulatory compliance, or seek expert commercial advice, our team is ready to act. We invite you to connect with us today to discover how we can empower your business to build with confidence.

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