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COLLABORATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY

By Andile Xulu Pictures By Andile Xulu and Siphamandla Nyembe

"The implementation of infrastructure projects will be our number one priority in the next financial year." These were the words that Minister Sihle Zikalala used to introduce his keynote address at the annual congress of the Master Builders South Africa, at the Century City Conference Centre in Cape Town, on 8 September 2023.

Minister Zikalala highlighted how the public and private sector collaboration can grow South Africa's built environment industry. He said the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) had set aside R600million, over a period of three years, which is for Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) to package infrastructure projects. "Once these projects are packaged and reach the bankable stage, these would be taken to the private sector for investment. This collaboration will help us to grow the industry," the Minister said.

"Powering sustainable infrastructure" was the theme used throughout the congress. The panel discussion focused on various issues including, among others: The impact of power outages on manufacturers in the construction industry; the energy sources used for powering construction sites and the effective ways of reducing energy consumption through innovative construction technology.

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