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## SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXCELLENCE OF AFRICAN ENGINEERS

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Day 2 of the UNESCO 9th Africa Engineering Week (AEW) and 7th Africa Engineering Conference kicked off on 26 September 2023 at the CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) in Pretoria with an address by Electricity Minister, Dr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa.

Minister Ramokgopa spoke about the impact of energy infrastructure in driving economic growth in South Africa and he presented on South Africa's transmission infrastructure development plan. He mentioned that infrastructure plays a vital role in integrating renewable energy sources into the grid and that transmission development projects have the potential to generate significant employment and localization of opportunities.

The 4-day-long conference was opened and addressed by Deputy President Paul Mashatile and DPWI Minister Sihle Zikalala on 25 September 2023. The event aims to, among other things, explore how engineering solutions can be home-grown and customized to solve the continent's most pressing challenges, such as climate change, poverty and inequality.

Minister Zikalala visited exhibition stands by various stakeholders including DPWI entities and institutions of higher learning. Of interest to the Minister was the Virtual Reality (VR) instruments presented by both Tshwane University of Technology and University of Pretoria (UP) as the future of learning, as well as a solar car that was designed by University of Johannesburg students.

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