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SHARING IDEAS, EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE

By Hope Motitimi

Minister Sihle Zikalala delivered a keynote address at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) College of Law and Management Studies Annual Research Day at the Coastlands Musgrave Hotel in Durban on 12 October 2023.

Various scholars presented their research papers during the event. Minister Zikalala encouraged the university to be on the forefront of helping society mitigate disruptions from both natural and manmade disasters. "We look to you to produce skills that will help government and the built environment to improve the management construction contract so that socio-economic infrastructure is delivered on time, within budget and according to specifications," he said.

Minister Zikalala also engaged with, among others, Member of the National Assembly of South Africa Brandon Pillay who is conducting his PhD research on coalition government.









"WE HAVE TO MOVE BEYOND QUANTITY TO QUALITY."

Minister Sihle Zikalala says his department's core focus, in terms of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) should be on ensuring that "we move from the creation of job opportunities to a sustainable livelihood." He was outlining proposals for critical consideration towards maximising the impact of the EPWP in the next five years - during the EPWP Phase 5 Indaba held at the Tshedimosetso House in Hatfield, Pretoria.

"While we acknowledge a number of the successes in the EPWP and the difference the programme has made in the lives of our people, it cannot be business as usual. We have to move beyond quantity to quality. We cannot just count numbers without talking impact and without addressing sustainability," the Minister said. He said a proper and sustainable exit strategy in the EPWP must be ensured by linking participants to permanent employment or entrepreneurial opportunities.



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