

public works & infrastructure

Department: Public Works and Infrastructure REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MINISTER ZIKALALA'S MEETINGS IN CHINA WITH STATE-OWNED COMPANIES IN THE ENERGY AND **CONSTRUCTION SECTORS, AIM TO FIND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO CHALLENGES FACED BY SOUTH AFRICA**

By Nombulelo Nyathela

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Minister Sihle Zikalala has urged the Chinese state-owned enterprises to contribute to South Africa's pipeline of strategic infrastructure projects and work with South Africa on various projects, including building roads, bridges, dams, and small neighbourhoods in coastal towns.

The Minister is currently in the People's Republic of China, on an official working visit. He is joined by DPWI Director-General Mr Sifiso Mdakane and the Acting Head of Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) Ms Mameetse Masemola. As part of the official trip, Minister Zikalala and his team visited Beijing Originwater, to view an underground wastewater treatment plant.

The delegation also visited the China State Construction Engineering Company, China Communication Construction Company and China Energy Engineering Company. The conversations were centred on exchanging expertise and information, including the possibilities of the two countries working together on specific infrastructure projects like small harbours, and investing in infrastructure for large-scale catalytic infrastructure initiatives.

Understanding that improving infrastructure is crucial to promoting economic growth, the minister is eager to speak with Chinese investors and create opportunities for collaboration.

On 6 December, the Minister and his delegation visited Zhuhai Hongwan Fishing Port in Guangdong Province. The visit was beneficial for the team, as the DPWI is gathering insight on how best to optimise the development of small harbours in South Africa, particularly in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape under Operation Phakisa.









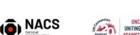
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