



# public works & infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# WORXDAILY

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Thursday, 7 March 2024

## SOUTH AFRICA IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



By Lunga Mahlangu

The clarion call of "South Africa is open for business" reverberated at the Global Trade Review (GTR) conference held in Cape Town on 7 March 2024, wherein the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Sihle Zikalala unveiled the department's road-map in the resuscitation and rejuvenation of the built industry through infrastructure investment.

The conference comprised of over 550 delegates from over 250 companies. The purpose of the conference was to entice investors to invest in what Minister calls the infrastructure revolution aimed at showcasing South Africa's potential as the preferred launch pad of infrastructure investment drive.

The Minister's visit to London in 2023, where he enticed and attracted investors, led to the British business fraternity supporting this conference. This is testimony that the department's infrastructure investment drive is on an upward trajectory.

Some of the key engagement themes include:

- \* Beyond the 2024 elections: The South African trade and investment outlook
- \* Setting standards: In pursuit of a fair framework for African trade finance
- \* Maintaining liquidity for sovereign infrastructure projects
- \* Strategic natural resources: Adding value in Africa
- \* Supply chain optimisation and releasing working capital
- \* Mitigating climate risks to boost agribusiness financing.

Minister Zikalala said the International Monetary Fund has forecasted that the global economy is set to grow by 3,2% in 2025 and remain at 3,1 in 2024. He further stated that Africa is set become the second fastest growing region in the world after Asia. "The DPWI and Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) will play a significant role in leading the infrastructure revolution and ensuring that it becomes a success," the Minister said.

Delivering his keynote address, Minister Zikalala also zoomed into the lack of proper maintenance and refurbishment plan which has led to infrastructure decay and derailed the society's confidence in government's competency. He implored the private sector to invest in government infrastructure projects and grow the economy, as there are numerous economic opportunities for the sector.

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Deputy Minister Bernice Swarts

As part of the International Women's day, the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Bernice Swarts will address a cohort of women who are currently on a 12 months empowerment initiative dubbed "Charlotte Maxeke Bring Her up Start up Hub". The objective of the training is to empower women about starting and scaling up small businesses.

The theme for the International Women's day is "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress"

Date: 08 March 2024

Time: 12h00-13h30

Venue: Venue: KYP (Kilptown Youth Centre) Kilptown Soweto



### MINISTER SIHLE ZIKALALA VISIT VUWANI LIMPOPO

#### PROGRAMME 1

Unblocking Blocked Projects, Service Delivery and engagement with Vuwani community

📅 08 March 2024 | 🕒 09h00am | 📍 Vuwani Sports Ground

#### PROGRAMME 2

Update and deliver Lecture on the progress on the Expropriation of Land Without Compensation Bill (University of Venda) Members of the media are invited to attend and report on both events.

📅 08 March 2024 | 🕒 15h00pm | 📍 University of Venda

For more information contact:  
Head of Communication and Marketing - 0828842403  
or Thami Mchunu on - (079) 519-6997

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