



# public works & infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Wednesday, 15 May 2024

## MINISTER ZIKALALA REPORTS BACK TO THE SALDANHA BAY COMMUNITY



### DEPUTY MINISTER BERNICE SWARTS FOSTERS RELATIONS WITH UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG TO ENHANCE CONSTRUCTION SKILLS POOL

Article By Fanisa Makhubela  
Pictures By Fanisa Makhubela and Khanyisa Moagi



DPWI Deputy Minister **Bernice Swarts** with University of Johannesburg's Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment Executive Dean, **Prof Daniel Mashao**



Delivering the keynote address at the **One Day Celebratory Summit** in the University of Johannesburg in Gauteng on **15 May 2024**, DPWI Deputy Minister (DM) Bernice Swarts underlined the Department's role in the development and transformation of the construction sector in the country. She highlighted that the construction sector should reflect the country's demographics as the role of Africans has been overlooked. The summit was held under the theme *30 Years of Democracy in South Africa: An Event on the History, Present and Future of the South African Construction Industry*.

Deputy Minister Swarts revealed that the formation of emerging contractors associations has helped Government in the intervention programmes that informed Government in policy making processes.

Referring to the building collapse in George, in the Western Cape, the DM urged private contractors to refrain from taking short cuts that result in loss of lives in construction sites.

She highlighted that the Department is committed to combating the following negative issues in the construction industry:

1. Poor performance of contractors,
2. Construction mafia hijacking sites,
- 3 Bribery and
- 4 Corruption, among others.

Article By Nolwazi Ndhlovu  
Pictures By Nolwazi Ndhlovu and Maanea Maselesele



Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Sihle Zikalala visited the Saldanha Bay area in the Western Cape on **15 May 2024**. The Minister's visit commenced at the Saldanha Bay Harbour, where the minister met the workers of the Fresh Fish Production Factory.

The main purpose of this visit was for the minister to sign a Commitment Framework Agreement between the minister and the Chairperson of the board of Sea Harvest, Fred Robertson. The agreement is for the repairs and maintenance of the Saldanha Bay Crawley Quay/Jetty support structure. While there, the minister spoke to the staff members where he assured staff members that the investments the Department is making in the factory will ensure the security of their jobs, and furthermore create more jobs for the people of Saldanha.

The minister was there after being taken on a tour around the bay and got to interact with some of the workers and understand the work that they do. Later on in the day, Minister Zikalala was joined by the Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Minister Barbara Creecy - on a Report Back Imbizo that was held at the Diazville Sports ground. There the ministers reported back to the community of Saldanha, about the issues the communities had raised during their visit to Saldanha Bay last year.

"While we were here last year, there were three key issues that the community raised with us. These were job security, job creation and land transfer for human settlement. Today I am here to let you know that we are investing R20 Million to Sea Harvest that will help with (1) securing the jobs of the people working there and curb retrenchments, (2) create jobs for the unemployed in Saldanha Bay. The

Department has a number of pieces of land that will be allocated to the people living around that area, to be used for human settlement," said Minister Zikalala.

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**HON. SIHLE ZIKALALA**  
Minister, Public Works and Infrastructure

**FRIDAY**  
17 May 2024

**START AT**  
09:00-15:00

**VRVHEID, DUNDEE, PAULPIEYERSBURG AND NEWCASTLE**

**ABOUT THE IMBIZO**  
The Imbizo will focus on contractors challenges within those specific areas and the Imbizo will be aimed at exposing these contractors to potential projects from various spheres of government, share with them BUILD programme and how they could be capacitated

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