



# public works & infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## CONTRACTORS IMBIZO ADDRESSES CHALLENGES FACED BY BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE BUILT INDUSTRY

Article By Shudufhadzo Mudau  
Pictures By Shudufhadzo Mudau and Thokozani Ngema

Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Sihle Zikalala held a contractors Imbizo in Vryheid, KwaZulu-Natal on 17 May 2024. The purpose of the Imbizo was to expose emerging contractors and students who are in or interested in the built industry, to economic and training opportunities available in the Department and its entities.

DPWI public entities namely Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) were the co-hosts of this Imbizo. The Construction Industry Development Board (Cidb) Chief Executive Officer Mr Bongani Dladla engaged with contractors on how the Cidb regulates, grades and registers companies on their data base and on how to register on the Cidb data base in order to qualify for government tenders.

Minister Zikalala said that the Department was addressing governance and regulatory challenges so that a thriving and transformed construction industry of the future can be collectively and effectively built. "The South African government has taken the position of driving the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) through infrastructure development and investments," he said.

The Minister also spoke about challenges that black graduates are facing when they enter the construction industry. Minister Zikalala said that black graduates enter the system and struggle to progress to professional registration due to a lack of mentorship. "The industry as a whole needs to do more to demonstrate commitment to mentorship. We call on big companies and our white compatriots in particular, to work with this Government to mentor black contractors, in order to provide guidance on running profitable companies and maintaining positive cash flows while still delivering projects," said Minister Zikalala.



DPWI Deputy Director-General (DDG): Programme Management Office (PMO) **Luyanda Kafile**



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