



# public works & infrastructure

Department:  
Public Works and Infrastructure  
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## DURBAN LABOUR CENTRE RENOVATIONS NEARS COMPLETION AS MINISTER ZIKALALA CONTINUES TO INTENSIFY THE UNBLOCKING OF STALLED PROJECTS



By Siphamandla Nyembe and Andile Xulu

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) Minister Sihle Zikalala visited the Durban Labour Centre in Durban on **19 February 2024** to conduct an inspection of the renovations at the country's largest Department of Employment and Labour (DoEL) centre.

Renovations to the centre started in November 2018 and were scheduled to be completed in November 2019, however challenges including disruptions from the construction forum, the decanting of the building and the COVID-19 lockdown led to the delay in the repairs. Despite the challenges, repairs to the building



are at 80% completion and the renovated building is set to be handed over to the DoEL in May 2024.

The minister was joined in Durban by Member of Parliament, Hlengiwe Mkhali, and Councillor Bheki Mngwenge, Chairperson of Human Settlement and Infrastructure Committee in eThekweni Municipality. The Independent Development Trust (IDT), one of DPWI's entities, was also in attendance as they are the implementing agent for the renovation of this building.

Prior to this visit, on **17 February 2024**, Minister Zikalala in collaboration with the Department of Employment and Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi conducted a quality inspection at completed buildings that the DPWI has built for the Department of Employment and Labour in Isipingo, Durban. The inspection forms part of Minister Zikalala's operation **Siyahlola** (Operation we inspect), wherein he inspects the progress on essential construction projects under DPWI.

Minister Zikalala expressed satisfaction with the progress of the Durban factory building he visited and in that people living with disabilities, the Youth and pensioners will benefit from the building when it is completed.



## MINISTER SIHLE ZIKALALA HAILS EPWP NYS BY AWARDING CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCE TO 108 LEARNERS IN KHAYELITSHA



By Lunga Mahlangu

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has reasserted one of its objectives in contributing towards the empowerment and capacitation of young people in the scarce skills fields such as carpentry and community house building trades.

Minister Sihle Zikalala awarded certificates of competence to 108 EPWP NYS participants in the carpentry and community house building trades on **16 February 2024**. The graduation ceremony was held at the O.R Tambo Mew way hall, Khayelitsha, Cape Town in the Western Cape.

In his speech, Minister Zikalala indicated that NYS was initiated in 2003 "as a Special Presidential programme designed to address the levels of youth unemployment. The learners who received their certificates consist of 47 youths who participated in the community house building course in the Parliamentary villages at Laboria, Arcacia Park and Pelican Park.

This is an accredited skills programme and training budget that was allocated is R1 684 261. The programme covers life skills, medical exam tests, trade training transport, stipends, PPE and tools.

He said R2 032 307, 59 was allocated for training of another group of 61 carpentry learners within the community house building course. The training covered life skills, mediation exam tests, trade training, transport, stipends, PPE and tools. The Minister, in reference to President Cyril Ramaphosa's 2024 SONA, said the learners should consider themselves as the **"Tintswalo"** of their communities and added that they are a beacon of hope for their parents.

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