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ZIKALALA SAYS PRIVATE SECTOR MUST COLLABORATE WITH GOVERNMENT TO BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE-FINANCE GAP



Article by Andile Xulu & Pictures by Mahlogonolo Makwela

Public Works and Infrastructure Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala delivered his keynote address today at the Continental Energy and Infrastructure Investment Forum (CEIIF) in Sun City, North West. The conference that was held under the theme Collaborate, Renew, Transition, aims to address significant infrastructure gaps that restrain the continent in realising its full potential. This is a collaborative platform pioneered through the South African Electrotechnical Export Council (SAEEC), supported by Brand South Africa, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Department of Trade Industry and Competition, as well as the Export Credit Insurance Corporation.

The conference brought together decision makers with the single objective of catalysing the vast opportunities in the energy and infrastructure sectors in Africa. This forum is known to champion projects that align with the continent's sustainable development goals, while addressing infrastructure gaps.

During his keynote address, Zikalala stated that the forum must serve as motivation for the private sector and development finance institutions, to want to partner with government to close the gaps in infrastructure. "I have no doubt that discussions here will be robust. This platform should be used to share experiences and expertise. We should learn from each other keeping the goal of utilising infrastructure development to develop Africa, at the back of our minds." Said the DM.

Deputy Minister invited the private sector to partner with government bodies for capacity development, as well as inclusive and sustainable development, that prioritises growth.



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