

**Issued: 27 August 2025**

## **MEDIA INVITE**

### **DPWI Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala to provide government's commitment to women empowerment at the SAWIC&BE conference**

Public Works and Infrastructure Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala will on Thursday, 28 August 2025, give a keynote address at the National Annual General Meeting of the South African Women in Construction and Built Environment (SAWIC and BE).

Under the theme, 'Leaving no woman behind – inclusive growth for all women', the Deputy Minister is expected to provide details of the work that DPWI is undertaking to drive the agenda of women empowerment and support for in the built environment sector. This women-led organisation was set up by the late Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Stella Sigcau, 28 years ago. It has worked hand in glove with the Department ever since, in a strong commitment to sustainable partnerships.

Deputy Minister Zikalala is expected to recommit the Department's to build the capacity of women contractors and entrepreneurs through training and mentorship, and to create policy certainty and drive for women to access infrastructure opportunities and enterprise development.

The SAWIC & BE general meeting is expected to attract women in construction, property development, property management and other areas of the Built Environment Professions. The SAWIC & BE membership spans both urban and rural areas.

As the country closes off the Women's Month celebration, the Department wants to assure women in the construction sector that it remains a reliable partner in their development, access to infrastructure opportunities and training.

The media fraternity is invited to attend as follows:

**Details**

**Date : 28 August 2025**  
**Venue : Olive Convention Centre, Durban**  
**Time : 08h00**

**ENDS**

**Issued by:**  
**Department of Public Works and Infrastructure**

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