

CBE BULLETIN

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for a better built environment

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 01 Editorial and Disclaimer
- 02 Transformation Indaba
- 03 Transformation Indaba in pictures
- 04 Hoërskool Driehoek Walkway Collapse
- 05 International Mother Language Day

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Dear Reader

February can be best described as an emotional rollercoaster. It started on the 1st with the terrible tragedy of the walkway collapse at Hoërskool Driehoek in Vanderbijlpark, resulting in four fatalities and many other learners seriously injured. A dark day indeed for all – for the parents and families of those injured and who lost their lives, for the school community, and for built environment role players.

The highlights of February were a successful CBE Transformation Indaba and the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) on 7 and 8 February. The write-up, camera lens and selfie sticks give our readers a glimpse of what went on on- and off stage at the Indaba.

On a lighter note, February is the month of love, so let us spread it around at no cost. It's not about big gestures

really, but the little things that tug at the heart strings and cement those bonds every day – random acts of kindness, and knowing that no matter what, someone will always have your back.

Rounding off, 21 February was International Mother Tongue Day, an opportunity to embrace and express our South African diversity (did you know that the United Nations has proclaimed 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages?).

**Enjoy your read,
Evelyn Bramdeow**

"The future depends on what we do in the present." – Mahatma Gandhi

Disclaimer

We welcome your comments and contribution to this publication. Views expressed in this newsletter, specifically in articles that profile other built environment stakeholders, are not necessarily those of the CBE.

Email us on evelyn@cbe.org.za or lulu@cbe.org.za

TRANSFORMATION INDABA

Igniting the possibilities.....

Prelude

The Transformation Indaba has become an annual 'ritual' at CBE. After hosting the first one on 29 August 2017, the second that followed on 7-8 February 2019 built on the foundations laid in the first one. Overall, the aim of the event is to:

- Gauge the current status of transformation in the South African built environment
- Provide a platform for collaboration and sharing of knowledge among academia, the public and private sectors
- Interrogate challenges and possible recommendations / solutions from multi-dimensional perspectives
- Mobilize resources towards the BE Skills pipeline by the sector
- Track the progress of overall transformation in the South African built environment year-on-year

Overarching themes

This Indaba focused on unlocking the sector Skills Pipeline through adequate resource mobilisation, skills development and collaborative interventions to drive transformation and lead the South African built environment into the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In line with its mandate the CBE is, by definition, the initiator, facilitator and coordinator of high-level conversations, partnerships and collaborations around transforming the built environment.

The Built Environment Skills-pipeline forms the foundation on which the CBE has constructed its transformation strategy. The skills-pipeline captures the journey an individual needs to undertake and conquer in order to become a registered professional. This journey starts at the foundational stage of early childhood development and schooling and progresses all the way through to eventual retirement as a professional. Throughout this journey, individuals face different challenges that hinder their progression and might deter them from reaching their envisaged destination. These challenges mainly relate to the limited availability of resources, both financial and humane.

Embedding sustainability in the approach towards Transformation was another focus area of the Indaba. "Sustainability" in its broadest sense encapsulates the capacity to endure and to maintain a process or situation over time, and addresses the HOLISTIC aspect of the CBE's approach to transforming the South African Built Environment.

Transformation (both within the South African built environment and society generally) is, contrary to popular belief, much broader than promoting the previously disenfranchised into positions of being socially and economically empowered. The CBE is of the view that besides the quantitative aspects, relating to representativeness, transformation should also be closely linked to qualitative changes. Such an approach will lead to empowering built environment professionals whilst unblocking the skills pipeline. It will also greatly aid in generating new knowledge that enhances the contribution of the built environment professions towards the developmental objectives of the country. Essentially transformation should entail the creation of an enabling and sustainable environment (the Built Environment Skills Pipeline) which will allow all South Africans, regardless of race, gender, age or disability the opportunity to actualise their dreams.

Resolutions

The content of the presentations delivered and the discussions that unfolded during the question-and-answer rounds generated the following resolutions to guide the upcoming National Built Environment Indaba, where amongst other pressing built environment matters, Transformation will still stand at the forefront.

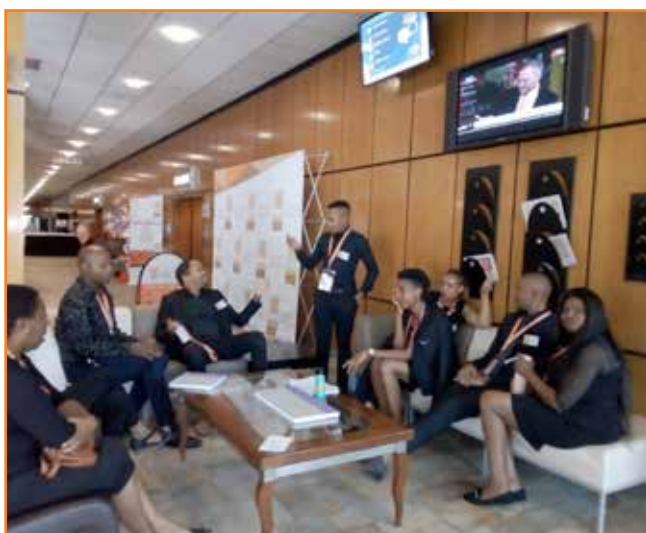
The CBE should lead the Transformation Agenda of the Built Environment sector of South Africa through a collaborative drive.

The CBE, as coordinator of the sector, should monitor and evaluate sector-wide transformation initiatives/interventions and report these as stakeholder contributions to Government.

It is imperative that all sector role players contribute resources (financial or humane) for collaborative transformation initiatives/interventions driven by a communal funding mechanism managed by the CBE.

TRANSFORMATION INDABA

In Pictures



TRANSFORMATION INDABA

In Pictures (continued)



HOËRSKOOI DRIEHOEK WALKWAY COLLAPSE

The Council for the Built Environment (CBE) places on record its deepest condolences to the parents and families of the four children who lost their lives when the walkway collapsed at Hoërskool Driehoek in Vanderbijlpark on 1 February 2019. This is a huge loss to the school, to the community and it has robbed the country of young minds that could have contributed greatly.

The CBE, by virtue of its mandate from the Council for the Built Environment Act 43 of 2000, is the regulator of the built environment in South Africa. It is presently liaising with state organs who oversee construction health and safety – such as the Department of Labour and the South African Council for Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) – to determine the cause of this tragedy that resulted

in the loss of lives. It views its role of protecting the public in built environment matters in a very serious light. It will therefore work very closely to review the reports from the authorities concerned – to determine the cause of the incident, and once established to find remedies going forward to avoid such tragedies in future.

The CBE adds its voice to promote construction health and safety, and therefore recommends that professionals undertaking construction work must be registered in the interests of conforming to required standards and protecting the public.

Ms Priscilla Mdlalose
Chief Executive Officer
Council for the Built Environment

The logo for the South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP). It features the acronym 'SACPCMP' in a large, blue, serif font. The letter 'A' is stylized with a gold-colored shadow or outline. Below the acronym, the full name of the council is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions

The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) expresses its concerns regarding the death of four children when the walkway collapsed at Hoërskool Driehoek in Vanderbijlpark.

Accidents of this nature are tragic and should not occur in the first place.

“One fatality as a result of construction flaws is one too many. We need to ensure that the appropriate measures are in place to prevent such occurrences. The SACPCMP is mandated to ensure the safety of the public. If young people are victims of error and failure, we need to be concerned as South Africans,” indicated Mr Butcher Matutle, Registrar at the SACPCMP.

The SACPCMP awaits the outcomes of the investigation into this incident.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

ONE LAST THING

21 February is

INTERNATIONAL
MOTHER
LANGUAGE
DAY

How many of
South Africa's 11
official languages
do you know?

It's never too late to
start learning another...

Lotjhani /
Salibonani
(isiNdebele)

Sawubona
(isiZulu)

Hello
(English)

Avuxeni
(Xitsonga)

Hallo
(Afrikaans)

Dumela
(Sesotho)

Molo
(isiXhosa)

Sawubona
(Siswati)

Dumela
(Setswana)

Dumela
(Sepedi)

Ndaa /
Aa
(Tshivenda)

"If you talk to a man in a language
he understands, that goes to his head.
If you talk to him in his language, that goes
to his heart." - Nelson Mandela