

ECSA RESUSCITATES VA PRESIDENTS FORUM

On Thursday, 15 September 2022, the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) in aid of fulfilling its mandate to be an effective regulator seeking to assure engineering excellence, convened the Voluntary Associations (VAs) Presidents Forum through a hybrid model.

The Forum represented by ECSA's recognised VA's that boast engineering membership from the different disciplines, was chaired by ECSA President Refilwe Buthelezi Pr Eng and is aimed at strengthening relations between ECSA and VAs as well as deliberating on critical engineering matters that not only impact the engineering practitioners but the members of the public as well.

The presentations set for discussion on the day included: an update on the Guideline Fees and Competition Commission, ECSA's Annual General Meeting, an update on stakeholder relations engagement efforts, a review on the Voluntary Association Recognition Framework, VA discounts and fees, the status of the Identification of the Engineering Work (IDoEW) project, an update on Continued Professional Development (CPD), professional registration trends as well as the cases currently under investigation.

Initiating discussions Eng. Buthelezi, spoke on the importance of VAs involvement on local and international structures that ECSA actively participates on, to ensure broader representation as well as impact on the local and international engineering bodies.

Aligned to this was the presentation delivered by the Southern Africa Federation of Engineering Organisation (SAFEOS) President Eng. Linda Moseki who was calling on VAs to participate as associate members of the organisation and contribute to the engineering fraternity in the Southern region through capacity building initiatives.

Key to the discussion by Eng. Buthelezi as well as the presentation by Eng. Moseki was how do engineering practitioners restore the confidence of the public on the knowledge and skills of professionally registered engineering practitioners to maintain and uphold relevance of the engineering fraternity.

To this, progress on the Identification of Engineering Work (IDoEW) consultations sessions with the different stakeholders was shared with the attendees which was followed by a presentation on the cases currently under investigation by ECSA.

These presentations spoke directly to the regulation of the engineering profession, specifically the partnerships between ECSA, VAs, government departments, institutions of higher learning as well as the private sector in ensuring the IDoEW which, entails the engineering activities performed by persons registered in ECSA categories of registration and to demarcate the type of work to be performed from one category of registration from another, materialises for the protection of the industry and the people who work in it.

Members of the Forum together with other professionally registered persons will convene later in the year at the inaugural ECSA Annual General Meeting as announced by ECSA Vice President TC Madikane Pr Eng, to further find ways of

effectively regulating the profession through structured partnerships that are centred on the same strategic vision and purpose for the profession.