



MEDIA STATEMENT

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ECSA Speaks on Municipal Infrastructure at SAHRC National Conference

Today, 01 September 2022, the Engineering Council of South Africa's (ECSA) President Refilwe Buthelezi Pr Eng, delivered a presentation on municipal infrastructure at the South African Human Rights Commissions (SAHRC) National Conference.

The purpose of the conference was to deliberate on Local Government Accountability, Service Delivery and Human Rights and comes amidst the numerous challenges encountered by the local government in delivering on its mandate to provide basic services at a local level.

The Conference convened over two days from 31 August 2022- 01 September 2022 was attended by President Cyril Ramaphosa who delivered a keynote address this morning, reflecting on the role of government, the challenges faced by local government, governments vision towards a capable, ethical and developmental local government as well as how the District Model can assist in fostering close collaboration between the three spheres of government.

Addressing the delegates at the Conference, Engineer Buthelezi emphasised on the importance and the role of competent and qualified engineering practitioners in ensuring the creation and maintenance of infrastructure and ultimately the provision of basic services to communities, she said, "Municipal infrastructure cannot exist or operate without engineering practitioners in all its forms".

To expand on her argument she added that, "Engineers have an outsize role to play in supporting human rights through infrastructure provision, in myriad ways: as policymakers; as designers and builders of infrastructure; as maintainers of that infrastructure; and as thought leaders within and outside government around the importance of infrastructure to our country and all its people".

Engineer Buthelezi noted that while challenges at the local government exist, "government should embrace the essential contributions that engineering practitioners make not only to physical infrastructural matters such as clean water and functional roads, and to growing our economy, but to the promotion and preservation of our citizens' human rights as well".

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