

E-BULLETIN 2024



ENGINEERING



www.ecsa.co.za



0



S A

ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

BULLETIN

25



ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA



WHAT'S INSIDE



Chief Executive's Desk



ECSA's Plan for Professional Excellence



Cancellation of Registration: Implications



ECSA collaborates with VA's to establish the Advisory Board for Biennial Engineering Symposium



Consolidating fraternity partnerships places ECSA in the driving seat



South Africa assumes Presidency of FAEO



Improper Conduct and Enforcement for engineering practitioners



In the News



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DESK

2024 Achievements to Inspire 2025 Successes

Dr Bridget Ssamula

Monday, 31 March 2025, officially marks the end of the 2024/25 financial year, and the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) can reflect on a number of milestones and successes garnered within this period.

Our achievements in a number of key areas give the strongest indication yet that we are moving in the right direction when it comes to engaging stakeholders and ensuring their cooperation in the ongoing professionalisation of the fraternity. Likewise, the public is proving to be instrumental in helping us shape our vision of an organisation that is effectively regulated and that reflects our core values – Professionalism, Accountability, Collaboration, Transparency and Innovation. We have seen an increase in feedback from the public on our whistleblower Vuvuzela Hotline, dedicated to reporting instances of alleged misconduct. Meanwhile, engagements continue on the Identification of Engineering Work (IDoEW) Framework, the basis for ongoing professionalisation through delineating the requirements and roles of Registered Persons. In other areas, our efforts to manage and bring into the fraternity more engineering practitioners through addressing the gap in engineering skills culminated in our inaugural Fundraising Golf Day, held in partnership with sponsor stakeholders. As we continue to execute our mandate of effective regulation of the fraternity, on 12 March 2025 we closed off on the first cycle of registration in the professional and specified categories, in this

edition we provide an update on the applications received in Cycle 2 of 2024.



Vuvuzela Hotline keeps buzzing

In 2023/24 we introduced the Vuvuzela Hotline, a platform independent of ECSA and managed by an external service provider and available to all stakeholders to report fraud and ethical conduct allegations relating to ECSA employees and other stakeholders.

To date five (5) cases have been reported through the Vuvuzela Hotline. Of the five cases reported, one was finalised and an accompanying report issued while another is still under investigation; investigations are pending on the three remaining cases.

To date, email communication remains whistleblowers' most preferred channel of

reporting. The platform ensures that fraud, corruption, and misconduct can be addressed confidentially and anonymously and is available - 24/7, 365 days a year.

Stakeholders may use the following platforms to report any allegations of fraud and ethical misconduct

Email ecsa@thehotline.co.za
Toll-Free Call 0806 227 767
SMS 30916
Post PO Box 10512
Website www.thehotline.co.za/report
Toll-Free Call 0806 227 767

All reports are reviewed within 24 hours and investigated thoroughly, with updates provided throughout the process. Do not hesitate to report unethical behaviour —your voice matters!



Identification of Engineering Work and Compliance Plans and Enforcement

November 2024, the Engineering Council initiated nationwide roadshows to consult on the Identification of Engineering Work Framework. On 11 March 2025, the final roadshow was held in East London bringing the total number of provinces consulted to nine.

The Council extends its gratitude to all stakeholders that participated through sharing their insights, inputs as well as challenges. Moreover, we offer our appreciation to all the partners that joined in and collaborated with us on this journey.

Way Forward

Engineering Employers are reminded to submit their compliance plans by 31 March 2025 to rpsdservices@ecsa.co.za.

The plans should contain procedures for ensuring that all engineering work is appropriately identified and ascribed to registered persons.

To ensure a smooth transition, the Council will review the fraternity's compliance with the submitted plans from 01 April 2025. During this time, ECSA will also launch sector engagements to educate stakeholders about the enforcement framework and its implementation

The final draft IDoEW Rules are published on ECSA's website and other platforms to allow the fraternity the last opportunity to make final inputs, including sharing of the same with the Built Environment VA's (Voluntary Associations) and Council for the Built Environment (CBE). The final IDoEW Rules will then be gazetted for implementation and enforcement.



ECSA Fundraising Golf Day to Stop the Bleeding Engineering Skills Pipeline

On Wednesday, 26 March 2025, ECSA hosted its inaugural fundraising Golf Day at the Country Golf Club Woodmead, Johannesburg.

The event, aimed at raising funds to aid engineering students with financial constraints and close the bleeding engineering skills pipeline,



was supported by golfers and non-golfers as well as sponsored by the following institutions:

- Flowtite South Africa
- University of Pretoria entities
- Max Prof (Pty Ltd)
- South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE)
- Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA)
- The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP)
- South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE)

Way Forward

ECSA will through its Deans Forum request Higher Education Institutions to nominate engineering students with financial constraints. The Deans forum will through a fair process select the learners who can be assisted through the funds generated from the Golf Day.

Stakeholders who are interested in partnering with ECSA on this initiative may send an email to ecsacomms@ecsaco.za.



2025 First Cycle of registration closed and Cycle 2 of 2024 Update

On Wednesday, 22 January 2025, Cycle 1 of 2025 for Registration in Professional and Specified Categories was opened and subsequently closed on 12 March.

This was the first time since the new application process was introduced that the applications were submitted exclusively through the portal, with the exception of referee reports.

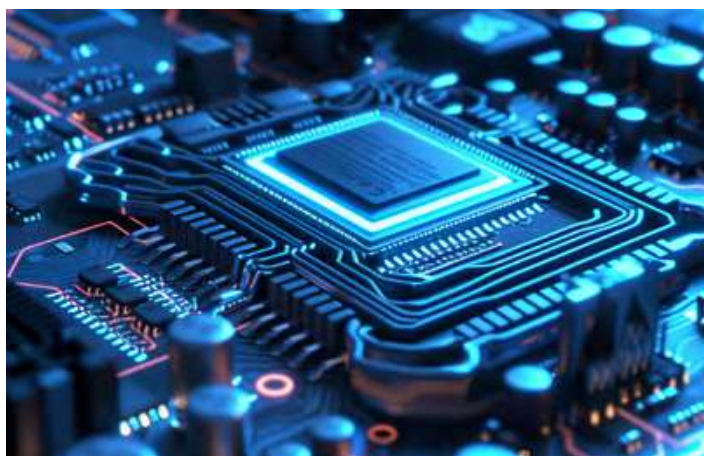
Applicants can expect a processing time of approximately 4 to 6 months if the application is administratively complete.

During the second Cycle of 2024, the Council received a large number of applications, especially during the extension period. Processes are in place to finalise all applications received.

Please note dates outlining when final outcomes will be communicated:

- **Submitted before 15 August 2024:** Final outcomes will be communicated by 31 March 2025
- **Submitted during the extension:** Outcomes will be communicated by 30 April 2025.

Applicants can check the status of their application by sending an email to registration@ecsa.co.za. Please include full name and application/profile number for assistance.



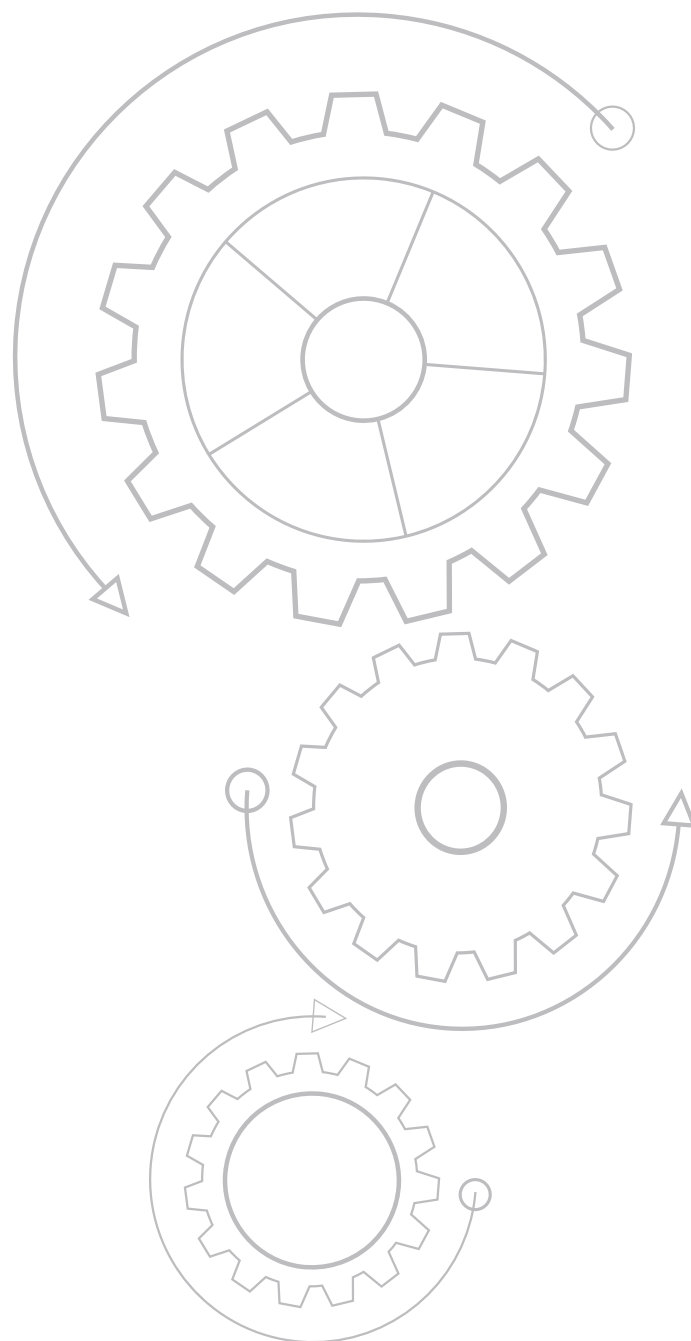
Closing Remarks

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our valued stakeholders for the continuous support of all our programmes and projects. We are nearing the live date for the CRM Renovation Project. A phased approach will be adopted starting with the billing system which is aimed at ensuring a more seamless and user-friendly experience for Registered Persons and engineering employers who make payments on behalf of their employees.

The appointment of the 7th Term ECSA Governing Council is underway, with final communication from the Ministry to be provided.

We are transitioning into a new financial year, and five-year strategic period, which will be underscored by a new Five-Year Strategy. While the strategic objective remains to reorient our processes, people and systems aligned to our statutory, our key focus will be on building brand credibility, enforcing a customer-centric approach as well as solidifying the expression of our organisational values both internally and externally.

Dr Bridget Ssamula Pr. Eng
Chief Executive Officer, ECSA





ECSA's Plan for Professional Excellence

The 2025-2030 ECSA Strategic Plan is the blueprint for the Engineering Council of South Africa to strengthen professional oversight and enhance stakeholder and public sector engagement as we seek to consolidate our growth and transformation imperatives.

As a forward-looking organisation, ECSA prides itself on its commitment to transform through a drive that is innovative and adaptable. ECSA is also cognisant of its leading role within South Africa and the region to champion the facilitation of mutual and global recognition for qualified professionals in South Africa and select partner countries.

More importantly, in response to an assessment by industry and stakeholders, ECSA has finalised a growth strategy for transformation through digitisation and a customer-centric approach.

With legislative changes to the Identification of Engineering Work (IDoEW), professionalisation of the public sector and increased stakeholder engagement, ECSA is seeing impressive growth in Registered Persons numbers for which we have put together a proactive plan.

Furthermore, ECSA is committed to its mandate to equip registered professionals with the competency to navigate infrastructure

development, technological innovation and challenges with climate change. Checks and balances in our internal operational and statutory practices will assist in raising the calibre of the profession, delivering on our promise with the assistance of our pipeline and peers.

We are ever appreciative of support from government institutions such as the Department of Public Works (DPWI) and the Council for Built Environment (CBE) as well as other stakeholders for investing in our vision. Through your backing and championing of engineering education across the country we have managed to realise core objectives, including ensuring public safety and health.

In the pipeline

ECSCA's new strategic plan aims to make progressive strides with a reflective attitude as it eyes substantive growth by accounting for historical shortcomings. These include inadequate customer service engagements, a misunderstanding of the role and independence of the regulator, lack of progressive supervision in the review of legislation, failure to incorporate a tech component into efficacy improvement plans and low retention rate of registered persons, to list only some.

Our vision for the future

ECSA has set its sights on becoming a global leader in engineering regulation; upholding professional excellence, adhering to sustainability guidelines and advocating for public safety in engineering-related matters.

How we are getting there

ECSA is gearing towards these objectives by upholding standards for engineering education and professional practice as well as establishing areas of improvement and developing codes of conduct for Registered Persons. Our membership with the International Engineering Alliance is still in place to ensure mutual recognition of educational programmes with the intent to create pathways for more seamless professional registration globally. Accreditation visits have been carried out to institutions to ascertain requirements and criteria for producing world-class professionals.

What we are working with

ECSA is the official engineering regulating person of South Africa (as it is regarded as a juristic person).

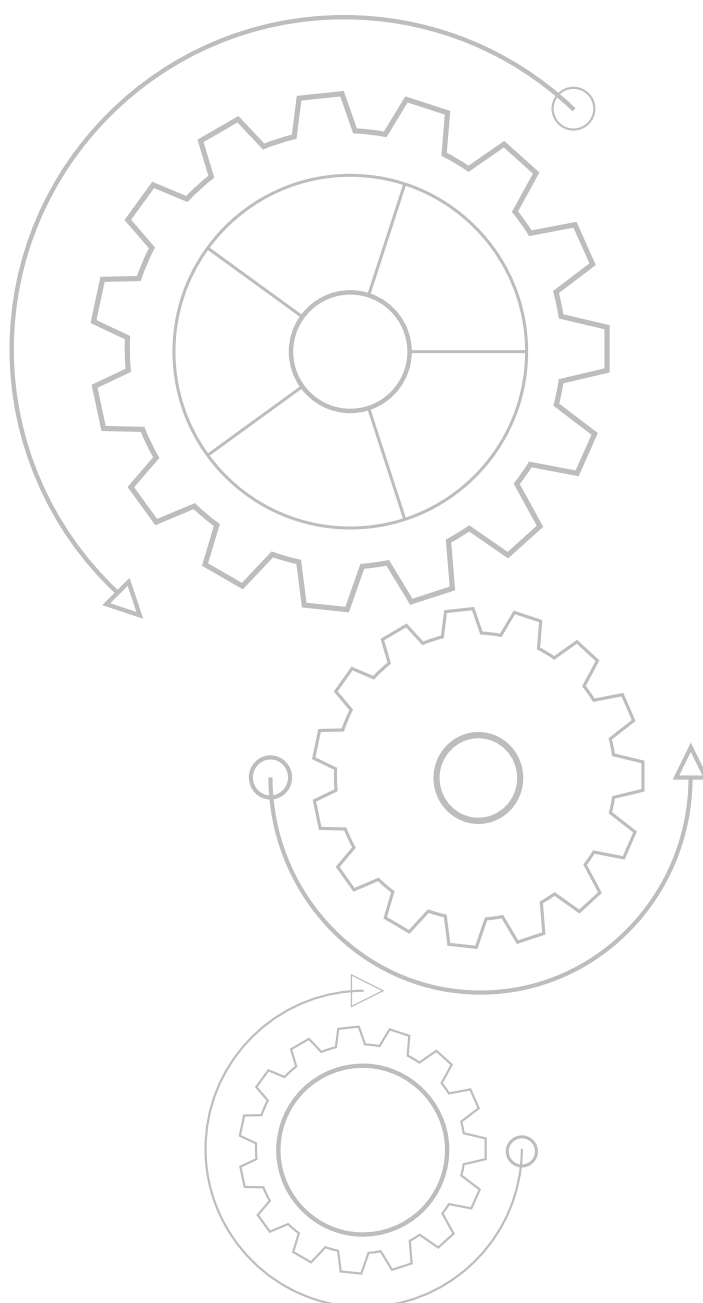
We have therefore established policies, procedures and standards that are in line with a mandate derived from the Engineering Profession Act (EPA), 46 of 2000. We have also upheld good governance over the years, with the support of exceptional and accountable senior management to enhance cross-functional collaboration with stakeholders.

To ensure the attainment of our goals and to better meet stakeholders' needs, we are looking to enhance the efficiency of our communication processes through simplifying our application procedures with clearer guidelines and ensuring consistency in evaluations. We are making Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities more accessible by diversifying offerings and improving submission processes. We are also actively strengthening advocacy

and recognition for the engineering fraternity by engaging with government and industry to enhance the profession's visibility. The co-opting of updated user interfaces to provide a seamless experience with registration, CPD submissions and professional services will be vital to this goal.

High Impact Committees Continue Work

The ECSA Governing Council will continue to drive the governance, uphold the standards as well as render their oversight role with integrity and professionalism.





Cancellation of Registration: Implications

Effective Date: 1 April 2025

At ECSA, we recognise that Registered Persons are primarily focused on their professional work and may sometimes overlook administrative obligations such as annual fee payments or updating contact details for invoicing purposes. However, failure to meet these obligations can result in the cancellation of registration.

While some individuals value their professional registration and maintain compliance, others may neglect payments or CPD activities due to perceived costs, leading to automatic cancellation. Regardless of the reason, it is essential to understand the implications of a cancelled registration.

The implementation and enforcement of the IDoEW Rules from 1 April 2025, places a legislated obligation on all engineering practitioners to be registered with ECSA in one of the Council-approved Categories.

Changes under the new ECSA Rules on Cancellation of Registration and Renewal

The updated Rules on Cancellation of Regis-

tration and Renewal introduce significant changes to the reinstatement and renewal process.

Under the Engineering Profession Act and new ECSA Rules, reinstatement is not automatic. Instead, practitioners whose registration has been cancelled must apply for reinstatement within 5 years of the noted cancellation of registration (terms and conditions apply as per the Rules).

Should a practitioner allow for the registration to lapse for a period longer than 5 years, a new registration application will be required:

- 01 Submission of a new application – The applicant must demonstrate that they still meet ECSA’s competency requirements.
- 02 Payment of outstanding fees – Including arrears, penalties, and recovery expenses incurred by ECSA.
- 03 Council review – ECSA will assess the application to determine if the applicant meets current competency and registration criteria.

Fast-Track process for recent cancellations

ECSA has introduced a streamlined process for

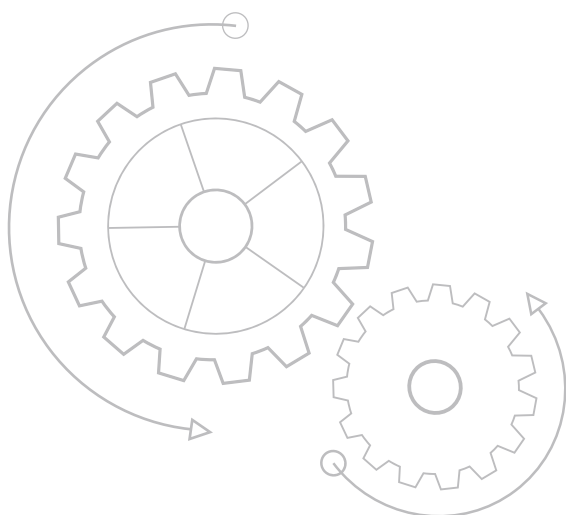
individuals whose registrations were cancelled within the past three years. These applicants may qualify for an expedited reinstatement process which may still require additional documents associated with the period for which registration was cancelled. Outstanding fees and CPD credits will still apply as per the Rules and its procedural document.

Implications of Cancellation

- Visibility on the ECSA Register and through a digital seal on the registration certificate – A cancelled registration will be reflected in ECSA's public database and on the new digital registration certificate seal, accessible to clients, employers, and regulatory bodies. The date of cancellation will be clearly recorded.
- Impact on Employment – Many employers require active registration as a condition of employment. Registration lapses may lead to employment consequences.
- Legal Consequences – It is a criminal offense to falsely claim ECSA registration. Individuals found misrepresenting their registration status may face legal action.

Key takeaway

To avoid complications, registered persons must ensure timely fee payments, submission of annual and cyclical CPD credits (reference the updated CPD Rules) and keep their contact details updated with ECSA. If registration is cancelled, reinstatement is now subject to a formal review process, making proactive compliance essential.





ECSA collaborates with VA's to establish the Advisory Board for Biennial Engineering Symposium

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) in collaboration with recognised Voluntary Associations has established an Advisory Board for the Biennial Engineering Symposium. Members of the Advisory Board will serve for four years to oversee the governance as well as provide strategic guidance and expertise for the successful execution of the symposium.

The formation of the Advisory Board was approved at a meeting of the Voluntary Associations (VAs) Presidents Forum held on 26 June 2024.

The Board consists of members of recognised VAs who were selected for their knowledge and leadership qualities, including proven managerial experience and a finance background. Their understanding of the engineering fraternity was also taken into account and will enable them to determine the symposium's content needs.

The symposium aims to empower members of the South African engineering fraternity and international colleagues to take implementable and innovative decisions for sustainable development.

The inaugural symposium will be hosted during the 2025/26 season in Gauteng and will bring together local and international engineering

practitioners practitioners, academia, students, government and other leaders of society to shape the global, regional and engineering fraternity agenda. The event will afford participants an opportunity to deliberate on the fraternity's achievements, challenges in our modern world and our progress as a country in meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Meet the Advisory Board Members



Mr Randeer Kasserchun Pr Eng (Chairperson)
Institute of Municipal Engineering of Southern Africa (IMESA)



Ms Welheminah Motene Nthangeni Pr Tech Eng (Vice Chairperson)
Institute of Professional Engineering Technologists (IPET)



Dr Oscar Asumani Pr Eng (Member)
South African Institution of Mechanical
Engineering (SAIMEchE)



Mr Voltaire Shai (Co-Opted Member)
Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA)



Ms Holovisa Amelia Mtshali Pr Eng (Member)
South African Institute of Electrical Engineering (SAIEE)



Ms Sybil Dlamini (Secretariat)
Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA)



Mr Shanley Hay Pr Tech Eng (Member)
South African Society of Trenchless Technology (SASTT)



Mr Petrus Swanepoel Pr Tech Eng (Member)
South African Federation of Hospital Engineers (SAFHE)



Dr Dieter Hartmann Pr Eng (Member)
Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering (SAIIE)



Dr Bridget Ssamula Pr Eng (Co-Opted Member)
Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA)

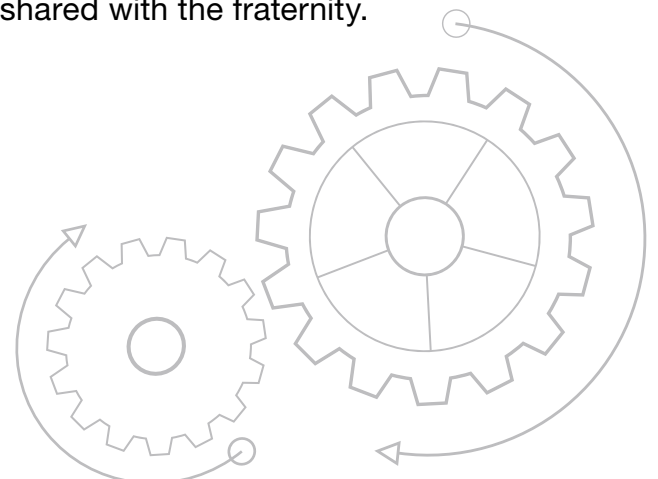
The Advisory Board's contributions will be invaluable in shaping the symposium's programme, which will feature keynote speakers, technical sessions and networking opportunities. Their involvement will ensure that the symposium remains a premier platform for knowledge-sharing, collaboration and innovation in the engineering fraternity.

Looking Ahead

A call for the Joint Discipline Host was issued and Expressions of Interest from Voluntary Associations will be reviewed and the Joint Discipline Host announced.

The date and venue for the 2025 Engineering Symposium will be announced soon.

Details for registrations and participation will be shared with the fraternity.





Consolidating fraternity partnerships places ECSA in the driving seat

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) has renewed its Memorandums of Understanding with the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) of Botswana, and the Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ) at a ceremony held in Gaborone, Botswana.

The renewals are in line with ECSA's International Relations Policy, which aims to foster mutually beneficial partnerships through robust capacity-building. They also underline ECSA's commitment to developing the engineering profession both locally and internationally. By aligning with the International Relations Framework, the policy enables ECSA to participate effectively in global forums and alliances and also lends support to the African Development Agenda.

This assists in elevating local Registered Persons on the international arena while aligning with ECSA's vision to foster engineering excellence throughout the continent as evidenced in its commitment to capacitate counterparts within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and beyond to meet international education and competency standards.

The agreements form part of ECSA's Mentorship Programme which aims to capacitate African countries to join the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) and secure membership of the

IEA's Washington Accord for both the ERB and IEZ and outline each party's responsibilities.

ECSA and the parties agreed to develop mechanisms to collaborate on issues around accreditation, mobility of Registered Persons, mentorship, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and knowledge exchange.

Highlights of ECSA's agreements with the ERB and IEZ include the following

In terms of the agreements, ECSA and the parties are to perform particular functions to assist the ERB and IEZ with the applications to the IEA for the Washington Accord.

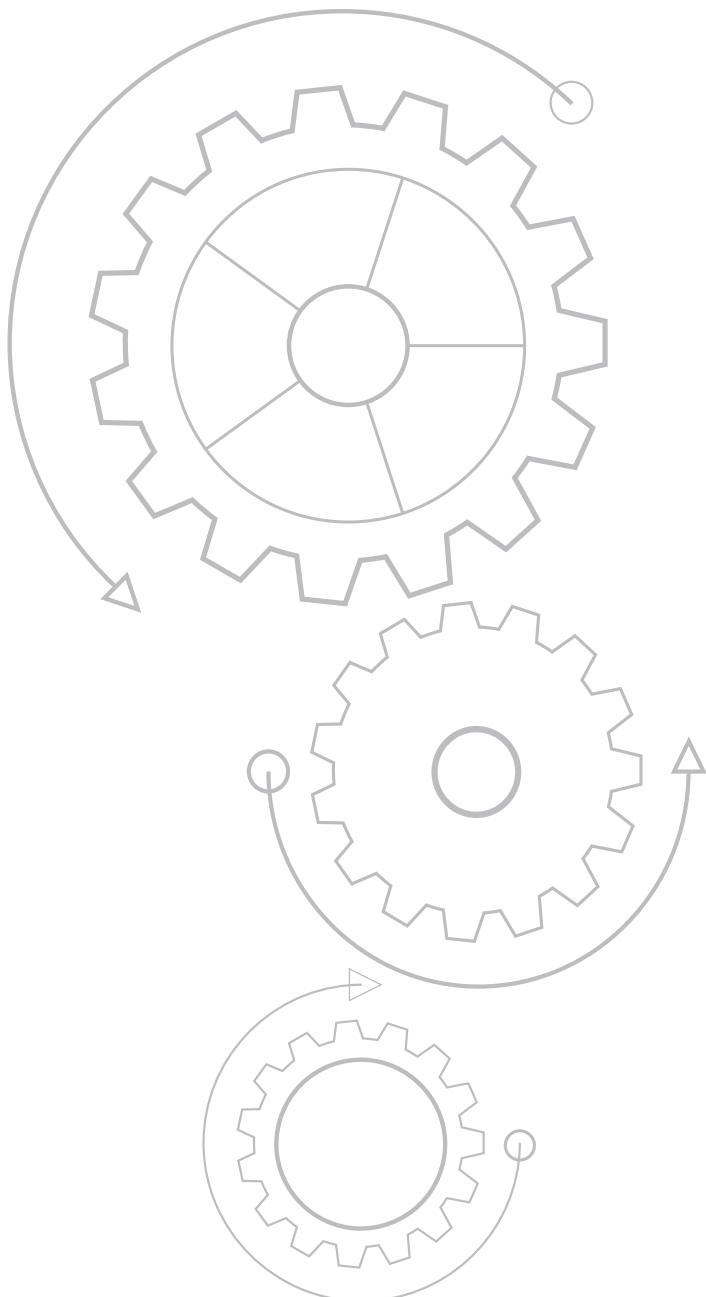
ECSA and the ERB will both work to establish a Joint Working Group (JWG) with committed representatives from ERB and ECSA. The same formula will apply with the IEZ where IEZ and ECSA will establish a Joint Working Committee. These joint bodies will help determine areas of support, collaboration and common interest between the parties.

One identified area where such collaboration is to take place is in the mentoring of graduates using cross-border resources.

ECSCA on the one hand and the ERB and IEZ on the other also agreed to facilitate knowledge exchange and information sharing platforms.

The ERB and IEZ also undertook to share information regarding progress and new developments in the accreditation of qualifications processes with ECSCA.

The agreements are for a duration of five years and stipulate at least twice-yearly meetings by the parties. They also make a provision for the need to partner indefinitely even when the five years have expired.





ECSA President makes it a double with FAEO appointment

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) is proud to announce the inauguration of its President, Eng. Refilwe Buthelezi Pr.Eng, as the new President of the Federation of African Engineering Organisations (FAEO). The prestigious honour was conferred on Eng. Buthelezi at a ceremony in Gaborone, Botswana, and has been welcomed as a historic milestone for South Africa and the African engineering fraternity.

Eng. Buthelezi's appointment follows her nomination for the position by ECSA. She will serve as FAEO President from 2025 to 2027.

Her appointment signifies South Africa's continued leadership within FAEO and reaffirms ECSA's commitment to fostering excellence in engineering across the continent. As a black female leader in a traditionally male-dominated profession, her presidency underscores the progress made in advancing gender diversity and inclusion in STEM fields throughout Africa. It also serves as an inspiration for future generations of women engineers coming through the pipeline.

Reflecting on her appointment, Eng. Buthelezi described it as an immense honour and expressed her delight to represent both ECSA and South Africa on such a distinguished platform. She stated that engineering was the backbone of

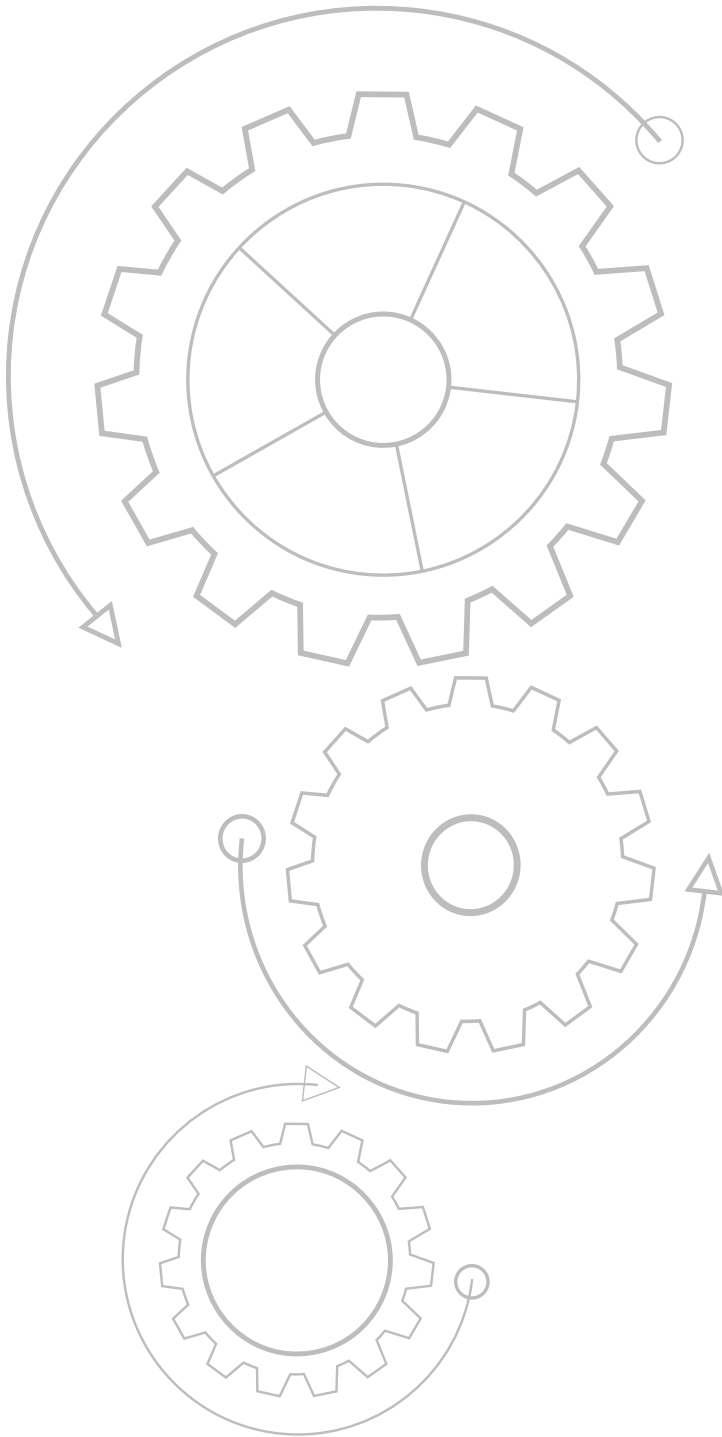
Africa's development, and through FAEO, the continent had a unique opportunity to drive infrastructure growth, harmonise standards, and expand opportunities for engineering practitioners across the continent.

She vowed to continue her predecessor's important work in implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) strategy while advocating for comprehensive STEM education and greater female participation in engineering.

FAEO is a key continental body dedicated to uniting Africa's engineering organisations to address critical challenges in infrastructure, water and sanitation, energy, and ICT. The Federation represents over 500,000 engineering professionals across Africa. Additionally, the engineering body plays a pivotal role in promoting technical excellence and professional mobility.

A key focus of Eng. Buthelezi's presidency will be the acceleration of engineering best practices to facilitate intra-African trade and infrastructure development. This includes enhancing the digitalisation of engineering practitioner databases, strengthening partnerships to standardise engineering regulations, and increasing opportunities for young engineers, particularly women, to thrive in the profession.

ECSA has extended its congratulations to Eng. Buthelezi and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting her presidency in advancing the African engineering agenda. Her tenure is set to shape the future of engineering on the continent, championing innovation, skills development, and cross-border cooperation.





Improper Conduct and Enforcement for engineering practitioners

The Engineering Profession Act 46 of 2000 empowers the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) to monitor and enforce standards of conduct for Registered Persons to maintain ethical and professional integrity.

ECSA regulates the registration process for individuals in various engineering categories in order that only capable and qualified individuals are allowed to perform engineering work.

The statutory body oversees the development and maintenance of standards by entrusting engineering work to competent professionals who adhere to safety, ethical, and legal requirements that are designed to promote public safety and wellbeing. Such monitoring begins with the accreditation of academic programmes.

ECSA can only investigate alleged or suspected misconduct contingent on if the individual was a Registered Person at the time of the alleged infraction and uses the applicable Code of Conduct and/or Code of Practice to do so.

The first step is to acknowledge the charges, complaints or allegations, followed by a determination whether it has jurisdiction over the alleged improper conduct.

An investigation presided over by an Investigation

Committee is then initiated after jurisdiction is established and this will gather facts; the Committee makes a recommendation to Council. Depending on the outcome, charges are then issued and presented to the Registered Person, who may choose to plead guilty or not guilty, in which case a Disciplinary Tribunal and Hearing will be held.

The Tribunal has to deliver its verdict within 30 days and a guilty verdict will result in a sanction, which may include a caution/reprimand, a fine, suspension for one year or cancellation of registration and removal from the register. Council publishes the findings in the Gazette and enforces the Tribunal's decision.

Reporting Allegations of Improper Conduct and Enforcement Matters

The Engineering Council of South Africa wishes to inform all stakeholders making use of engineering services of the correct procedures for reporting allegations of improper conduct or matters concerning enforcement.

ECSA's improper conduct function deals with alleged misconduct or omissions by Registered

Persons that appear to contravene

- The Code of Conduct for Registered Persons;
- The Overarching Code of Practice for Performance of Engineering Work; and/or
- Any applicable discipline-specific Code of Practice.

These documents are publicly available on the ECSA website or can be provided upon request. Should any person wish to lodge a complaint of improper conduct against a Registered Person, they must complete a complaint affidavit, which is available on the ECSA website via the following link: <https://www.ecsa.co.za/regulation/Site-Pages/Complaints%20of%20Misconduct.aspx>

In addition to its improper conduct function, ECSA's enforcement mandate, as prescribed by the Engineering Profession Act 46 of 2000, extends to matters of public interest. This includes instances where ECSA must act to:

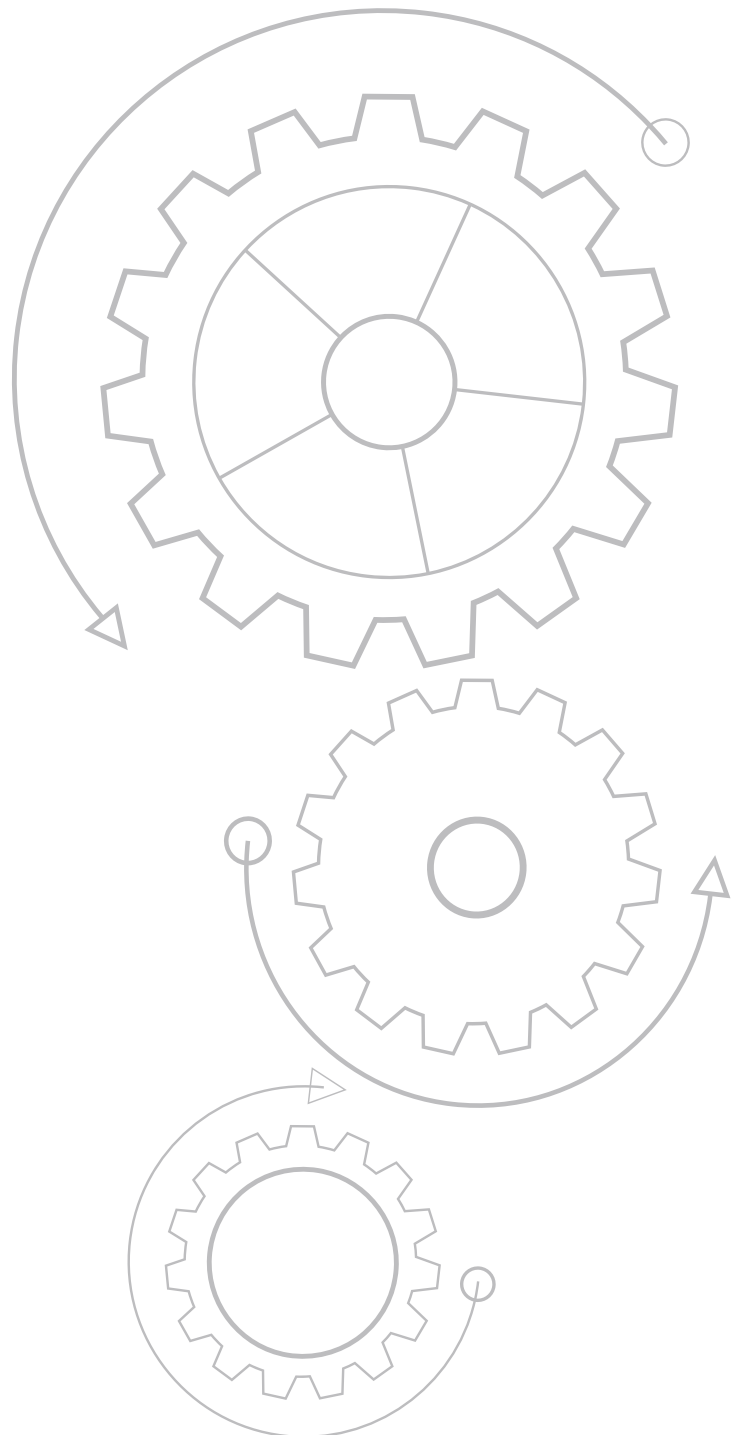
- Protect the public in their dealings with Registered Persons;
- Maintain the integrity and enhance the status of the engineering profession;
- Improve the standards of services rendered by Registered Persons;
- Raise awareness among Registered Persons regarding the importance of protecting the environment from unsound engineering practices;
- Take appropriate action where public health and safety may be prejudiced due to engineering-related undertakings; and
- Address instances where individuals falsely claim to be Registered Persons or where Registered Persons act outside their approved category of registration, which constitutes an offence under the Act.

The enforcement mandate also covers matters related to fraud, forgery, and the fraudulent presentation of documents pertaining to engineering work within ECSA's regulatory scope.

A two-part webinar series on Improper Conduct and Enforcement will be held in April 2025 and will focus on the following:

- Revised Code of Conduct on Registered Persons
- Revised Rules on Improper Conduct
- Revised Rules for Appeals
- Developed rules for Enforcement

Details on the webinars will be shared on our communication platforms.





In the News



Public safety in engineering is a work in progress



South Africa takes over presidency of the Federation of African Engineering Organisations



ECSA to host a Fundraising Golf Day to Stop the bleeding engineering skills pipeline



ECSA brings identification of engineering work roadshow to North West



Achieving ECSA registration through the DOI Professional Development Programme



Faculty Of Engineering Achieves ECSA Accreditation



Contact Details

Address

Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA)
Waterview Corner Building, 2 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue,
Bruma Lake Office Park, 2198 Johannesburg

Tel:

0861 225 555

Email:

engineer@ecsa.co.za



Engineering Council of South Africa

Please follow the engineering discourse and become a role player.

Please contact us with feedback on improving our communication. Feedback and comments may be emailed to ecsa-comms@ecsa.co.za.