



# NSBE PAGES

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



### FOREWORD:

Complements to the entire NSBE family in 2010.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual NSBE conference has come and gone and a lot of work lies ahead of us in this New Year. May I take a moment to thank all members who made it to last year's conference and commend you for taking a bold step of committing yourselves to working towards the transformation of the engineering landscape.

Fellow members, I wish to deal with one of the key resolutions of conference that mandated the NEC to take up the issue of the irregular appointment of the current ECSA council, as well as matters of governance and transformation.

Following the conference, the 1<sup>st</sup> NEC meeting was held in Johannesburg on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and informed by the mandate at hand resolved on the following:

### 1. *NSBE vs. ECSA*

After noting that we were met with intransigence by both ECSA and the Minister of Public Works when we raised the issue of the irregular appointment of the current ECSA council, the NEC resolved that we approach the High court to seek relief in this matter. We have since launched court papers requesting the court to set aside the appointment of the current council. Our request is informed by the fact that the previous ECSA councils failed to make rules particularly those relating to the composition of council, as stipulated in section 36 of the Engineering Professions Act of 2000. Their failure to make such rules has the following bearing on us:

- We continue to be deprived of our democratic right to participate in the process of making such rules and thus to influence how the ECSA council should be composed.
- We continue to have no part in how the process of registration of professionals with ECSA is conducted, and this is aggravated by the frustrations experienced by members seeking to be registered as professionals.

We therefore call upon you to take a stand with us, and help send a strong message that we can't allow a situation where the Engineering Profession will continue to be controlled by a minority 16 years into our democracy, to the detriment of the majority of our people. We further call upon the Minister of Public works to give political leadership and direction in this matter. Letters inviting your contributions and participation in this regard will be sent to you by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March 2010.

We look to intensify our battle to transform the engineering landscape this year. Bear in mind fellow members that "transformation delayed is transformation denied." For us" 2010 is a year of transformation."

S. Madonsela  
NSBE President

## FROM THE DESK OF MANAGING DIRECTOR



### Foreword

Greetings fellow members of NSBE!

The year 2010 has been declared a “year of transformation” by the NSBE. In line with a number of other sectors that want to see action in 2010, we as the NSBE would like to intensify our struggle for the transformation of the engineering landscape. In South Africa today, 16 years into our democracy, the average age of practitioners in the built environment is between 55 and 58 years. Further, for every seven (7) white practicing professional engineers, there is only one (1) black engineer. Thus we cannot afford to delay any further the transformation of this profession seeing it is an ageing profession.

The President has already outlined the action taken to ensure the transformation of ECSA thus making the profession accessible to the black majority in this country. I therefore wish to bring to your attention the strategic focus areas that NEC resolved we should be engaged in this year:

#### 1. Mentorship

In 2010 we would like to see mentorship intensified in the following levels of the skills pipeline:

**Level 1:** High school level Maths and Science intervention initiatives should be increased. We further urge our engineering students at tertiary institutions around the country to adopt schools from around their areas and initiate these interventions.

**Level 2:** Tertiary level interventions made by qualified engineering practitioners. We urge all practicing engineers to adopt our student chapters in universities and help provide mentorship to our black students.

**Level 3:** The NEC has set a target of ensuring that at least 50 unregistered engineering practitioners should be mentored, with the aim of ensuring that they are registered as professionals by end of this year. All registered professionals are urged to adopt at least one unregistered person for this exercise.

**Level 4:** All black engineering companies are urged to put a hand in developing emerging black engineering businesses.

Let us commit to use the available resources and expertise to build a legacy of having taken the responsibility to transform the engineering landscape during our time. This is our time, and the transformation challenge is our challenge.

Various forms will be posted in our website to enable both mentors and mentees to fill them in so as to facilitate the process of making linkages for mentorship purposes.

#### 2. Sustainability of the Organization

We believe as the NEC that NSBE as an organization remains relevant to deal with the challenges faced by our beloved profession. In ensuring that we continue to engage and address issues pertinent to our profession, you are urged as members to:

- 2.1. Honour the payment of your subscription fees. Invoices to this regard will be sent out during the month of March 2010. Should you not receive an invoice by end March, kindly contact the MD's office.
- 2.2. Facilitate the recruitment of individual members to join the ranks of the NSBE.
- 2.3. Exert influence in your respective companies to financially and otherwise support the activities of the NSBE.

We believe that collective work will ensure that we build a strong organization.

#### 3. National Conference

The NEC resolved that we continue the practice of staging our conferences simultaneously with our AGMs. The details of this year's conference will be sent to you shortly.

The resolutions and photos from last year's conference can be accessed from our website by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March.

Fellow members, I wish to reiterate that we are equal to the task of addressing the transformation challenges in our profession. All we need do is to collectively engage in addressing them, and if we go about this task in an indifferent way, history will judge us badly for such a response.

Have a great year, and let's remember to support our team in the upcoming world cup.

Vusi Mdakane  
Managing Director

## CONTACT DETAILS

### **NSBE ADMINISTRATION:**

P.O. Box 1503, Pietermaritzburg, 3200  
Tel: 033 345 0783 | Fax: 033 345-1856  
Email: [admin@nsbe.org.za](mailto:admin@nsbe.org.za)

### **NSBE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT: Vusi Mdakane**

81 Peter Kerchhoff Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201  
Tel: 0333451853 | Fax: 0333451856  
email: [vusi@nsbe.org.za](mailto:vusi@nsbe.org.za)

Website: [www.nsbe.org.za](http://www.nsbe.org.za)