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Breaking the Barriers to transformation in South Africa

Breaking the Barriers. This is the theme of the Council for the Built Environment's third National Transformation Indaba.

The inability of small and medium businesses to prosper economically in the built environment, poor implementation of policies and lack of policy reforms have contributed to the slow transformation of the sector. The Constitution of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, enshrines the rights of all South Africans to equality and provides for specific measures to redress historical imbalances. Transformation in the built environment should open a path to inclusive growth and development for all aspirant professionals in the built environment professions.

The built environment professions play a critical role in fostering economic growth and development in the South African economy. The era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) will thrive if these professions are supported with policy instruments and reformed processes.

The Indaba host, the Council for the Built Environment (CBE), is a statutory body established under the Council for the Built Environment Act (No. 43 of 2000). The CBE is an overarching body that coordinates the councils for the following six built environment professions - Architecture, Engineering, Landscape Architecture, Project and Construction Management, Property Valuation and Quantity Surveying. Waiting in the wings to come on board are the professions of Town and Regional Planning, and Land Surveying who are currently parties to memoranda of understanding with the CBE. The CBE's mandate aims to instil the highest standard of professionalism in the professions, impart good conduct, transform them and the professional environment within which they operate, and advise the South African government

on built environment policies, legislation and other related issues. Alongside cultivating this ethos, the Act requires the CBE to act in the interests of public protection against any built environment professional(s) who does not comply, and may take necessary disciplinary measures against such professional(s).

Whilst there has been some progress, the South African Built Environment remains arguably one of the sectors in the country that still requires transformation. One of the barriers to transformation is the optimal functioning of the regulatory environment that governs businesses in South Africa. Built environment professional service providers, particularly those from historically disadvantaged communities, are affected negatively most by these regulations.

Ongoing transformation in the built environment must achieve the following outcomes:

- a well-regulated built environment
- a quality assured and appropriately skilled force of built environment professionals
- increased participation of the marginalised groups in the economy
- better cooperation between industry stakeholders
- improved retention of skills in the built environment
- increased supply of appropriate built environment professional skills
- increased professional registrations

In the 2019 State of the Nation Address the President of the Republic, Honourable Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa highlighted the following key focus areas for the sixth democratic administration:

1. economic transformation and job creation
2. education, skills and health
3. consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
4. spatial integration, human settlements and Local Government
5. social cohesion and safe communities
6. a capable, ethical and developmental State
7. a better Africa and World

The CBE's third national Transformation Indaba will specifically focus on the first priority area outlined by the President i.e. economic transformation and job creation by the sector. It is crucial to note that transformation of the sector is heavily reliant on healthy economic growth and enabling policy instruments.

Please join the CBE in generating focus and synergy, driving Transformation collaboratively and ***breaking the barriers*** to transformation in the built environment...

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