

16 November 2021

## **Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan**

President Cyril Ramaphosa communicated our determination as a country in responding to the Covid-19 crisis when he said: *“We are determined not merely to return our economy to where it was before the coronavirus, but to forge a new economy in a new global reality.”*

The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) is a government initiative which aims to build a new economy and unleash South Africa’s true potential. The South African Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan has three phases: Engage and Preserve - which includes a comprehensive health response to save lives and curb the spread of the pandemic; Recovery and Reform - which includes interventions to restore the economy while controlling the health risks; and lastly, Reconstruct and Transform - which entails building a sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy. In terms of the Plan, the following priority interventions will be made:

- Aggressive infrastructure investment
- Employment orientated strategic localisation, reindustrialisation and export promotion
- Energy security
- Support for tourism recovery and growth
- Gender equality and economic inclusion of women and youth
- Green economy interventions
- Mass public employment interventions
- Strengthening food security
- Macro-economic interventions

The Council for the Built Environment (CBE), in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) is spearheading the Built Environment’s response and contribution to government’s ERRP. The aim is to drive infrastructure delivery in order to revive the country’s economy while contributing to building State capacity through the skills pipeline. Through various initiatives, the built environment’s response to the ERRP will contribute towards transformation (inclusion of previously disadvantaged/minority groups/youth and gender), economic inclusion,

promoting professional registration, health and safety standards, employment and job creation and supply/demand in the Built Environment sector.

On 16 November 2021, the CBE hosted a stakeholder workshop on the ERRP. The main aim of the workshop was to bring up to speed the six Councils for the Built Environment Professions (CBEP) on the objectives of the ERRP, and to outline broad built environment response initiatives. Relevant stakeholders also attended the workshop to share their proposed initiatives, and those that are underway. These included DPWI units and entities (cidb, Agrément SA and IDT), Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), National Treasury, Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs). The purpose of this engagement was to ensure alignment and synergy between the role players' mandates in the masterplan representing the overall Built Environment's contribution to the ERRP. Detailed presentations were made by DPWI, cidb and DHET which provided a comprehensive overview of the ERRP and respective draft built environment plans. All stakeholders were invited to provide further inputs into the plans which will be reported at a national level.

CBE CEO Msizi Myeza drew attention to some salient issues in his closing remarks viz:

1. The **submission to Cabinet on the 30% allocation** must be comprehensive and inclusive of our input.
2. There must be engagement and free flow of information regarding the **professionalising of built environment sector**.
3. Work opportunities - As much as the focus is on the pipeline, it must allow for **creation of work**.
4. **Partnerships** are critical; however, they must be based on mutual interest and agreed priority areas, so we must create platforms for the realisation of these initiatives.

For further information, please contact Ms Nana Mhlongo on [nana@cbe.org.za](mailto:nana@cbe.org.za)