



MEDIA STATEMENT

24 October 2022

ECSA ACCOUNTS TO STAKEHOLDERS AT ITS FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Thursday, 20 October 2022, the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) convened its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) through a hybrid sitting.

The meeting attended by members of the ECSA Sixth Term Council, registered persons, government departments, academia as well as recognised Voluntary Associations, sought to provide an account of the organisation's activities for the fiscal year which ended 31 March 2022.

The AGM served to highlight the importance of transparency through bringing the appointed ECSA Council and management to accountability, note the key strides made by the regulator but also acknowledge the gaps to be addressed in the effort to ensure the profession is streamlined and protected.

Delivering the keynote address, Mr Msizi Myeza, Chief Executive Officer of the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) emphasised the importance of being honest about policies and strategies that are executed well for the benefit of the community and profession as well as those which are not being effectively implemented and require recourse. To this end he noted the need for robust action from all six Built Environment Professionals Councils (BEPC), of which ECSA is the largest, to transform the profession through race and gender representation but more importantly through ensuring registered candidates are equipped for professional registration and ensure progress in the value chain.

In line with this, President of the ECSA Council, Refilwe Buthelezi Pr Eng, noted that while ECSA is committed to transforming the profession and ensuring gender parity on the governance structures of the High Impact Committees, Council and the ECSA Management structures, more still needs to be done.

Moreover, in the opening lines of her presentation, Engineer Buthelezi said the current Sixth Term Council and its High Impact Committees have exercised oversight and their fiduciary duties which entailed ethical and strategic leadership with clear policy direction. This policy direction is informed by the Five-Year Strategic Plan premised on ECSA becoming an effective regulator assuring engineering excellence.

This, ECSA aims to achieve, through the protection of the environment for professionally registered persons and thereby, promoting public safety as required by the Engineering Professions Act (46 of 2000) which prescribes the mandate of the Council.

Speaking on the progress made by the current Council in office, Engineer Buthelezi said, “ECSA is turning a corner and making great strides in transforming the way it works, we are deliberate in embracing the principles of good governance, becoming a responsible and accountable regulator that conducts its work with integrity, and ensuring that our leadership is visible and transparent”. In addition, “We have through soliciting inputs from our stakeholders, improved the way we engage with them and have resuscitated the VA Presidents Forum to ensure we hold each other accountable in ensuring candidate engineers are converted”.

Furthermore, ECSA's executive management provided updates on the ECSA 5-year strategic priorities as well the status of various initiatives such as the Identification of Engineering Work and consultations and on the Codes of Practice, an account of the number of investigations conducted by the Council on both technical and ethical conduct of Professional Engineers, trends in professional registration, and, most importantly, historical trading performance and financial sustainability of the organisation.

Closing the session, the Vice President of ECSA, TC Madikane Pr Eng said that the management account highlights the progress made and signals that this is only the beginning as ECSA strives to achieve more as it fulfils its mandate of regulating the profession.

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