

CBE BULLETIN

JULY 2019



for a better built environment

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Dear Reader

July unsurprisingly turned out to be quite a full month, with the highlight of Minister Patricia de Lille delivering her maiden DPWI budget vote in Parliament on 10 July 2019. This issue carries the gist of the address.

July also has the country honouring our beloved Tata Madiba with humanitarian gestures at full throttle. Read all about how the CBE spent the day.

Another significant event was a Memorandum of Understanding between the CBE and SACPLAN to establish a working relationship between the two organisations.

Keep warm and enjoy your read,
Evelyn Bramdeow

"Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live."
- Norman Cousins

Disclaimer

We welcome your comments and contribution to this publication. Views expressed in this newsletter, specifically in articles that profile other built environment stakeholders, are not necessarily those of the CBE.

Email us on newsletter@cbe.org.za

DPWI Budget Vote Highlights

Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Ms Patricia de Lille, MP, committed to push very hard the seven priorities articulated by Cyril Ramaphosa in his State of the Nation Address earlier this year – especially those that talk to the responsibilities of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI). These are economic rejuvenation, job creation, and poverty alleviation.

Delivering her maiden Budget Vote in Parliament on Wednesday 10 July 2019, Minister de Lille said that the reconfigured DPWI has a vital role in ensuring that infrastructure development supports structural transformation, growth and job creation.

She emphasised accountability, “We are not going to talk about accountability, we are going to be accountable – and when we fall short, we must accept the consequences that follow.”

The minister outlined that the DPWI will continue to strengthen efforts to transform the economic landscape through opportunities in construction and property business to previously disadvantaged groups so that ownership, control and skills within the built environment sector better reflect the country’s demographics.

Kicking into the higher and faster gear promised, the minister has set a deadline of 30 days to produce the first set of departmental targets, with budgets and delivery timeframes. She said the citizens of South Africa need to know what DPWI is doing to positively impact their lives, regardless of where they are from. “We are going to demonstrate that government can be both caring and capable. We are going to stop wasting people’s money.”

(The full speech is accessible on www.dpw.gov.za)



Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Honourable Patricia De Lille tabled the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure budget vote in Parliament on 10 July 2019

#MadibaLegacyLivesOn

Nelson Mandela International Day was launched in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July 2009 via a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly.

It was inspired by a call Nelson Mandela made a year earlier, for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices, when he said "it is in your hands now."

Mandela Day is more than a celebration of Madiba's life and legacy; it is a global movement to honour his life's work and to change the world for the better. (www.nelsonmandela.org)

This year Mama Graca Machel, widow of former President Mandela reminded us to look at Mandela Day as a 'way of being', not an event. Any one of us has the power to take initiative and drive transformation. (News 24)

The CBE spent Mandela Day at the Tswelelopele Care Centre in Atteridgeville. The CBE staff rolled up their sleeves and gave the centre a much-needed coat of paint. The twenty-two children at the centre, afflicted with cerebral palsy, enjoyed a hearty lunch provided by the generosity of the CBE staff.



Ms Athalia Maribe (second from right), supervisor at Tswelelopele Care Centre is flanked by the CBE staff (left to right): Naume Chuene, Khuthala Mokoene, Elina Maphosa, Sihle Mhlangu, Priscilla Mdlalose (CBE CEO), Tshepo Mashilompame and Sisa Jikeka.

MBSA's Joint Action Plan



Construction industry's September Congress to produce a joint action-plan to rescue and revive the sector.

The construction industry will be convening at Emperors Palace in September to develop a joint action-plan on dealing with the challenges the sector has been facing. This follows the collapse of several large contractors in recent months that has led to unprecedented job losses in the construction industry. President Ramaphosa is expected to address this gathering of the industry's employer and professional associations, property owners, labour unions and community business forums.

Plans for the joint action-plan follow the industry's call for urgent intervention to the Presidency earlier in the year. Roy Mnisi, Executive Director of Master Builders South Africa spoke of the progress made since that industry call was made. 'We are pleased to report that President Ramaphosa engaged us through the Departments of Public Works and Treasury on these issues, but progress in resolving these matters is remarkably slow. The issues of late and non-payment of contractors and the illegal work-stoppages on construction sites remain significant threats and we still have companies closing down and jobs being lost as a result. It's deeply concerning that in the first quarter of 2019 alone, the construction industry lost 142 000 (one hundred and forty-two thousand) jobs. This is the biggest loss of jobs compared to any other industry in the country.'

Regarding the purpose of the gathering, Mnisi said that 'it can only be through continuous, genuine and

pragmatic public-private sector dialogue that we can rescue and revive the sector. So, we will continue to knock on the door until the challenges are resolved and we have a strong and sustainable industry. That is the reason why this Congress has been convened.' The event is aptly themed 'Building a Sustainable, Innovative and Transformed Construction Industry', and will include two panel discussions involving construction professionals, contractors, community business forums, the police and various government departments.

In his 2019 State of Nation Address, President Ramaphosa acknowledged the need for a 'boost to the construction sector which has been in the doldrums for a while' and committed R100 billion to seed an Infrastructure Fund to be managed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa and Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

"We expect this Congress to be the appropriate platform to come up with firm industry-resolutions on how this Fund will be immediately operationalised to save jobs and companies", Mnisi concluded.

Master Builders South Africa (MBSA) is a Federation of registered employer Associations representing contractors and employers in the construction industry, and is regulated in terms of Section 107 of the Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995. The Federation's nine Master Builders Associations, and three Affiliate Associations represent more than 4000 contractors and employers in the industry.

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Out-and-About



Built Environment beavers at the DPWI Budget Vote were (left to right): Manoko Makumula (SACAP Communications), Evelyn Bramdeow (CBE Communications), Priscilla Mdlalose (CBE CEO), Maphefo Mogodi (CBE Deputy Chairperson), Brenda Phake (SACAP Communications), Natasha van der Berg (SACPCMP Communications)



Minister Patricia de Lille makes a quick turn at the CBE stand before delivering the DPWI budget vote in Parliament.

Out-and-About



Council for the Built Environment's (CBE) CEO Priscilla Mdlalose (left) and South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) CEO Martin Lewis formalised a working relationship in a Memorandum of Understanding on all relevant built environment matters.



Acting Deputy Director-General (IGR) at DPWI Molatelo Mohwasa (left), CBE CEO Priscilla Mdlalose (middle) and CBE Acting Chairperson Mapheho Mogodi (right) attended the Black Business Council in the Built Environment (BBCBE) Conference on 25 July 2019. It addressed the very topical built environment issue: ENGINEERING 4IR TOWARDS ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT.