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for a better built environment

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Dear Reader

What's new? June may have heralded winter with all of its flu blues in the workplace; however, the vibe at all Public Works offices has been nothing short of energetic with the announcement of the new leadership by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 29 May 2019. Minister Patricia de Lille is the new captain of the ship and Eastern Cape lass, Deputy Minister Noxolo Kiviet, is second in charge. The former stand-alone Department of Public Works is now the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

CBE Council Member, Dr Jenitha Badul provides an insightful perspective to bringing sustainability home in the feature article.

Neels Nortje - CEO of the South African Institute of Health and Safety – enlightens our readers on **Professional Registration for Occupational Health and Safety Practitioners in South Africa**.

The out-and-about section gives you a glimpse of what the CBE was up to during the month.

**Keep warm and enjoy your read,
Evelyn Bramdeow**

"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark. The real tragedy of life is when an adult is afraid of the light." - Plato

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

New Leadership at Public Works and Infrastructure



MINISTER: MS PATRICIA DE LILLE

Ms Patricia de Lille is a South African politician who is the current Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, appointed on 29 May 2019. She is the leader of the political party Good. She was the Mayor of Cape Town from 2011 to 2018 and Western Cape Provincial Minister of Social Development from 2010 to 2011. (Wikipedia)



DEPUTY MINISTER: MS NOXOLO KIVIET

Ms Noxolo Kiviet is the Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, appointed on 29 May 2019. She was the Premier of the Eastern Cape from 2009 to 2014. She is the former speaker of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature (2004–2009). (www.pa.org.za)

Making Sustainable Development Goals relevant and applicable at Local Government Level



*Dr Jenitha Badul
CBE Council Member*

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, in 2015, many organisations and spheres of government are grappling with demystifying the relevance of the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs). This opinion piece provides a perspective on how SDGs can indeed be made relevant at a local level, and the key role that interventions at a local level will have in supporting the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The table below captures the 17 sustainable development goals.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

SDG no.:	Description
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2	End hunger, achieve food security, and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote health and wellbeing for all at all ages.
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8	Promote sustained, equitable and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable uses of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The built environment has a significant role in the drive to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 11 exclusively states the ideal vision of cities, demonstrating a direct link to the built environment. In addition, there are several other relevant SDGs which should be factored into daily planning, functions and related activities. Aptly captured, whilst Cities maintain the old, they also need to consider SDGs as a value-add in adopting a holistic approach with new and emerging planning and implementation of activities. The long-term vision of the City must be complemented by succinct, short term planning with clear targets, which would bring the City closer to realising its vision - to make it a liveable, sustainable engine of growth.

The Paris Climate Agreement in 2015 heralded a new era, increasing pressure globally to avoid, reduce or offset carbon emissions and other significant greenhouse gas emissions. It has many countries scrambling to vigorously implement their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). South Africa is no different. South Africa's NDC, once implemented at scale, will contribute positively towards mitigating the harmful impacts of climate change and adapt towards a low carbon pathway, in the medium- to long-term.

Cities have a key role to play in meeting the targets set out in the NDC. In promoting renewable energy uptake, SDGs 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 17 are quite relevant. A low hanging fruit in this case, would be the untapped potential of wastewater treatment plant anaerobic digesters in generating renewable energy. Similarly, the fossil fuel powered public transport system generates a significant amount of carbon emissions daily, which invariably makes for a very hot inner city precinct, exacerbated by built environment emissions. Therefore, it is easy to deduce that if the City adopts a somewhat green public transport system in its jurisdiction, it may reduce daily emissions significantly. A case in point would be the several SA cities that have adopted bus rapid transit systems, which are compressed natural gas powered. Relevant SDGs that promote and validate green mobility are inclusive of SDGs 9, 11, 12, 13, and 17, respectively.

The function of refuse removal at the City/municipal level is an equally daunting task - from street cleansing to providing refuse removal services daily for both residential and business clients. The most common solution to waste treatment is landfilling. Given the negative impacts on the environment - from methane gas emissions emanating from landfilling organic waste (food and green waste) to leachate seepage into groundwater as a result of poorly constructed landfills - waste beneficiation and viewing waste as input resource material is, however, disruptive to normal daily business operations.

The potential for viewing waste as a resource is immense and would require necessary support to realise this potential in generating renewable energy e.g. introducing related value-add industries. Relevant SDGs in this instance are inclusive of SDG 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17 respectively. An encouraging observation is that several forward thinking South African cities are indeed dapping in this space.

As people migrate from rural and semi-rural spaces of the country in search of access to meaningful jobs, better access to basic services and improved lifestyles, city developments tend to lean toward dense infrastructure development in ensuring and responding to increasing housing demand, access to social amenities etc. Open green spaces are often compromised in addressing limited housing stock, resulting in mass housing developments, bulk infrastructure development and, land for retail development. The value of the developed land certainly increases. However, at the expense of open green spaces, which create the necessary micro-climates within the inner city and absorb the endless churning out of carbon emissions from fossil fuel driven vehicles and other related daily economic activities. In striving to maintain the biodiversity within the city precinct, SDGs 3, 11, 13, 15 and 17 are quite relevant, but not exhaustive. Related to biodiversity conservation is natural resource efficiency where SDGs 6, 11, 12, 15, and 17 should be reflected upon and applied during planning.

So, what makes a City? The hustle and bustle of city life is indeed, driven by its residents and visitors. In its absence, the City in itself is, but a lifeless concrete jungle. Therefore, social cohesion is integral making SDGs 3, 11, and 17 quite relevant. Reflecting on how a City functions in meeting the demands of its citizens is key. Creating and establishing meaningful partnerships is also key to achieving social cohesion. Cities have to plan from an inclusive perspective, in ensuring they are all-encompassing - safe, resilient and sustainable in providing for and serving its citizens.



An illustration of the 17 sustainable development goals (www.un.org)

Professional Registration for Occupational Health and Safety Practitioners in South Africa



Neels Nortjé is a founder and CEO of the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Saioh). He started his working career with ESKOM in 1981 where he qualified as an Architectural Draughtsman. In 1986 he changed his focus to Safety Risk Management and qualified with ESKOM as an Occupational Health and Safety Risk Management Officer. He holds a N6 Mechanical and Electrical Engineering qualification as well as a National Diploma in Safety Management. He has been practicing Occupational Health and Safety for more than 30 years. He was appointed by the Minister of Labour to serve on the Minister's Advisory Council for Occupational Health and Safety (ACOHS). He is a Chartered Member of Saioh (CMSaioh) and a Chartered Member of IOSH UK (CMIOSH). In this article, he explains the intricate details of professional registration for Occupational Health and Safety Practitioners in South Africa.

Professional registration for Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) practitioners is relatively new in South Africa. This notwithstanding the fact that there are 107 recognised professional bodies in South Africa, some of which were established in the early 1900's, to register and declare persons competent to practice in specific occupational fields at specific levels. Some of these professional bodies are statutory bodies, which means that persons practising in those occupational fields must be professionally registered in order to practice, whilst others are voluntary associations. Whether statutory or voluntary, all professional bodies fulfil the same function.

Professional bodies and their professional designations are recognised and registered by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) in terms of the NQF Act, Act 67 of 2008. In terms of the SAQA Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation (SAQA Policy) a "professional body" means any body of expert practitioners in an occupational field and includes an occupational body and statutory council. "Professional designation" means a title or status conferred by a professional body in recognition of a person's expertise and /or right to practise in an occupational field.

The SAQA policy promotes public understanding of, and trust in, professions through the establishment of a nationally regulated system for the recognition of professional bodies and for the registration of professional designations; and to promote the protection of the public by professional bodies from malpractice related to the fulfilment of the professional duties and responsibilities of professionals registered with them.

Professional Designations

The landscape of the Occupational Health and Safety profession in South Africa changed with the establishment of the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Saioh). Saioh received SAQA recognition as the Professional Body for Occupational Health and Safety in March 2013. Three professional OHS Designations were registered namely Technical Member (TechSaioh), Graduate Member (GradSaioh) and Chartered Member (CMSaioh). These designations were adopted from the largest OHS body in the world namely the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) in the United Kingdom. The minimum qualifications and experience required for professional registration in the OHS field, as registered by SAQA, are listed in the table below:

	Health and Safety Qualifications	Health and Safety Experience
Technical	Certificate at NQF 5 or equivalent (RPL)	2 years
Graduate	Diploma at NQF 6 (360 credits)	3 years (post graduate)
Chartered	Degree at NQF 7 or higher	5 years (post graduate)

Professional Registration for Occupational Health and Safety Practitioners in South Africa (continues)

In terms of the SAQA Policy, professionally registered persons are required to subscribe to continuing professional development (CPD) to function effectively and maintain their registration status. Registered persons have the responsibility to keep abreast of developments and knowledge in their area of expertise to maintain their competence. Members of Saiosh continually strive, through personal initiatives, to maintain professional competence and keep abreast of emerging issues, world trends, etc. in the field of Occupational Safety and Health. Members contribute to the development of the Occupational Safety and Health profession through the sharing of skills and ideas, and participation in networking to promote and enhance the competence of the profession.

Benefits

Benefits of being professionally registered are immense. Not only does a person receive a professional title or status conferred by a professional body in recognition of the person's expertise and /or right to practise in an occupational field, but the member is also kept up to date with the latest trends in the occupation.

Saiosh is committed to upgrading the professional skills of its members by keeping them updated and informed on the latest developments in the field of Occupational Health and Safety. Saiosh does this by offering members the following benefits:

- SAQA Professional Registration
- Free to attend CPD Provincial OHS Workshops (10 x Provincial Workshops per year)
- Free OHS Webinars
- Free e-Learning

- Free Legal Updates and 50% discount on Acts and Regulations
- Free Legal Advice Forum (Advice and opinion provided by an OHS Advocate)
- Free subscription to SHEQ Management Magazine (Hardcopy and e-magazine)
- Online Networking
- Online CPD and Profile Updates
- Annual International OHS Conference
- Updates and Newsletters
- Career Portal

Saiosh also offers the following added benefits for its members:

- Student of the year with a financial award
- Person of the year with a financial award
- Bursary funding for qualifying members

In addition, Saiosh acts as a lobby group for Occupational Health and Safety legislation and standards and for this purpose interacts and liaises with the Department of Labour and other Government bodies on behalf of its members. With more than 13000 members Saiosh is one of the largest professional bodies in the world and the leading source of information and networking opportunities within the Occupational Health and Safety profession in South Africa. For more information on how to be professionally registered visit www.saiosh.co.za

Out-and-About



The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) hosted the National Press Club at Court Classique Restaurant. In attendance were (left to right): Butcher Matutle, Natasha van der Berg, Phasha Makgolane, Yuvan Gounden and Evelyn Bramdeow



Priscilla Mdlalose (CBE CEO) addressed the Young Professionals Forum hosted by the Department of Public Works



CBE and its stakeholders engaged in a robust two-day Strategic Planning Session at the Diep in die Berg Conference Centre, facilitated by Andre Parker.