

September 2018

CBE Bulletin



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FOR THE BUILT
ENVIRONMENT

architecture
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Publication Team

Evelyn Bramdeow (Editor): evelyn@cbe.org.za

Lulu Dube (Photography & Design): lulu@cbe.org.za

Dear Reader

September has become synonymous with Heritage Month and it would be amiss to mention one without the other. The theme for this year's Heritage Month is 'Reclaiming, restoring and celebrating our living heritage'. Heritage Month recognises aspects of South African culture, which are both tangible and intangible: creative expression such as music and performances, our historical inheritance, language, the food we eat as well as the popular memory. (Source: GCIS)

There is such a vibrancy in the air with the advent of warmer weather – waking up to chirping birds, and gardens abounding in kaleidoscopes of colour. This is also the time when Pretoria, so famous for its Jacarandas, is painted purple. Mother Nature's ambiance is infectious - it's hard not to feel buoyant and get tangled up in the sights, sounds, smells and colours of our potent and diverse South African heritage. During this month, South Africans celebrate their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all its people. We are rivers from different streams, all flowing into the ocean of humanity – this is simply the ubuntu of South African hood.

An interesting line up awaits you in this issue; the feature article is from CBE's chief financial officer, Lindy Jansen van Vuuren providing useful tips on the road to obtaining a clean audit. CBE endorsed a Lafarge skills development initiative. Agrément South Africa encourages creativity in the construction and infrastructure space. Look at all the exciting reasons why you should attend SACPCMP's 6th conference. The Out-and-About section captures the skills development department hard at work spreading the gospel about CBE at career expos.

**Enjoy your read,
Evelyn Bramdeow**

Keeping it clean



Chief Financial Officer Lindy Jansen van Vuuren

CBE scooped a clean audit opinion from the auditor-general for two financial years in a row. Chief Financial Officer Lindy Jansen van Vuuren shares the secrets of this success.

A clean audit outcome relates to financial statements that are free from material misstatements - in other words, a financially unqualified audit opinion. Coupled with this is that there should be no material findings on the entity's reporting on its performance objectives and non-compliance with legislation that regulates the entity's operations.

Misstatements refer to incorrect or omitted information in the organisation's financial statements. This might be due to, for instance, all of the entity's creditors not accounted for at year-end, expenditure incorrectly classified or that assets were incorrectly valued.

Here are few helpful do's that will keep you on track towards obtaining a clean audit:

- A competent, meticulous and dedicated finance department
- Keep a steady eye on procurement - plan rigorously and well in advance
- Ensure diligent contract management
- Keep an efficient and updated audit trail - document all reasons why a transaction might seem not to comply with the relevant laws and regulations (e.g. an invoice was not paid within 30 days due to a dispute with the supplier)

- Review, review and review!
- Prioritise state money, the law and ethics
- Slow and steady wins the race, so strive to get it right the first time

Achieving a clean audit opinion is one thing; however, maintaining a clean audit might prove to be a more daunting task. The entity needs to tirelessly improve and strengthen its controls. It is useful to compile and monitor a user-friendly, practical audit action plan to implement all internal and external audit findings. Also be mindful of developments in the Accounting Standards and the auditor-general's focus areas for the year ahead.

On a homecoming note, a clean audit is an organisation-wide achievement; it is not possible without the support of all staff. Hats off and thank you to the CBE team for their contribution towards achieving a clean audit for two successive years!

Cementing support

Lafarge and the South African Council for Graduates Co-operatives launched a skills development initiative recently. Dubbed 'project dipeo', the initiative provides learners with bursaries to study for careers, including the built environment professions at the Taletso TVET College. Chief executive officer of Council for the Built Environment (CBE), Priscilla Mdlalose delivered a message of support at the event, held in Lichtenburg, North West on 31 August 2018. Here is the gist of her message.

In her congratulatory remarks, Ms Mdlalose lauded the two organisations for initiating this partnership, which will benefit the youth and women of the small town of Lichtenburg. She alluded to a powerful proverb that encapsulates the importance of partnerships - "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to walk far, walk together."

Ms Mdlalose highlighted a need to "grow our own timber" as South Africans. This involves skills development, supporting entrepreneurs, getting involved in community development initiatives, participating in municipalities' development planning processes, creating own processes of engagements to discuss important community development issues etc.

She echoed the Minister of Public Works' commitment in addressing spatial imbalances through the Rural Precinct Development Programme aimed at addressing spatial imbalances of the past. The Department of Public Works is responsible for driving job creation through its Expanded Public Works Programme, which does not only support work opportunities but covers training and skills development. The Minister remains committed to addressing the shortage of technical skills in the built environment. The CBE facilitates the implementation of the Skills Pipeline Strategy in the entire built environment hence our interest and involvement in this 'project dipeo'.



Chief executive officer of the CBE, Priscilla Mdlalose, pledges support to 'project dipeo' at its launch.

Agrément South Africa recognises innovation and fit-for-purpose



Agrément South Africa awarded 31 certificates at a ceremony held on 14 September 2018 at the CSIR International Conference Centre to local and international companies for introducing innovative and non-standardised construction products, materials and systems. Company representatives proudly display their Agrément South Africa certificates with chief executive officer, Joe Odhiambo (standing, centre) and officials from entities and Department of Public Works.

Agrément South Africa (ASA), an entity of the Department of Public Works (DPW), conducts testing, performance and certification of innovative and non-standardised construction products, materials and systems to ensure quality and durability of such products on behalf of the DPW. It supports the department's technical expertise to comply with the construction industry's requisite quality standards and performance. The 49-year-old entity is the appointed competent body tasked with managing the South African Eco-Labelling System as Government's recognised system for building materials and products. Chief executive officer, Joe Odhiambo explains the merits of Agrément SA certification for your 'out-of-the-box' product or system.

The purpose of an Agrément certification is to assist manufacturers and suppliers of non-standard and innovative building products, materials and systems in the market to provide products that are fit-for-purpose. Some of these certified during the 2017/18 financial year include a water tank, building systems, drainage systems, road repair system, sanitation system and traffic monitoring systems.

Joe Odhiambo explains an ASA certificate is important because it gives status and legitimacy within the national building industry, reduces risk to the end-user and encourages innovation.

"ASA regulations require, for example, that there must be adequate strength and stability. It stipulates a minimum performance requirement that, if complied with, would mean the product has met the requirements of the national building regulations," he says. Certificate holders must meet the requirements of the National Building Regulations

to qualify for a deemed-to-satisfy status. Without such certification, materials, products and systems have to meet the requirements of South African National Standards, which unfortunately, are applicable only to standardised products. In such a scenario, it would mean that there would be no room to introduce innovative products safely into the construction market. Products, carrying a level of assurance, inevitably gain greater market acceptance and recognition as end-users have greater confidence in them and the technical information provided.

"The world is continuously changing and innovation is a constant requirement. New building materials are constantly being developed. The way we build today is completely different from the way we built hundreds of years ago. The need for a service to help test innovative new building materials, products and systems will remain prominent. In fact, change is happening more rapidly and will be more radical than in the past," says Odhiambo.

SACPCMP Summit



Minister of Public Works to address the SACPCMP 6th Project and Construction Management Professions Conference



The Minister of Public Works, the Honourable Thulas Nxesi will address the SACPCMP Annual Conference during the morning session on 30 October 2018.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) shares the following key priorities of national imperatives:

- Intensify the war against fraud and corruption
- Stimulate economic activity and create jobs
- In the case of DPW and PMTE, to manage state assets to create value, to reduce costs and to generate income

EARLY BIRD INVITATION – BOOK BEFORE 10 SEPTEMBER 2018 AND SAVE

R850.00 – Registered Person or R880.00 – Non-Registered Person

Invitation to 6th Annual Project and Construction Management Professions Conference

Theme: GROWTH | DEVELOPMENT | TRANSFORMATION – Towards growth, development and Transformation in the Project and Construction Management Professions

Date: 29 – 31 October 2018

Venue: Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand, Gauteng

Out-and-about



CBE participated in the UNESCO Africa Engineering Week expo held at Cape Peninsula University of Technology during 18-19 September.



An animated Skills Development Manager, Sandile Boyi infuses school learners with enthusiasm at the career expo held at Hemmingways in the Eastern Cape on 21-22 September.