

Our reference: ECSA

Date: 21 February 2017

Briefing Update

Background

The term of office for the 4th Council of ECSA came to an end in 2016, and was subsequently replaced by the appointment of the 5th Council. The appointment of the new Council provides ECSA with an opportunity to reflect on the successful journey travelled thus far, and most importantly prepare for the new era in line with ECSA's mandate as provided for in the Engineering Profession Act 46 of 2000.

New Council Appointment

After following the nomination of Council procedure as provided for in Section 4 of the Engineering Profession Act 46 of 2000, the new Council was inaugurated in September 2016.

As per the legislation requirement, the New Council was appointed by the Minister of Public Works with recommendations from the outgoing Council. The Minister executes this task taking into account, among other things, the principles of transparency and fair representation. The CEO of ECSA does not play a role in this process to avoid any potential undue influence in the appointment of the Council.

The Minister has appointed a transformed Council which reflects an improved representation of Women, Youth, Technologists, Technicians, Certificated Engineers and Engineers within Specified Categories. ECSA is awaiting the Minister to publish the names of the new Council in terms of Section 4(6) of the Engineering Profession Act. The CEO of ECSA will only be able to announce the appointment of the new Council after the Minister has made that pronouncement.

For the first time in the history of ECSA, the process of appointing Council members followed a rigorous scrutiny and vetting of all members against Section 6 of the Engineering Profession Act. Due diligence was followed to ensure that appointed Council members are qualified, experienced and competent to discharge their duties with integrity and objectivity. After their induction in November 2016, the new Council took the following decisions:

- *Adopted the appointment of High Impact Committees (HIC) structure aligned to the ECSA's mandate.*
- *Endorsed the appointment of the Chairpersons and Deputy Chairperson of the High Impact Committees (HIC).*
- *Endorsed that Council will continue with PEER judgement where applicable.*
- *Endorsed and embraced the new corporate governance principles through which Council will play an oversight role over Administration.*

Transformation

As a statutory and juristic body, ECSA operates within public policy imperatives. Transformation remains at the centre of ECSA's activities to give effect and contribution to the development of South Africa. Through its transformational agenda, ECSA is debunking the deeply-embedded perception of gate-keeping, exclusion and the marginalisation of engineering practitioners who represent the previously disadvantaged majority.

As the organisation matures, it is also inculcating the shared vision and consensus across the engineering profession on a wide-range of transformational discourse. With its adopted transformation narrative, ECSA will positively respond to the developmental challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality thereby touching the lives of all South Africans. The transformation of the engineering profession remains a priority and cannot be negotiated or compromised.

Stakeholder Relations Management

ECSA recognises a variety of stakeholders which are relevant in the execution of its mandate. Through road shows, public participation initiatives and stakeholder forums, ECSA engages its stakeholders vigorously to create a common understanding of ECSA's strategic direction and mandate in terms of the Engineering Profession Act. The following are some of ECSA's stakeholders:

Voluntary Associations

ECSA has a responsibility to recognise Voluntary Associations which comply with the requirements as determined in terms of section 14(d) of the Engineering

Profession Act. Continuous engagements and interactions are undertaken with the recognised Voluntary Association to ensure common understanding of mandates and responsibilities.

Furthermore, the process of reviewing the Voluntary Associations Recognition and CPD Framework is drawing towards completion. This takes place after a series of countrywide road shows which were undertaken during July and August 2016. The consultations were received with overwhelming attendance and written inputs from the public, registered persons and Voluntary Associations. The consolidated report and the revised Frameworks are going through due internal processes and will soon be made public. This process is testament to ECSA's commitment to strengthen its relationship with all recognised Voluntary Associations.

IEA

ECSA is a signatory to three Accords and three agreements with the International Engineering Alliance (IEA), and these are as follows:

Sydney Accord: Qualifications for Technologists

Washington Accord: Qualifications for Engineers

Dublin Accord: Qualifications for Technicians

IPE: International Professional Engineers Agreement-Competencies for Engineers

IETA: International Engineering Technologist Agreement-Competencies for Technologists

AIET: Agreement for International Engineering Technicians- Competencies for Technicians

ECSA has two individuals who are part of the Governing Group of the IEA, one is a chairperson of the AIET Agreement and the other is a Deputy Chairperson of the IETA Agreement.

The Washington Accord was reviewed in 2016, and its review report will only be considered at the Anchorage meeting to be held in June 2017. Once all signatories agree to the recommendations in the report, ECSA is likely to get a six year recognition period approved. The other Accords are recognized until 2018. The AIET is newly established, and will only be considered in June 2017 for recognition for the next six years.

According to the rules of the Agreements, under section B3.5, there are various mechanisms in place which allow signatories to address any concerns identified in the review report to retain their full signatory status.

ECSA engages this critical stakeholder through various platforms and initiatives to ensure common understanding and compliance to international standards. ECSA's compliance with IEA standards and regulations remains intact.

WFEO

ECSA is the host of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO), and plays a role of the Vice-Presidency in the Capacity Building Standing Technical Committee. This is an international platform of engineering communities which serve society by addressing common challenges facing society by providing advice and guidance on policies, interest and concerns which relate to engineering and technology. In the African context, ECSA strives to make inputs in the improvement of the standard of living through the achievement on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a result, ECSA believes that problems confronting the world and the African continent, in particular, cannot be solved in isolation. It is on this basis that ECSA is collaborating with SAICE in the Numbers and Needs Research project. This collaboration illustrates the efforts undertaken by ECSA in working together with both local and international partners for the advancement of the engineering profession. Through different platforms, ECSA engages WFEO to ensure the representation of the engineering profession internationally, thereby providing a collective wisdom and leadership to the profession.

SAFE0

ECSA is a member and a secretariat of the Southern Federation for the Engineering Organisations (SAFE0). SAFE0 is an organisation with a network of multidisciplinary national engineering societies or institutions which represents eleven (11) of the fifteen (15) of Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries.

In its capacity as South Africa's representative, ECSA is the only country in the SADC region affiliated to the IEA. This places an enormous responsibility on ECSA to play a central role of assisting its neighbouring countries to attain recognition with IEA. Through different engagement platforms, ECSA interacts with SAFE0 to ensure development within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries.

FAEO

ECSA is a member of the Federation of African Engineering Organisations (FAEO) through its affiliation to SAFEEO. This is a structure which ensures cohesion and efficacy of the development initiatives within the African continent. As a member, ECSA participates in the FAEO structures, and through this opportunity ECSA is able to further strengthen its position as a credible voice of the registered engineering professionals.

Conclusion

ECSA remains focussed and committed to the achievement of its legislative mandate. Our business model still reflects a high level of sustainability and stability. The introduction of the 5th Council brings with it an opportunity to introduce strategies which would positively contribute to ECSA's growth and development. Council and Administration will endeavour by care and diligence to ensure the achievement of ECSA's strategic objectives without distraction.

ECSA will accelerate the transformation of its structures, processes, infrastructure and its interaction with the external environment. The established High Impact Committees (HIC) already reflects a diversified representation, skills transfer and succession planning. We envisage that this task will translate into the experience and expertise that will incorporate the younger breed of engineers who are the future leaders of the engineering community. We trust that this transformation focussed strategy will have a meaningful and valuable input to the overall growth of ECSA, and the development of the engineering profession in order to meet the growing demand of engineering skills, and most fundamentally contribute to the socio-economic development of South Africa.



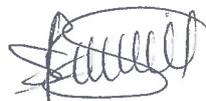
Christopher Tsatsawane

Executive: Strategic Services

Contacts:

Christopher@ecsa.co.za

(011) 607 9557



Sandisa Maqubela

Manager: Stakeholder Relations and Marketing

Contacts:

Sandisa@ecsa.co.za

(011) 607 9542