



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between four major construction industry bodies was signed at a ceremony in Midrand on Wednesday 25th January 2006. The agreement was concluded in order for the bodies to speak with one voice on matters of best practice, standards, and approaches among members in matters affecting professional service providers in the marketplace.

The construction industry bodies involved are: The South African Black Technical and Allied Careers Organisation (SABTACO) an organisation committed to black advancement; The South African association of Consulting Engineers (SAACE); the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA); and the Association of South African Quantity Surveyors (ASAQS) who all provide business support to member firms in private practice. Each of these organisations plays a distinct and unique role in the construction industry.

Webster Ndodana, President of SAACE, believes that, "This agreement is a milestone in the life of the Association and will go a long way to contributing towards the unification of the industry and assist in addressing the government's increasing focus on infrastructure development as a means to accelerate growth and development in the country".

The aim of the MOU is for each party to develop and foster communication, liaison and influence policy and to link their respective knowledge platforms in order to grow mutual business opportunities among members. Wherever possible they will undertake joint client liaison, particularly among public sector clients in all spheres of Government on matters of common interest. They will ensure the creation of a sustainable built environment professional services industry which is relevant, vibrant

and sought after by all. "Architecture is a key element in the creation of an appropriate and socially responsible infrastructure which supports the development of viable communities. The SAIA looks forward to working with our partners in the MOU towards achieving the vision of a sustainable built environment in South Africa," says Patricia Emmett, President of SAIA.

Each organisation has committed their members to sustainable transformation processes which encompass true empowerment objectives thus avoiding the negative consequences of tokenism and fronting. They will ensure that best practice standards and procedures prevail among all client bodies in the selection and appointment procedure for professional service providers. Each organisation commits itself to promoting the use of realistic procurement policies among all members and their

clients ensuring that this sector of the construction industry becomes attractive to investors, students and all other stakeholders. They will ensure that the quality of services rendered will be such that the image of the built environment consultant is always protected and enhanced. Mr Patrick Waterson, President of ASAQS, believes, "the MOU is about surfing the waves of transformation through partnerships and networks between the consultants within the built environment, as a mechanism towards a sustainable building industry

where our mutual clients will ultimately reap the benefits of this synergy".

This MOU presents a synergy – a meeting of minds. "This MOU signals the dawn of a new era of trustworthiness, sincerity and confidence expected from white consulting companies to view and accept black consultants as equal and very important partners in the development of the profession in South Africa, not only in the public sector, but also in the private sector, which still remains the preserve of white consultants in South Africa", is the view of Paul Kgoale, President of SABTACO.



Pic: (left to right) Patrick Waterson, Paul Kgoale, Patricia Emmett and Webster Ndodana

Contact details:
Graham Pirie, SAACE
Tel: 011 463 2022
Email: gspirie@saace.co.za



TRANSFORMATION FOR MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIP

All GAMA members receive Electricity + Control