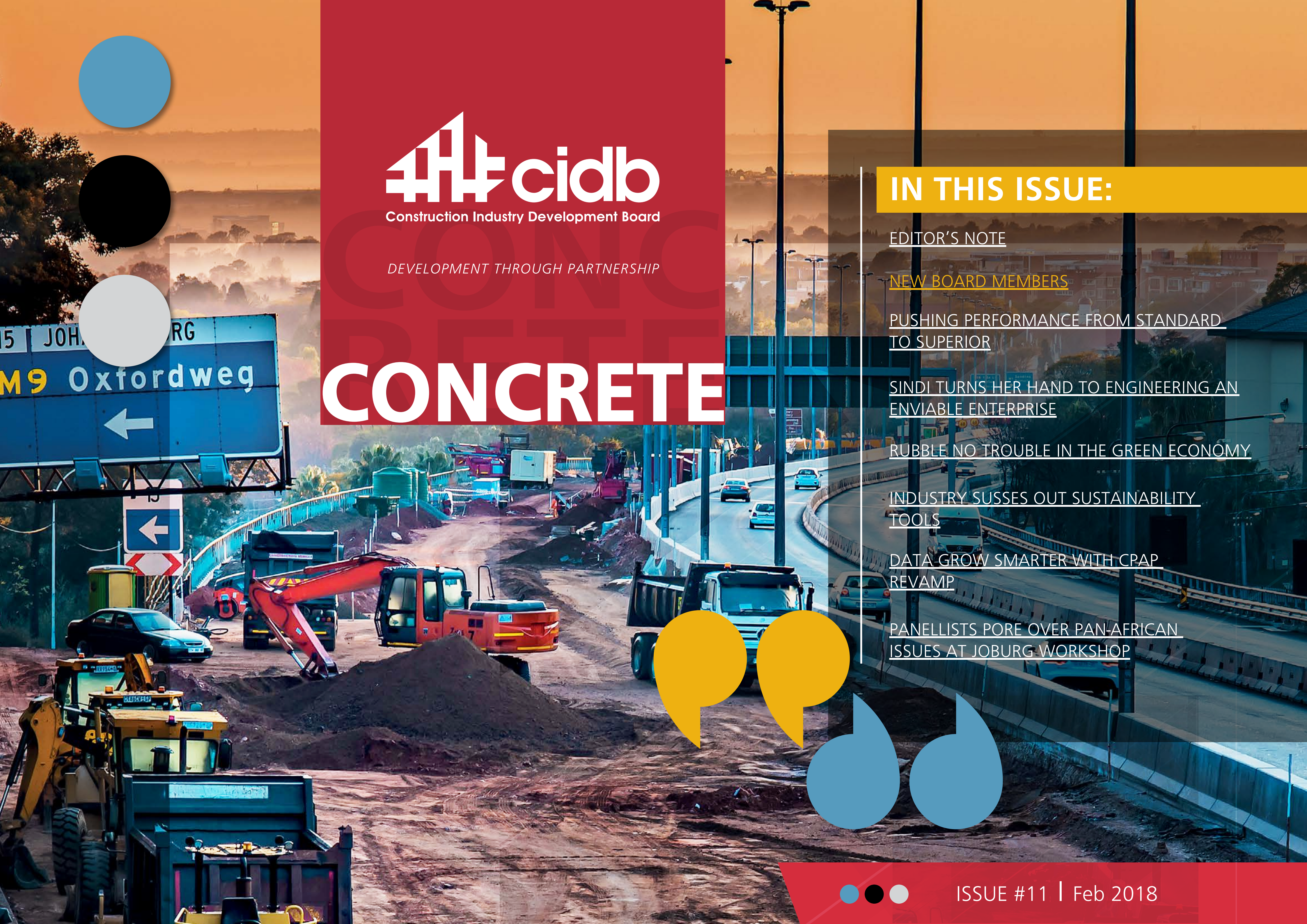

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Construction Industry Development Board

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

CONCRETE

IN THIS ISSUE:

ISSUE #11 | Feb 2018

previous
contents
next

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DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

CONCRETE

Views expressed in this newsletter, particularly in articles that profile other industry bodies and independent companies, do not necessarily reflect the views of cidb. We do, however, see them as an opportunity to spur constructive debate. Thus we welcome your comments on any article in our publication. Likewise, if you would like us to cover a particular issue, please let us know.

Email us on zingisan@cidb.org.za

EDITOR'S NOTE

Most South Africans welcomed the new year with widely open arms and a huge sigh of relief that 2017 had been consigned to the history books. A mood of positivity abounds on streets, in offices and, most importantly, in the minds of those who have the power to make 2018 great. That, of course, is every one of us.

If predictions for the year are to be believed, much lies in store during 2018.

Danish investment bank Saxo, in its annual list of global predictions, maintains that Africa continues to possess the potential to surprise. This year, the company states, it will 'lead an unexpected renaissance that will see it and its neighbours blossom politically and economically' and 'the rand will become the emerging market darling'. Saxo's list focuses on unlikely events that, if they were to happen, would send shockwaves through financial markets, but they are eagerly awaited every year as they broaden thinking and stimulate debate on what direction things may head at major turning points that occur during 2018.

Goldman Sachs, too, is upbeat, flagging South Africa as the 'big emerging market story' of the year, especially given the possibility of declining interest rates and a strengthening rand. Goldman is forecasting that GDP could expand by 2.3% this year – most local economists are forecasting growth of between 1% and 2%, up from the 1% or lower in 2017 and 0.3% in 2016. Since the markets heed Goldman Sachs reports, the forecast is most welcome, says Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chief Executive Officer, Alan Mukoki.

Although the moderate outlook predicted for the construction sector is still expected to run until 2021 due to the embattled rand and poor investor sentiment on the back of slow economic growth, infrastructure investment should allow the transport, logistics, energy and low-cost housing industries to buck the trend somewhat.

The government's plans to invest R947.2 billion in public sector construction as part of its medium-term strategic framework are well documented and will be spurred in part by the need to boost infrastructure to realise the country's bold renewable energy goals.

As South Africans are witnessing currently, with new leaders come new perspectives. ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa is on the same bullish page as Goldman Sachs, describing the country as the 'hottest emerging market' and disarming Davos decision makers with his infectious optimism. The cidb, too, is feeling the positive effects of fresh leadership, having welcomed a new Board of leading

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EDITOR'S NOTE *continued...*

lights that will serve the sector for the next three years. The multidisciplinary group brings together some of the best legal, management, engineering and entrepreneurial minds of the sector, and will undoubtedly stand us in good stead to tackle the tribulations and trumpet the triumphs ahead.

Our new Chairperson, Nonkululeko Sindane, brings significant public and private sector knowledge and wisdom to the role. Meet her and find out what makes her tick on page 5. Her fellow Board members, who will be profiled in coming issues of Concrete, are successful business people from across the sector spectrum, namely Mboniseni Dlamini (Deputy Chairperson), Bongekile Zulu, Danny Masimene, Denzel Maduray, Kennedy Maimela, Malebo Matolong, Mpendulo Ndlazi, Dr Natalie Skeepers, Sipho Mosai, Thuthuka Songelwa, Eric Manchidi and Lufuno Nevhutalu.

With strong leadership at the top and an enthusiastic and skilled team on the ground, we look forward to being at your service again this year and, particularly, to walking the transformation talk with you.

It is, in the words of Alan Mukoki, 'up to South Africa to get its act together and achieve'

Together, we can make 2018 memorable for all the right reasons.

Editor

CONCRETE

NEWS

CIDB WELCOMES NEW CAPTAIN TO THE BRIDGE

From left to right:
Seated: Malebo Matolong, Dr Natalie Skeepers, Nonkululeko Sindane (Chairperson), Bongekile Zulu, Thuthuka Songelwa
Standing: Kennedy Maimela, Mboniseni Dlamini (Deputy Chairperson), Danny Masimene, Denzel Maduray, Mpendulo Ndlazi, Lufuno Nevhutalu, Mfezeko Gwazube (Acting CEO), Eric Manchidi, Sipho Mosai

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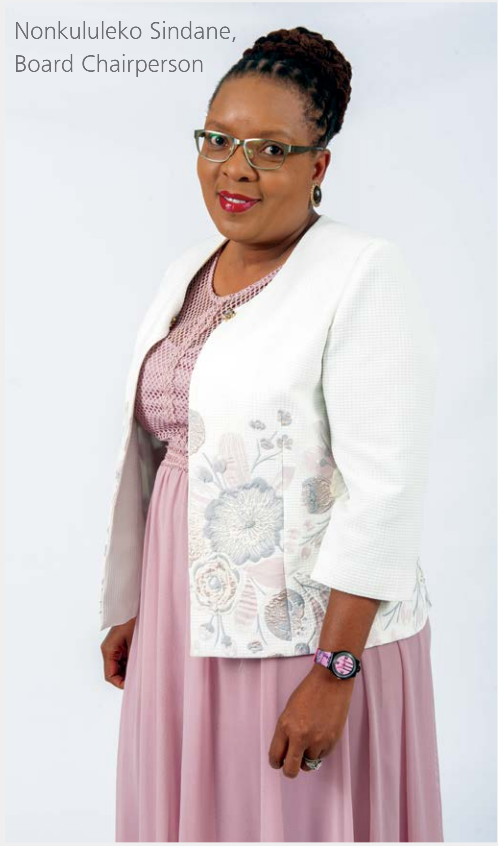
CONCRETE



Nonkululeko Sindane,
Board Chairperson

When announcing Nonkululeko Sindane as the first woman to serve as Chief Executive Officer of civil engineering firm UWP Consulting in 2016, the then Board Chairperson Ntuthuko Khuzwayo voiced the expectation that her management skills, leadership track record, and legal and contractual competencies would add significant value to the now 46-year-old business.

The company has transformed a lot more since then, now boasting 100% employee ownership, with 51% black ownership. Significant work has been done in all elements of the BEE scorecard, leading to Level 1 BEE Contributor classification under the Department of Trade and Industry generic codes. UWP is working hard to retain its Level 1 BEE status under the Construction Sector Codes, but is mindful that the road ahead will not be easy.

Significant work is also being done through a 'Nurture a Girl Programme' to support schoolgirls en route to a meaningful career. For a leader focused on business performance, but particularly passionate about transformation, especially the advancement of women, UWP's progress ticks many of Nonkululeko's personal and professional goal boxes.

It was an exciting move from private practice to public sector life. It all started soon after South Africa's rebirth in 1994, when, armed with BProc and LLB credentials from the University of Natal as it was then known, Nonkululeko managed the legal and risk functions of Umgeni Water.

The first democratic elections had a profound influence on the development of what is proving to be an illustrious career. 'My knowledge of government then didn't stretch much beyond the processes involved in applying for an ID document,' she says, 'but the 1994 elections really sparked my interest in the workings of government and awakened a desire in me to contribute to shaping this new South Africa.' She moved to the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) two years later, where her understanding of the government as well as the economy grew, along with her appreciation of the need for adequate infrastructure and the importance of effective state-owned enterprises. Time spent at the DPE dealing with corporate governance and shareholder management issues led to spells on the SAFCOL and Eskom boards. Most recently, she spent six years as the Director General in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, where, as a person passionate about human rights issues, she felt right at home.

Throughout her years in government, however, Nonkululeko never lost sight of an early ambition to become involved in business. With the public sector having enabled her to contribute to the country's infrastructure development, the opportunity to head UWP was not to be passed up.

She feels much the same about her appointment to the Board of cidb, an organisation of both achievements and constraints. 'Although it seems presumptuous for me to make pronouncements this early on the way forward, I hope to gain the Board's support to address the organisation's under-capacity in certain areas so that it can build on the great work it has done to date,' she says.

Nonkululeko has served on several boards' governance structures over the years, as both chair and member. Each tenure, whether at the South African Civil Aviation Authority, the International Air Services Council, Eskom or the Road Traffic Management Corporation, has added weight to the already considerable knowledge of corporate governance she amassed in public service. At the cidb, she believes she can contribute meaningfully in this area. 'The cidb does not exist for itself, but for the many men

previous contents next >>>

The Board's depth of expertise in diverse disciplines positions it well to serve the sector efficiently.

Nonkululeko Sindane,
Board Chairperson

and women who are or want to be part of this industry,' she explains. 'Stronger governance structures translate into better service to stakeholders and that is true for all organisations.'

Naturally, transformation will continue to occupy top spot both of mind and on Board agenda - not transformation at its current leisurely pace, says Nonkululeko, but the real deal, which will see black professionals and black-owned businesses in the construction industry being the rule rather than the exception, where emerging enterprises are afforded the opportunities to grow into large businesses should they so wish; and where women are known as much for their expertise in constructing bridges, dams and railway lines as in building houses.

The Board's depth of expertise in diverse disciplines positions it well to serve the sector efficiently, she adds, and she urges stakeholders to be patient as the Board finds its feet and gets to grips with the revised cidb organisational strategy, among other priorities. 'The mix of some members from the previous board and new members will bring continuity and ensure that decision making is quicker and enriched with a historical understanding of the issues facing the cidb. she says.

'Our stakeholder engagement processes will continue. It is, thus, essential that contractors and professional bodies bring us their concerns so that we can plan and action these. We may not be able to address all issues immediately, but awareness of these and a constructive working relationship with those who live the challenges daily, will be a great start.'

Internal stakeholders are equally important to the Board, she adds. 'We assure management, staff and organised labour that the Board will listen to their concerns. Again, we do not promise to agree on everything, but where we do not agree, we will make the reasons clear.'.

Those accepting Nonkululeko's offer to discuss matters can expect to encounter a good listener with an easy-going style, balanced by the ability to get through to people and willingness to learn from the expertise of others. 'I could never have prospered in government and now in corporate life without constantly learning from those around me, and I could never manage proficiently without my managers,' she says. She learnt a lot from a prominent business leader, Dr Reuel Khoza, with whom she has shared Board duties in the past and who inspires her greatly. 'Genuine, responsive leaders cannot stand alone, but must stand with their followers,' Dr Khoza once said.

Teamwork, it seems, is par for the UWP course, as it will be in the cidb boardroom. But on certain courses, Nonkululeko hastens to add, it's every woman for herself. 'I play off a 16 handicap,and I'm a particularly mean 16 on a good day,' she laughs.

PUSHING PERFORMANCE FROM STANDARD TO SUPERIOR

Much more goes on at the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) campus in Groenkloof, Pretoria, than may appear at first glance. The organisation has almost 7 000 standards, with close on 1 000 in development at any time. It sells around 44 000 standards a year. Most products that have put South Africa on the innovations map have survived SABS scrutiny in the decades since the development in 1956 of its oldest standard - for canned hake.

While the cidb cannot claim quite as long a history, it, too, is all about standards - in its case standards that promote professionalism and best practices among contractors. So it is no coincidence that the cidb found its home 17 years ago on the grounds of the SABS campus.

Manager: Construction Industry Performance, Ntebo Ngozwana, is quick to point out that the organisation doesn't spend hours dreaming up wild and wonderful new schemes to foist onto contractors. 'We don't sit in dark corners of dim offices coming up with new ideas for the sake of new ideas,' she stresses. 'Our only aim in developing standards is to improve the performance of the construction industry through implementation of best practice.'

The most recent development was the release for public comment in November 2017 of draft Regulation amendments to give effect to the new cidb Project Assessment Scheme. The scheme will empower the cidb to assess whether clients on construction works contracts have adopted cidb best practices and guidelines.

It's all part of the important mandate held by the cidb, says Programme Manager: Construction Industry Performance, Dr Rodney Milford. 'The cidb Act compels us to determine and establish best practices to improve performance, efficiency, effectiveness and public sector delivery management,' he explains. 'In fact, it goes further, requiring that public and private sector clients use their procurement potential to improve not only their own performance, but that of contractors, sub-contractors, labour and other participants, to create better value for money, increased sustainability of

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contractors and enhanced job security for workers.'

Determining best practice is not a hit-and-miss affair, he adds. 'The cidb calls on its extensive links with the local and international industry and often does in-depth studies of industry issues such as skills development, quality and labour relations.'

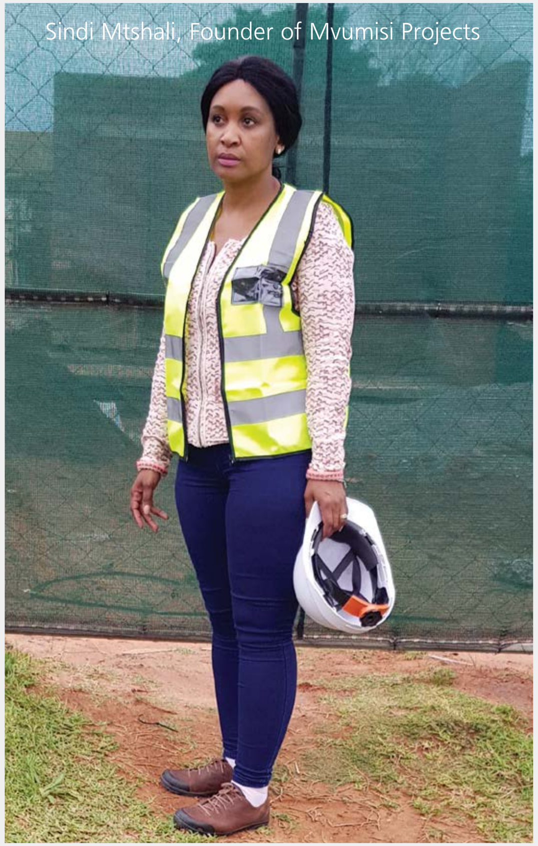
Standards already in use by clients and contractors include those focused on the development of skills through infrastructure contracts, indirect targeting for enterprise development through construction work contracts, contractor performance reports, minimum requirements for engaging contractors and sub-contractors, contract participation goals, and best practice for green building certification. All of these may be viewed on the cidb website.
Four more standards are currently in the wings for launch in 2018 and will change for the better, companies' healthcare practices and management of service providers. Look out for the:

- Standard for Health and Safety Management Plans
- Standard for Primary Healthcare Assessments
- Standard for Prompt Payment and
- Standard for Professional Service Provider Performance Reports.

'These standards address real needs in the industry and we urge clients to adopt them,' Rodney concludes. 'The rewards will speak for themselves.'

SINDI TURNS HER HAND TO ENGINEERING AN ENVIABLE ENTERPRISE

Sindi Mtshali, Founder of Mvumisi Projects



She's always hands-on and eyes-on and that, her clients will attest, is what makes all her work spot-on.

Sindi Mtshali is celebrating 13 years of success as a small business owner in a sector that becomes more competitive and challenging each day, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

This go-getter made her ambitious move out of eThekwini Municipality, where she had served as an engineer, into the 'real' world in 2004, catapulted into construction by a long-held dream to be the mistress of her own fate.

It proved the start of a wonderful journey that has established her brainchild, Mvumisi Projects, as a company to be counted - and counted on - in civil engineering and building across many industries.

Initially, it was an exciting challenge as a Grade 1 cidb contractor to take on a R15 000 project such as painting Metrorail's offices. Now, proudly sporting a Grade 7 listing, it is a regular occurrence to sign off on multimillion Rand contracts that contribute greatly to the strengthening of South Africa's infrastructure and social wellbeing. Sindi's biggest undertaking to date has been construction of Thwaluphahla Primary School in King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality, Eastern Cape - a contract valued at more than R27 million.

Add to that work on buildings of many descriptions and experience amassed in construction and rehabilitation of roads, and in building of sewer reticulation and reservoirs, and one has an extremely accomplished outfit whose clients have included the Development Bank of South Africa, the Passenger Rail Agency and the Department of Public Works. Sindi sums up her outstanding track record in one word: people. 'Our people's abilities and technical experience determine the success of our projects,' she states. Mvumisi has 12 permanent core staffers, each of whom shares her enthusiasm for construction and her love for what the company does.

Not surprisingly, Sindi's squad has a strong feminine component. 'We still operate in an environment that doubts our ability, but these perceptions are gradually changing, as women increasingly prove that they can make a valuable contribution in the construction world,' she says. 'We are no longer hanging back, but are proving daily that gender does not determine competence, no matter where you work.'

More businesses need to hire and empower women in the trade and not just at entry level, Sindi believes. 'Government incentives to advance the appointment of women as directors and shareholders are an encouraging sign that will give women entering the industry reassurance that they will be supported from the very top and hope that they, too, can rise through the ranks,' she comments.

The Mvumisi crew is constantly mindful of the need to protect the company's image by keeping promises to clients in terms of specifications, safety, time and cost, and by adhering to ethical practices at all times.

What does the future hold for Mvumisi? 'We are committed to expanding our operations and client base and to continuing to offer our services on both major and minor projects,' says Sindi. And it will remain all about the people. Strength will come from affirmative action, development of

previous
contents
next
>>>

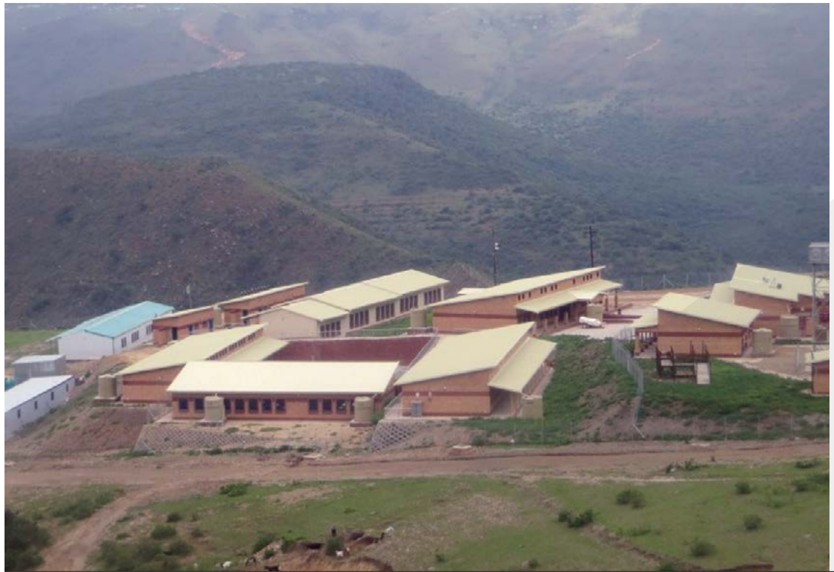
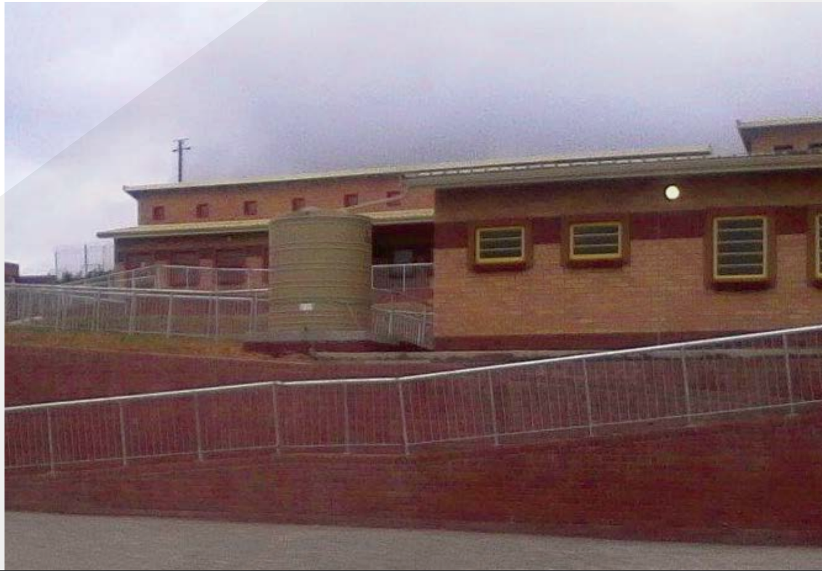
previous
contents
next

employees at all levels, recognition of and reward for each employee's role and abilities, and the transfer of skills through on-the-job training, mentorship and constructive feedback.

While having people with passion and panache is paramount, Sindi is not prepared to leave anything to chance. 'I will continue to monitor the company safety procedures, work scheduling and tender procurement,' she says. 'And I will always personally supervise Mvumisi work.'

If you happen to drive past a school in the Ugu District Municipality on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast, give it a second look: It could bear the Mvumisi mark, as the company is currently repairing structural damage caused by the recent storms to schools in that area.

'Our work speaks for itself and for the value of women in our industry,' Sindi concludes. 'We are proud to be part of the exciting journey to promote gender equality in construction and to prove that women have what it takes no matter what sector they are in. **'Right on, sista!'**

Thwaluphahla Primary School

RUBBLE NO TROUBLE IN THE GREEN ECONOMY

One man's trash is another man's treasure, according to the idiom. In a world becoming increasingly aware of the need to put rubbish to good use to ensure that the planet survives for future generations, the use of builder's rubble in construction is well worth pursuing. Currently, only about 15% of rubble is recycled.

The Muraglia di Getto of Italy and the bocage of France are evidence of the aesthetic worth of rubble, but the commercial worth is equally attractive. And South Africa has a great deal of construction and demolition waste available for the purpose – a conservative estimate of 5.2 million tons a year. A considerable amount of builders' rubble ends up being disposed at landfill or is illegally dumped.

Builders' rubble is better termed recovered aggregate and is a valuable resource for the construction industry in South Africa says Dr Kirsten Barnes, Waste Economy Analyst at GreenCape, a non-profit organisation that promotes widespread adoption of economically viable green economy solutions. Working in the City of Cape Town, she should know. 1.3 million tonnes construction waste is generated in the City, of which up to 50% is clean recovered aggregate.

'There is growing recognition that builders' rubble is a useful material that may contribute to reduced material costs in construction with no reduction in material performance,' says Kirsten, who is involved in researching the use of rubble throughout the country.

The application of rubble in construction in Cape Town was booming for about 10 years, but poor practices dented end-user confidence in the material and the market collapsed. In the last three years, though, the crushing capacity within the City has increased by a factor of 1.4. The growth has been spurred on by rising virgin material prices and increasing logistics costs. Virgin construction is generally located further away from construction sites, compared to sources of builders' rubble / recovered aggregate.

Builders' rubble has myriad uses, from landscaping, building foundations to bedding for pipes. But, its greatest potential is in road construction. Internationally, the performance of recovered aggregate has been exceptional, being used in construction of all road types - from country lanes to multilane highways. Japan and the Netherlands diverts 90-95% of their builders' rubble from landfill, with about 80% of the recovered aggregate being used in road construction.

Both secondary and virgin materials can co-exist happily in the structures shaping the skylines of South Africa's cities and towns, says Dr Barnes, and the benefits go beyond just savings on logistics.

For every job created in the traditional construction industry material flows - production, construction, use, demolishing and landfill - five jobs are

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created in a secondary materials market where builders' rubble is recovered, processed and reused. Although no figures are available at present for job numbers in mining and quarrying, experience in well-functioning secondary materials economies such as The Netherlands suggests that only between 15% and 25% of aggregate demand is satisfied by recycled rubble.

South Africa, with its growing - albeit slow - aggregate demand, could accommodate both virgin and secondary materials at that level.

Creating this awareness is GreenCape's focus. It is committed to changing perceptions about the value of builders' rubble as a secondary construction material, engaging the full value chain by demonstrating the performance and availability of the material, and the business case for use of rubble. GreenCape spreads this message widely and showcases successes to counter the perceptions that builders' rubble is rubbish.

In addition, GreenCape assists crushing companies to access feedstock, respond to changes in legislation, become compliant and access market opportunities. Their work also involves engaging with construction and material industry associations to develop a quality governance system for builders' rubble processors and products. In this way, GreenCape facilitates growth in market demand by assuring end users of the quality of material available.

With a specific focus on road construction, GreenCape is facilitating the development of guidelines for the application of builders' rubble in South African roads. This very important work aims to influence a change in the current situation in which rubble is generally not accepted by local road-building authorities. Although the cidb has no functional role to play in the *rubble-rousing revolution,* it is taking a keen interest in GreenCape activities, says Ishmail Cassiem of the Construction Industry Performance Programme. 'Responsible disposal of waste is an important consideration for contractors and as our mandate includes improving the overall performance of the construction industry, it is essential that we remain aware of issues that could impact on both contractor and industry performance.'

And what's in store for GreenCape? 'In five years,' says Dr Barnes, 'we hope to have moved on to other opportunities in the green economy, having succeeded in assisting to established a flourishing recovered aggregate market across South Africa, with more than 250 jobs created in the Western Cape, through the reuse of 70% of the builders' rubble generated.'

INDUSTRY SUSSES OUT SUSTAINABILITY TOOLS

It is a pity that the words of Abraham Lincoln were not taken to heart when, during the 1800s, he said: 'The best way to predict the future is to create it.' The world today faces a crisis of sustainability that demands decisive and urgent action, and tightly crossed fingers across the globe in the fervent hope that it is not too late.

The Americans have experienced unprecedented typhoons of late. Closer to home, the Cape is in the grips of a water crisis that knows no equal. Plastic pollution in the world's oceans has reached epic proportions, with 8-million metric tons of plastic waste flowing out to sea annually.

Sustainability is the word on everyone's lips, the topic on every business's agenda and the central theme of every government's strategy.

Dr Rodney Milford, cidb Programme Manager: Construction Industry Performance, says: 'The impact of climate change and the demands for sustainable systems are becoming more and more apparent every day.'

As it accounts for up to 40% of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, 40% of material consumption and 40% of waste generation, the built environment, in particular buildings, is a principal character in any sustainability story.

In South Africa, it's a case of all sustainability-sensitive minds on deck, with the green building movement leading the charge. The Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA) and its Green Star rating tool are making substantial impacts in the design and operation of buildings, says Rodney, with the government also demonstrating significant leadership in the area, through initiatives such as the Department of Public Works Green Building Policy.

But it was recognised years ago that the focus needed to extend to road, rail and water infrastructure. In 2012, a group of government and private sector officials and industry associations gathered to discuss a possible sustainable infrastructure rating tool for South Africa. The meeting considered the Green Roads initiative of the United States and the experiences of Australia's Infrastructure Sustainability Council. The need for a local rating tool led to the development of the Sustainable Roads Forum (SuRF), which includes SANRAL, Department of Transport, cidb and various industry associations, and has made progress in developing a rating tool for roads, based on which a pilot project is currently being run.

According to Manfred Braune, Executive Director: Certifications of the GBCSA: 'Recognising the international trend towards rating tools for sustainable infrastructure, we

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recently held an industry workshop with the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) to gauge the support for a local rating tool for all types of infrastructure projects, from road and rail to energy supply and pipelines.'

ISCA has released an easily adaptable international version of its rating tool and is exploring relationships in various countries to allow construction and operations projects to apply the tool. 'There is strong support for such a tool in South Africa and the GBCSA will continue to work with other stakeholders on the most appropriate organisational model and approach,' says Manfred.

While progress is evident, key decisions still need to be made, says Manfred Urken, Chairperson of SuRF. 'There is uncertainty as to whether South Africa should adopt the SuRF rating tool, the Australian tool or something different,' he says. 'And no-one is quite sure whether the tool should be housed under a roads association such as the South African Roads Federation, the GBCSA or even a government department. This is all being considered.'

Obviously, much remains to be discussed and decided, but South Africa is undoubtedly moving in an encouraging direction. And the cidb will be there every step of the sustainable journey.

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CONCRETE

DATA GROW SMARTER WITH CPAP REVAMP

If, as mathematician Karl Pearson said, 'statistics is the grammar of science', Statistics South Africa has penned a particularly well-crafted new chapter in its construction industry indices documentation. The soon-to-be-released refinements to the existing formula promise massive improvements in data quality.

Contractors will be familiar with Stats SA's indices for contract escalations, known as Contract Price Adjustment Provisions (CPAP), says Patrick Kelly, Chief Director: Price Statistics. They have traditionally provided a clear-cut escalation recovery formula method, which helps to avoid disputes with employers and subcontractors, and provides reasonable reimbursement for price fluctuations.

While the CPAP formula cannot precisely predict cost fluctuations on a contract or a section of work, it simplifies accounting procedures and facilitates acceptable reimbursement for employer, contractor and subcontractor.

As of 22 February, CPAP will be accompanied by a new statistics soulmate in the shape of additional CIPI (Construction Input Price Indices). The release, Patrick explains, will be known as Construction Materials Price Indices and bear the number P0151.1.

'The decision to change the format follows extensive research and industry consultation,' he elaborates. 'The CIPI will replace the previously published tables two, three and four detailing selected materials.

'We announced the termination of these tables in June last year, as the sets of products they contained were completely outdated, having not been revised for 10 years.'
The new tables are:

- Table 2 - Material purchases by type of service, which shows the contribution of different construction services to overall purchases in the industry and the aggregation of prices paid for these;
- Table 3 - Material purchases for whole industry, which provides price indices for 37 product categories purchased by construction industry enterprises. This will be of benefit to firms needing indices to escalate specific contract prices;
- Table 4 - Mining and construction plant and equipment, which provides a breakdown of machinery according to the standard classification used by Stats SA;
- Table 5 - Mechanical and electrical engineering, which tracks the prices of materials used in producing machinery and electrical components;
- Table 6 - Civil engineering material, which contains price indices for materials weighted according to use in specific civil engineering activities.

'In designing the new indices, Stats SA worked with several associations and considered the needs of large and small businesses operating in different construction activities,' Patrick continues. 'The information reflects great improvements in the quality of data available to the industry.' Stats SA benefits too, as it can better focus its resources now that the number of published indices has been whittled down from 139 to 41.

The selection of products and their weights are based mainly on the expenditures of 4 500 construction businesses surveyed by Stats SA in 2014.

In addition, there are now 12 aggregate indices for different construction services, which, combined with the product-specific indices, give more options for escalation. The revised

>>>

previous
contents
next

previous
contents
next

indices are also sufficiently comprehensive for an analysis of cost pressures across the industry.

As Patrick points out, the organisation of the indices is aligned to the international central product classification (CPC) used for the producer price index.

'All data will be recognised as official statistics,' he adds.
In spite of the enhancements, CPAP workgroups remain unchanged. As CIPI are a new set of indices, they will not be linked to any index previously published in tables two to four.

For convenience, Stats SA will provide on its website indices dating back to January 2015. And, should confusion arise, industry associations are equipped to offer guidance on the best implementation of the indices on existing contracts. 'Best practice would be to switch to the new index on a particular date,' Patrick advises. 'There is a guide on our website to linking old and new indices.'

The indices' base period will be December 2016 in line with the rebasing introduced in early 2017 for all Stats SA price series documents.

PANELLISTS PORE OVER PAN-AFRICAN ISSUES AT JOBURG WORKSHOP

From left to right:
Allen Leuta (Director, Allen & Overy Johannesburg office), Mark Walmsley (Executive, Aecom Africa), and Dave van der Merwe (Associate Director, Strategy & Operations, Deloitte Consulting, Johannesburg).

South Africa boasts some stand-out exports. Think Elon Musk, Trevor Noah, Charlize Theron, all of whom demonstrate the considerable talent our country possesses. Our gems adorn necks and wrists the globe over, our vehicles can be found on European and Asian roads, and our produce and wines are appreciated in the most quality-conscious markets. Why then should our solid construction expertise not help to shape skylines across the continent and the world?

The pan-African construction sector was the subject of an industry workshop hosted by ABSA towards the end of 2017, where the opportunities and challenges of operating outside home base were explored. The cidb partnered with ABSA to source relevant content and ensured that the right mix of industry players was in attendance – representatives from local and international construction companies, industry associations, government departments, and auditing, law and insurance firms.

Deloitte laid the foundation for the day with an overview of its Africa Construction Trends Reports 2017, after which panellists tackled various themes, from the competitive landscape of construction companies on the continent and access to finance, to legalities and regulations, and the implications of poor infrastructure. Saint-Gobain Gyproc/Isover took a closer look at innovation and technology in the building supply industry.

Much was achieved in the limited time, but this is just the start, says Andiswa Bata, Head of Construction & Cement, ABSA Corporate and Investment Banking. Watch this space...!

previous
contents

10TH ANNIVERSARY Postgraduate CONFERENCE

transformation
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