



Construction Industry Development Board

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

CONCRETE

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ISSUE #9 | Sept 2017



EDITOR'S NOTE

The cidb of today is a different creature from the one that has operated successfully since 2000. A strategy overhaul in the past financial year has set us on the road to more meaningful contribution to the construction industry and South African society in general.

During the review process, the Board adopted transformation, development, regulation, partnership and high-performance organisation as cidb pillars. From these pillars, five goals were identified:

- An inclusive, growing construction industry;
- Innovative and thriving construction environment ;
- Sound corporate governance;
- Reputable regulation, and
- Work in alliance with industry stakeholders to achieve the cidb's strategic intent.

Ours has graduated from an organisation whose vision was 'A transformed construction industry

that delivers value and contributes to economic growth of South Africa', to one that is striving for 'A transformed construction industry that is inclusive, ethical and contributes to a prosperous South Africa and the world'.

The focus on youth in business is, quite rightfully, receiving close attention in the country. Two recent events highlight the trend – the 'Young Professionals Sustainability Imbizo', hosted in August by Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) under the theme 'Sustaining the future of engineering', and the 'Youth, Jobs, Careers and Entrepreneurship Opportunities Expo' hosted by the Black Business Council in the Built Environment (BBCBE) in partnership with the Gauteng Provincial Government, focusing on empowering young people through career information and links with policymakers.

The stories in this issue of Concrete reflect subtle, yet significant, change in direction. We look at the National Business Initiative programme to

provide invaluable work experience to young graduates ready for the first step of their career, and at the cidb's role in the process.

As the hopes of our nation rest on young shoulders, the cidb wholeheartedly supports events such as these that set out to package construction as a prestigious career in which participants make a meaningful difference to their own lives and to the quality of life of all South Africans.

We also highlight the potential that we all know South Africa possesses, in both technological and human capabilities. We explore the increasing use of drones in construction and how they can become an indispensable tool for productivity. And we showcase the talents of a young man who will, hopefully, bring the WorldSkills bricklaying trophy home after what promises to be a tough competition against the world's best in Abu Dhabi next month. Amid all the good news, it is, unfortunately also important to take cognisance of the less positive

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 *continued...*



aspects of doing business in South Africa. Thus, this edition of Concrete delves, again, into the ever-present and growing threat of corruption to responsible corporate citizenship and societal wellbeing. The cidb encounters fraud and scams at every turn and it constantly looks for ways to counteract them, as you will read on page 18.

As the mix of stories in this issue shows, working in construction in South Africa today certainly exposes

one to the good and the bad of business. But, with Trading Economics predicting that GDP from construction will stand at R108 million within 12 months, it is crucial that we nurture and build on the good, while combatting the bad, so that the true potential of construction is realised for all citizens.

We trust you will enjoy reading this edition of Concrete and, again, we welcome your feedback on issues raised and those you think

should be raised. Email us on zingisan@cidb.org.za

Until we meet again, spring is a time of new beginnings, so let us all make the most of the opportunities that present themselves in the coming months.

Editor

Editor



CIDB PROPOSALS HIT MINISTERIAL IN-TRAY

RATINGS



While there are no signs currently of the downgrade imposed on South Africa by international ratings agencies being lifted, the suspension on downgrading of cidb contractors, within specific parameters, remains firmly in place.

And the added good news is that proposed amendments to the cidb regulations for contractors applying for registration renewal on the Register of Contractors have been submitted to the Minister of Public Works and will be released soon for public comment, subject to the relevant review processes.

The cidb's decision to halt downgrading from July 2016 for grades 2 to 6 was spurred by the tough conditions that have plagued contractors in recent times and by its wish to make allowance for the situation to assist businesses, says

Programme Manager: Construction Registers Service, Ebrahim Moola. 'To date, more than 700 contractors who struggled to maintain their cidb grades when renewing their registration have benefited from the suspension,' he states. 'The draft we have submitted to the Ministry proposes revisions to registration renewal criteria.'

Another positive development is the recommendation by the cidb for adjustments to tender value limits across all nine cidb grading levels. These, too, will be published for public comment once they have been reviewed and approved by the Minister of Public Works.

'The adjustments we are suggesting take account of inflation and will allow contractors to access higher-value projects,' Ebrahim explains. 'Currently, a contract for, say, school buildings, may move to a higher cidb

grade purely as a result of increases in inflation, putting it out of reach of a contractor who was eligible to deliver such a project previously. We want to rectify this.

'Furthermore, we plan to review tender value limits annually to ensure that we accommodate hikes in construction-related prices.'

The cidb appeals to stakeholders to consider the recommended amendments and tender value increases when they are released. 'Public comments will help the Minister and us to shape the final criteria for contractor registration and tender eligibility,' Ebrahim concludes. 'Public participation is in the interests of stakeholders, contractors and the entire industry.'

MIHLE CEMENTS HIS PLACE AMONG THE BEST

Mihle Mvelakubi was born many years after Pink Floyd's iconic 1979 protest anthem, 'Another brick in the wall', was released and subsequently banned in South Africa, but he certainly took the title to heart. And, with expertly wielded trowel at the ready, the young man has now perfected his skills to world-class level.

Mihle will hold the hopes of South Africa in his dexterous hands in October, when he takes on the best bricklayers around the globe in the WorldSkills International event in Abu Dhabi. It is an honour he earned through a gold medal performance at the WorldSkills South Africa competition held in Durban in February 2017.

Bricklaying may not qualify as a traditional Olympic activity, but the preparation for this 'Olympics of vocational skills' is intense and demands much of mind and body.

As a Building and Civil Engineering National Certificate Vocational Programme Level 3 student at Northlink College in the Western Cape,

Mihle has spent most of the time since he toppled his competitors in Durban preparing for the ultimate challenge.

'I immediately started researching the international competition, what other countries are doing in terms of bricklaying and what standards will be required by the WorldSkills organisers,' he says.

And that includes not only honing his already considerable skills, including interpretation of plans and technical drawings, but paying close attention to health and safety regulations and the handling of tools and equipment. Speed testing, time management, project neatness and accuracy are all factors as cement meets brick in the creation of contestants' personal walls of fame.

"For the competition in February, we had two eight-hour tasks to finish in three days,' Mihle explains. 'I'm excited to see what tasks are planned for us in October. I will certainly do my best and work according to the instructions of my mentor.' As the clock ticks down, further preparation

includes regular exercise and studying the tasks assigned during the previous WorldSkills International competition, in Brazil in 2015.

Northlink College campus manager, Pat Lawrence says that Mihle has the full support of his fellow students and all staff. 'We are all extremely proud of his achievements,' he says. 'He knows this is his moment to shine on the big stage and he is willing and eager to do so. We are confident that he will perform like a star.'

For Mihle, participating in the competition means an opportunity to obtain positive recognition and a first step in building his own business. 'More importantly,' he stresses, 'this competition allows me to make a difference not only to my life, but to my community.'

Mihle chose to follow the increasingly scarce, but essential, skill of face bricklaying after he developed a keen interest in building design as a young boy growing up in Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape. 'I used to draw buildings and this eventually grew to



Mihle Mvelakubi



drawing building plans,' he says. 'Later, I started visiting construction sites to visualise how houses were built and that is when my interest in bricklaying really grew.'

He gained his grounding in masonry at Agulhas School of Skills in Napier, before he moved to Northlink College.

Mihle hopes ultimately to start his own construction company and enhance his skills and knowledge with a university degree.

"Introducing bricklaying at WorldSkills showcases the real

value of the skill and raises the recognition of these skilled professionals across the globe,' he says. 'I would like to see bricklaying skills in South Africa improve and I can only hope that more youth will become involved in the trade.'

Clearly, in contradiction to the opening line of Pink Floyd's classic, Mihle knows the true value of education and wants all he can get. When he achieves his mortar board on graduation, it will definitely be as a result of good, old-fashioned learning and training. ●●●

COMPETENCE AND CONFIDENCE A COMPELLING COMBINATION

In his matric year in Queenstown, Lungisa Tshele briefly set his sights on optometry, but he clearly wasn't that focused, because his interest in the built environment took hold and consigned all thoughts of ocular testing devices and chin rests to the Lungisa landfill of lousy ideas.

In the meantime, in a small, developing township south of Letlhabile in North West, another schoolboy, Bongani Msimango, had eyes only for the construction world, having witnessed with great intrigue and interest various infrastructure projects taking shape around him.

Lungisa went on to study construction management, but his particular interest lay in quantity surveying, because it 'involves working with money'. Bongani earned his National Diploma in Engineering. Both later completed BTech degrees.

By coincidence - or, more likely, destiny - these two like-minds found each other at the University of Johannesburg in 2004, where they were put in the same assignment team and became travel buddies on a long coach trip to a project site in Eastern Cape.

The seeds of entrepreneurship were planted over those 800 bumpy kilometres, and the pair have been firm friends, with a focus on the bigger picture, ever since.

They started their careers together at Grinaker before Lungisa moved on to Bateman Engineering Technologies for a while.

They were reunited when both joined Protech Khuthele in 2012. There the wheels of their imagination really starting picking up speed, until any attempt to slam on the brakes was futile.

In 2014, Lubocon Civils was officially born, or, to give it its extended name, Lungisa Bongani Construction. Although the two had formed the company a decade previously, it was now a full-on construction firm for the first time.

Being young and perhaps a little foolhardy, the partners had picked a less-than-ideal time to launch a construction and civil engineering company - the recession was creeping ominously over the horizon and the economy was showing no signs of picking up any time soon. And, as is the case with all challengers to established, trusted businesses, the pair had to win over potential clients with little more than a promise of efficient delivery.

Fortunately, they had been quite busy in the preceding months, sounding out possible clients and wooing them with the offer of skills, expertise, passion and value for money. And the flexibility and cost-effectiveness that the larger firms would find hard to match.

It was a winning recipe and Lubocon went on to notch up contract after contract, delivering each with growing aplomb and confidence. 'When we started out, we did everything ourselves because we just couldn't afford to employ more than three people,' says Lungisa, who adds that the three came from the partners' last place of employment. 'Now





we have a core staff of around 50 qualified engineers and construction personnel, and up to 200 contract workers on our sites.'

It took guts to forego decently paid jobs without knowing when the next salary cheque would come, and to take on the many naysayers that seem to gather on the fringes of fledgling enterprises in the hope of an 'I-told-you-so' moment, but the best ventures are founded on the courage to take a leap of faith and the determination to prove doubters wrong. And Lungisa and Bongani had both in truckloads.

Now, a few short years down the line, a look at Lubocon's portfolio of completed projects speaks of the firm's versatility and range. Notable most recently have been contracts for Johannesburg Development Agency, valued at R62 million, SANRAL in the Eastern Cape valued at R31 million, Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport in Gauteng valued at R13 million, SANRAL in the North West valued at R265 million.

Each contract brings different conditions and challenges, says Bongani. 'Often, the actual construction work is merely an element of a project,' he explains. 'We have worked in Hanover, Northern Cape, where there is nothing for miles around, and we have been to Sebokeng on the East Rand, where a good part of our work involved community outreach activities. What works for one site doesn't necessarily apply to the next. It's a fluid environment that tests us constantly.'

Theirs may sound like a true Cinderella story, but Lungisa and Bongani don't yet claim any great success for Lubocon. 'We're a work in progress,' says Lungisa. 'We've had a good

start on the back of the competence we are able to offer our clients, but we view success as steady growth in the long term, continuing to employ young, eager professionals such as ourselves and creating a company that will survive for generations to come.'

They have had a number of small successes along the way, they will agree. The speed at which the company rose through the cidb grading ranks would count as one. It was a steady climb from Grade 1 to Grade 6 and then a leap to Grade 7, explains Lungisa. 'We wanted to grow as quickly as possible to move up from Grade 6, where the competition is hectic. There is more breathing space at Grade 7 so we're comfortable here. The cidb has done well in benchmarking companies according to size and turnover.'

A bugbear for the pair, however, is the low barrier to entry to the industry, which works in the favour of those not adequately qualified for the responsibility of running a construction company. 'Company owners must be well qualified, but many aren't,' says Lungisa. 'You don't wake up one day and become a doctor. You study, you work and you earn the privilege.'

When Concrete spoke to the dynamic duo, they were driving hundreds of kilometres to inspect a site in a far-flung area. Uncharacteristically for males, they stopped to ask a petrol attendant for directions.

Site directions are probably the only ones they ever need, though, as with them in the driving seat, Lubocon is doing a splendid job of charting a course towards fame and fortune. ●●●

NEW TECHNOLOGY HOVERS INTO PROMINENCE



There was a time when drone was merely something spouses accused each other of doing. Now the word has a whole new meaning, as unmanned aerial vehicles increasingly become indispensable business tools across the economy. A recent PricewaterhouseCoopers report estimates the worldwide market for drone powered-solutions at more than \$127-billion, with the infrastructure sector accounting for \$45,2-billion.

Initially the preserve of the military, drones are becoming a common sight above construction sites.

Although in its infancy in South Africa, the trend is catching on rapidly, says Dr Rodney Milford, Programme Manager of the cidb's Construction Industry Performance Unit. 'Drones can be used at almost every stage of the development of a project, from planning, design and construction, to final inspection as well as handover and marketing,' he says. 'Contractors are able to execute site surveying and mapping, and provide managers with real-time data and video footage as part of monitoring construction sites and updating their clients with relevant progress reports.'

'Drones can increase efficiency, while providing data that can be used to evaluate the quality of work and identify defects. Onsite safety, security and productivity are enhanced too.'

These nifty little identified flying objects are able to access difficult-to-reach locations, can scale tall buildings in a very short time, take as many photographs as needed and zoom in whenever required, which is particularly valuable where possible defects exist. Drones reduce the time, machinery and labour to complete certain inspection tasks.

As a cost-saving device, the technology produces images and videos with crystal-clear resolution, which reduces the costs to firms compared to previous technologies such as satellite and aerial resources.

Companies such as Drone Snap have stepped in as external service providers for the construction sector. They are able to use aerial images to create 3D models of a construction site, and convert aerial shots of construction sites into promotional material to be presented to potential investors and buyers. The competition for drone dominance is fierce and comparative quoting is the order of the day as construction companies seek the best service at the most favourable rate.

The cidb is all for this exciting overhead trend, says Rodney. 'We see many advantages to using drones on construction sites and we encourage the industry to explore them,' he confirms. 'This is the next big innovation in construction - another disruptive technology that offers the industry significant cost, quality, productivity, and health and safety improvements.'

So enthusiastic is the cidb that it aims to support research and development to further the application and uptake of drones in the industry, he concludes.

Clearly, the sky is not the limit - it is pushing the limits. ●●●

ON BOARD

> A regular CONCRETE feature that looks at the decision makers driving cidb's destiny

MIKE MAKES HIS MARK WITH UNMISTAKEABLE PASSION

One cannot talk to cidb Board member Mike Makhura without getting the impression that the man has a true passion for the betterment of society on many levels. A look at his background and career history leaves absolutely no doubt.

Unlike many whose first job is merely 'a foot in a door' and a stepping stone to better things, Mike's shaped everything that followed. As an employee of a development funding organisation involved in facilitating water and sanitation services for rural communities, he saw first-hand the tremendous and immediate difference the work of his organisation made to the lives of the country's poorest citizens, the improvement in health enjoyed by those receiving for the first time services that others take for granted, and the empowerment of women in the community who now had a means of improving their families' lives.

'My job was to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of our projects and it was a joy to see the effects of our work on building the capability of individuals.'

Later, serving on the Interim National Housing Board, Mike saw lives changed by the provision of low-cost housing.

He was hooked on the infrastructure sector and has never looked back.

Today, as founder and managing partner of Vutivi Management Consulting, Mike is still helping people – executives in various industries who seek his counsel and wisdom to optimise their operations. By analysing business models, shaping strategies, designing organisations that work and offering sage advice on running businesses, he and his team equip their clients to overcome delivery challenges and optimise performance, particularly in the public and development sectors.

The results of his work these days are not quite as immediate as in his first job, but they are no less satisfying, he says. 'Our services are largely advisory and our solutions take time to implement and embed in an organisation. Still, it is extremely rewarding to see improvements in performance down the line. But, for me, more important is being part of the journey, the hand-holding and the discovery of best-fit solutions to tackle challenges along the way.'

That Mike became a cidb Board member was a no-brainer, given his passion for entrepreneurship and emerging contractors, which were the focuses of his master's degree.



cidb
Board member
Mike Makhura

MIKE MAKES HIS MARK WITH UNMISTAKEABLE PASSION *continued...*

'My research clarified the constraints faced by new entrants to industry and reinforced the importance of small business to inclusive economic growth,' he elaborates.

He was appointed to the cidb Board in 2014, lending the organisation his invaluable expertise in management, regulatory, strategy and organisational design. It is experience gained both in the lecture room and on the job. Mike's suite of qualifications includes a master's in project management in construction, a postgraduate diploma in public policy and development management and master's in management, with specialisation in service industry management, leadership and new ventures. Among his career highlights are his term as a project director with the Masakhane Campaign, a project management assignment with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development during the restructuring of the magistrate's courts.

At the cidb, Mike gives expression to his fervent belief that relevance and resilient institutions hold the key to advancing development in the country. 'Good institutions are non-negotiable for business sustainability,' he explains. 'If the cidb can help to create a transformed industry genuinely representative of the country's demographics and remove barriers to entry for emerging contractors, then it will have done its job.'

He cites two recent developments that bode well for the organisation's future success. First was gearing up for

revision of the cidb Act, which will better define the roles of the cidb and give it more power in effecting its mandate and advancing the best interests of the industry.

Then, during the latter part of 2016/17, it was the revitalisation of the cidb strategy. The resultant document, concluded after much debate and deliberation, is a fitting roadmap for the cidb and a highlight of cidb history that brings a smile to Mike's face. 'I view the initiatives as a work in progress,' he says, 'but, having now defined a new strategic path, created a new institutional design and clarified key focuses of regulation and development, we have put the building blocks in place for enhanced performance and effectiveness. Now is the time to implement these plans.'

It's a process of continuous improvement that echoes Mike's approach to life. 'I believe that constant refinement and enhancement of one's capabilities is essential to professional growth and to maintaining an advantage in an increasingly competitive marketplace.'

And when Mike takes a break from work and settles down to watch his favourite sport, he hopes that same continuous refinement of capabilities will reflect on the scoreboards when his beloved Orlando Pirates and Arsenal take to the field. ●●●



BBCBE

BLACK BUSINESS COUNCIL
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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THE EXUBERANCE OF YOUTH TAKES CENTRE STAGE

BBCBE Youth Chamber Office Bearers,
from left to right: Choeu Makabate,
a PhD in Engineering Candidate
(Deputy Chairperson: Professionals),
Tshepo Modise (Deputy Chairperson:
Business), Keamogetswe Kuypers
(Treasurer General), Ranthekeg
Modisenyane (Chairperson) and
Thobela Maponya (Secretary General)

Madiba would have felt like the *Duracell bunny* had he attended the **Youth Jobs, Career and Entrepreneurship Opportunities Expo** at the end of June.

‘Whenever I am with energetic young people,’ Nelson Mandela once commented, ‘I feel like a recharged battery.’

Madiba would have felt like the Duracell bunny had he attended the Youth Jobs, Career and Entrepreneurship Opportunities Expo at the end of June. So fully charged was the atmosphere with the mind power of the hundreds of bright young sparks who descended on Nasrec to see what was on offer.

The 10-day extravaganza of information, inspiration and innovation was also the stage for the official launch of the Black Business Council in the Built Environment (BBCBE) Youth Chamber, which was invited by the Gauteng Provincial Government to promote its role in the construction sector. ‘Ours is a platform dedicated to establishing outcomes-based youth

participation in the built environment sector,’ says chamber Secretary-General, Thobela Maponya. ‘We would like to be known as the leading advocacy group of cohesive representation and trustees of a mandate to create an enabling environment for the participation of youth between ages of 14 and 35 in the entire value chain of the sector.’

It’s an exciting development in the growth of the BBCBE, says council Secretary-General, Gregory Mofokeng. ‘By targeting youngsters in business, academia, basic education and higher education institutions, the chamber will position the BBCBE as a significant player in industry matters pertaining to youth development and empowerment.’

The chamber’s key focuses are enterprise development, research and development and influencing participation of young contractors,

professionals, manufacturers and suppliers of construction material and training providers in the mainstream economy of the built environment, he adds.

During the expo, the BBCBE took exhibition space to promote its services and facilitated panel discussions to discuss the role of youth in the industry.

With more than 200 exhibitors showing off their youth-focused wares, the event certainly was, as its theme promised, ‘A season of hope for Gauteng youth’. ●●●

GIVING GRADUATES THE GIFT OF EXPERIENCE

With the unemployment rate soaring to a 13-year high of 28.9% and youth unemployment hovering at a staggering 38.6%, South Africa has to pull out all the stops to avoid a catastrophe. Every effort counts.

By virtue of its skills development mandate and its important roles in the advancement of emerging contractors and in industry transformation, the cidb is lending its considerable weight to the fight against unemployment and, in many areas, is leading the charge.

A major stumbling block to finding employment is lack of workplace experience – it is said that those with a year's on-the-job experience are six times more likely to secure a permanent position than their inexperienced counterparts. To this end, the National Business Initiative (NBI), with the financial backing of the National Skills Fund, has announced

a two-year programme to provide workplace-based learning for 60 civil engineering and building construction graduates sourced from technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges in Gauteng.

TVET colleges, with their sizeable pool of mid-level skills, have been identified by the government as a priority sector to drive inclusive economic growth and reduce youth unemployment. The initiative is a structured placement programme tailor-made for the construction sector - which sorely needs skilled and work-ready youth - that prepares TVET graduates for site and enhances employability.

As a member of the Construction Industry Partnership, the cidb is providing leadership and advice on construction skills development. The Board has also pioneered a learner management system to track the performance of candidates during placement and for up to a year thereafter.

Naturally, the success of the project rests on the willingness of employers to welcome into their ranks enthusiastic youngsters seeking a foot in the door. One company that didn't think twice about participating is Ubuhlebethu Business Enterprise. 'There is a need to expose young people to the industry at an early stage of their career,' says corporate affairs manager, Bongani Malaza. 'We hope to expose our graduates to as many skills as possible in their short time with us so that they are able to make informed career choices. At the same time, we will contribute to create a pool of young, skilled artisans with the experience needed to enhance their chances of employment or self-employment.'

'The programme will also enable us to identify up and coming talent for possible recruitment into our ranks.'

The NBI urges all construction companies to consider taking in and mentoring young civil engineers and building construction hopefuls – in the interests of the youngsters' personal and professional development, and the professionalism of the industry. NBI will assist hosting employers with a monthly stipend and insurance cover for each intern.

Pranveer Harripadasadh, cidb Project Manager, believes the initiative will address a real need – bridging the gap between institutional learning and the demands of the workplace to harness the energies of talented youngsters eager to make a difference to their lives and society as a whole. ●●●



UPPING THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ANTE

Corruption is rife. Open a newspaper and it's there in black and white. Turn on the radio or television news and it assaults the ears. Enter a conversation with almost anyone about almost anything and talk will inevitably turn to it.

Corruption does not discriminate. It is found in most sectors of the economy, public and private. And, hardly surprisingly, it's shaking the very foundation of the construction industry, too. In fact, construction and arms occupy the top rungs of the corruption ladder.

Worldwide, the construction sector is susceptible to suspect practices, says Dr Rodney Milford, the cidb's Programme Manager: Construction Industry Performance Unit. 'In its latest Bribe Payers Index, Transparency International reveals that bribery pervades public infrastructure contracts and the construction sector due to the magnitude of contracts handled,' he says.

'Cases of bribery, corruption, nepotism and/or political interference are frequently brought to our attention.'

In a recent cidb study, contractors and project managers ranked bribery and corruption as having the highest impact on poor quality of construction. Corruption comes in many guises, including the awarding of contracts in a dubious

manner, which may result in unqualified individuals being appointed to deliver a service for which they are ill equipped. Corruption has the greatest impact on service delivery, diversion of resources, and quality of resources needed to grow the economy and to deliver socio-economic benefit. Against this backdrop, says Rodney, the cidb has put systems in place to record and act on reported cases of corruption. These include the establishment of an independent, anonymous reporting fraud hotline - 0800 112 432 or cidb@cidb.org.za - to encourage whistleblowing.

It also carries out data-mining activities using the cidb Register of Projects and the cidb Register of Contractors to identify potential cases of fraud and corruption for further investigation.

Furthermore, strict protocols are used for the handling of registration information to reduce bribery. 'We have identified as best practice for Grade 9 enterprises certification to SANS 1734: Specification for an anti-bribery management system' (or BS 10500), but have extended it to fraud and corruption, and will extend this to grades 7 and 8 in the near future. Plans are underway for the Board, itself, to be certified against this specification.'

According to Jerry Ramdunee of the South African Auditor and Training Certification Authority, corruption is arguably

one of the most significant barriers to a successful economy. 'In the construction industry, corruption is prevalent primarily in the bid evaluation and tendering process, and includes rigged tenders and contracts, price-fixing and fronting,' he explains.

The effects are far-reaching, he adds, and include inadequate resource allocation and manpower, resulting in a risk to the health and safety of

workers as well as poor and unsafe working conditions; use of sub-standard building materials, which impacts on quality and durability; low funding for maintenance versus increased maintenance requirements because of sub-standard work, and increased public spending due to work being awarded to those who don't complete the project.

The simple sounding, but rather more difficult to achieve, solution

comes from an unlikely source – Irish pop star Bono, who maintains: 'The worst disease in the world today is corruption. And there is a cure: transparency'.

With the African Union having earmarked 2018 as the year of African anti-corruption, under the theme 'Winning the fight against corruption', there has never been a more pressing need for the healing powers of transparency. ●●●



ANOTHER SCAM UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The cidb is one of the latest victims of crafty conmen and -women out to make a quick buck at the expense of trusting South Africans.

If you are a cidb contractor, look twice at that email that has just landed in your inbox purporting to be from our offices. Bogus emails are being sent to contractors urging them to renew their registrations and pay their annual registration fees. STOP!

The cidb would never ask a contractor or individual to pay funds into any account other than the one reflected on its official registration forms. If in doubt, pause before you click 'pay' and go to www.cidb.org.za or phone **086 100 2432** to verify the authenticity of the request. And please report any suspicious email to us.

In the meantime, our team is doing all it can to root out the perpetrators of this shady scheme. ●●●

