

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CREATE A COMMUNICATION FORUM FOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO BE KNOWN AS “CONSTRUCTION SOUTH AFRICA”

20/11/06

The Organizations listed below have indicated their intention to participate in a forum, to be known as Construction South Africa (CSA), aimed at promoting debate and consensus seeking on issues that affect the Construction Industry in South Africa.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

The Founding Participating Organizations, which are drawn from the contributors to the Construction Sector Charter Integrated Management Committee, are:

African Builders Association (ABA)
Association of SA Quantity Surveyors (ASAQS)
Electrical Contractors Association of SA
Master Builders South Africa (MBSA)
National Black Contractors & Allied Trades Forum (NABCAT)
National African Federation for the Building Industry (NAFBI)
NAFCOC Construction (NAFCON)
SA Association of Consulting Engineers (SAACE)
SA Black Technical and Allied Careers Organization (SABTACO)
SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC)
SA Institute of Architects (SAIA)
SA Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC)
SA Women in Construction (SAWIC)
Women for Housing (WFH)

Any national private sector business organisation that represents business interests in the Construction Sector in South Africa shall be eligible to participate in CSA provided that prospective participants shall satisfy the others that they are a reputable organisation.

OBJECTIVES

CSA Participants intend to strive for the following objectives;

They will endeavour to articulate the common ground within the built environment fraternity, but simultaneously recognize that not all participants will possibly agree on all issues within the sector.

They will follow the following guidelines in their interaction with each other;

- Pursue issues which will produce a clear consensus from CSA participants
- Pursue issues where agreement in principle can be reached
- Avoid issues that are inappropriate at a given time
- Avoid activities that conflict with or compete with other participants activities, and
- Pursue activities that are seen as an additional benefit through participation in CSA.

In all of these, participants in CSA will endeavour to promote, encourage, and protect the interests of participating organizations, to assist and encourage co-operative action, and to deal with each and all such matters as may affect the common interests of participating organizations.

The intent is to facilitate the positive contribution of the participating organizations in the development of the sector and the sector's contribution to the national economy by;

- developing an agenda of priorities for the sector to enhance its interests,
- positively influencing co-operation of participating organizations
- actively pursuing joint liaison with government institutions in the interest of the participating organizations,
- fulfilling information needs through better construction forecasting,
- interacting on tax matters,
- interacting on regulatory reform,
- promoting best practice planning systems and documentation,
- promoting best practices in procurement,
- monitoring, evaluating, and reviewing government policies.
- export facilitation, and
- International benchmarking.

In addition the intent is to provide a reference point for Government (and other economic actors) to interact with the Industry in a co-coordinated way.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNCTIONING COMMITTEES

The Participants will define the area of jurisdiction of a Committee. This may revolve around any Topic agreed to by consensus (see proposed topics)

The Committees will have to be coordinated with the functional committees in existence at the member organisations. The technical work of these committees should ideally be carried out by the technical staff in the participating organisations working together.

Every participating organisation may nominate members to any Committee.

At a meeting of a Committee a Chairperson shall be elected from amongst the participants of the Committee.

A Committee may appoint persons to represent the CSA on other bodies with which it is or may be co-operating in the area of jurisdiction of the Committee.

THE STRUCTURE AND SECRETARIAT OF THE CSA

The Participating Organizations should be represented by their President/Chairperson (or their nominated alternate) and the CEO.

These representatives will elect a “Convener” from amongst their number whose duties will include the following:

- Convene meetings as and when required and fulfill the role of Chairperson at the meetings.
- Promote the activities of functioning committees
- Liaise with the organization providing the secretarial services to co-ordinate the activities of the functional committees.
- Act as spokesperson for CSA.

The participating organisations will provide the secretarial services for CSA, as well as for the various functional committees, on a voluntary rotational basis according to their capacity to deliver this service.

REPRESENTATION ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Persons appointed by the Participants to represent the CSA on other bodies shall serve in that capacity and not as individuals. Such persons shall carry out the instructions of the CSA and promote, encourage and protect the interests of the CSA in all matters appertaining to their appointment. It shall be incumbent on such an appointed representative to feed back to the appropriate structures of CSA the relevant information of such meetings.

REPRESENTATION ON BARGAINING AND STATUTORY COUNCILS

CSA shall not be involved in any labour relations issues.

TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED BY CSA

The CSA general objective will be to seek consensus and formulate “sector wide” views on matters of importance to the participants. The proposed topics are as follows;

External Matters:

- **Social dialogue**

It is understood that the members of the Construction Charter Integrated Management Committee (IMC) felt that a need exists for a broader “social dialogue” between the parties (government, labour and business).

The founding members of the CSA felt very strongly that;

- (a) it should very definitely exclude wage/conditions of employment issues, and
- (b) it should not be a recipe to be applied generally (tripartism) in every forum where interaction may/may not take place. Forums like NEDLAC have been created for such interaction and should be kept that way.

- **Joint dialogue with Government**

In many respects the fragmentation of the sector has complicated interaction with government, if not well nigh made it impossible. CSA will seek direct, coordinated and regular interaction with national government departments and state owned enterprises. The sector is large enough (approaching R80 billion) for government to have direct interaction with it, as a strategic asset to the delivery of welfare to the nation. The objective would be to engage in sectoral debates of strategic importance. These would include subjects such as the problems experienced with public sector capacity to deliver

and possible solutions. Particular emphasis should be placed on the Governments ASGISA and JIPSA initiatives.

- **Joint Membership of BUSA**

CSA will seek joint representation to this private sector business organisation.

- **The Construction Industry Development Board**

The CIDB invokes diverse feelings amongst member organisations of CSA who want;

1. Greater representivity on the board from all levels in the Industry.
2. Consultation on matters of crucial importance to the Industry including monitoring evaluating and reviewing policies.
3. Input into the workings of the contractors' register, and
4. Action on the inconsistent application of procurement rules as per the devolved powers given to it by the National Treasury.

- **CETA and Training matters**

Education and training are crucial issues influencing the success of the sector. Serious problems exist which include;

1. Problems with the institutional set-up determining/governing education and training in the sector.
2. The content and quality of training material as well as monitoring the quality of the training provided.
3. The efficiency and effectiveness of the Training Authority.
4. The dire need for the sector to have a united front re national debates on training matters as per the JIPSA initiative.

- **The governance and registration of professional people (SACPCMP)**

The sector has been over regulated with the establishment of the Council for the Built Environment. The Professional Councils that controls the Construction Management does not consult widely nor take cognisance of Industries requirements. Their registrations and the demarcations/identification of work ignore some sectors of the Industry with huge cumulative costs and sometimes prohibitive impact on ability to earn a living.

- **NEPAD**

Members felt it important for the sector to show support for the government's Africa ambitions and dreams through NEPAD.

Internal matters

- **The implementation of the Construction Charter.**

1. The Charter Council will need a reference group with which to consult and which will also monitor evaluate and review progress.
2. Seminars/workshops around the country could be coordinated on behalf of the sector, and in doing so, prevent duplication and excessive costs.
3. The sharing of resources/information/cooperation amongst the different organisations must be on the agenda. Hopefully this will continue to build on the goodwill generated by the charter and sector summit processes.