

STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED FORMATION OF 'CONSTRUCTION SOUTH AFRICA' ISSUED AT THE CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE HELD IN DURBAN ON 30/31 OCTOBER 2006

SAIA welcomes the formation of Construction South Africa (CSA) as a vehicle that brings together consultants in the built environment sector as well as the various other role players in the construction industry.

We see CSA as a body in which there is robust debate amongst the various role players and would be most unhappy if it becomes a rubber stamp for vested interests in the industry.

The Construction Charter has been approved by members of the industry, and it is imperative that we get its implementation off to an effective start. CSA and its constituents are well placed to contribute to this.

We are also aware that there are other pressing issues that need to be addressed in the redevelopment of the construction sector. The nature of the industry is undergoing changes in its structure given our expose to the global environment; the involvement of a wider section of the population especially at management and equity levels; gender and empowerment issues; perceived skills shortages and the training of an effective workforce given the cyclical nature of the industry.

Bodies such the CIDB have begun to implement some of these new initiatives and we are aware that a number of issues of concern have been raised by various parties as a result of this process.

CSA can be most effective if it engages with these issues in a pro-active manner by looking at how we can move forward effectively and adopting a problem solving approach.

We look forward to being part of this initiative and developing a legacy for the industry that we can all be proud of.

Hassan Asmal
On behalf of SAIA