

PRESS RELEASE

CESA APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT – Naren Bhojaram

Newly appointed President of CESA, Naren Bhojaram says that he has come into office at an interesting time for the Consulting Engineering Sector.

"The World Cup 2010 euphoria is now over and all the exciting projects in which our members participated are past, if not glorious, memories that made us proud! Today the outlook is uncertain with turbulent economic times in both Europe, and in the US. Global economic uncertainty affects African and South Africa's economies, and our member firms are not immune to this.

"We are encouraged by moves by the South African Government, together with civil society and business, in signing an accord to promote local procurement and job creation for our people. We are also anxious about just how the new Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act and Regulations, which came into effect on 7 December 2011, will be embraced by our various client bodies.

"Against this cautious optimism the blight of corruption hangs heavy - business integrity is steadily worsening and it is with disappointment that I note that just about every country on the African continent has moved backwards on the Transparency International® Index over the past two years. South Africa has moved from No 43 (in 2006) to No 54 (in 2010).

"My focus therefore, in the next two years as President of CESA will therefore be procurement and business integrity. If we get these two elements right in our industry then various things, including service delivery, job creation, poverty alleviation, economic growth, sustainability and capacity building will all fall into place."

Naren Bhojaram is a Professional Civil Engineer, having obtained a BSc Engineering degree at the University Of KwaZulu Natal South Africa in 1984. His speciality is water supply, sanitation and municipal service delivery optimisation. Having spent a few years at a local authority, he moved on to SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants where he rose to the position of CEO from 2006 to 2011.

SSI is part of the Netherlands based consultancy, DHV, with a staff complement of 5 300 operating in 75 offices in 20 countries worldwide. Naren was appointed DHV's Regional Director for Africa and sits on the Executive Council of the DHV Group. He has a special passion for uplifting disadvantaged communities through education which apart from promoting community upliftment projects, led to the establishment of the Saturday School for previously disadvantaged school students. The concept has recently been extended to coach juvenile inmates in correctional facilities, to enable them to achieve their matric whilst incarcerated.

Naren has attended a DHV in-house Management Development Program and Executive Development Program with the University of Nyenrode (Netherlands) and he is a Scholar of the Advanced Management Program (AMP) of INSEAD (France/Singapore).

In November 2011 Naren was elected President of Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA), a voluntary organization representing in excess of 80% of the consulting engineering fraternity in South Africa. He has been responsible for preparing the Sustainability Framework for CESA and its Business Integrity Management System whose use is mandatory for all CESA member firms. He is a mentor for Business Unity South

Africa (BUSAs) on Business Integrity and also Chairman of the South African Netherlands Chamber of Commerce (SA Chapter).

Naren's deep-seated passion for institutional strengthening and uplifting of communities will be reflected in his tenure as CESA President. "I will steer CESA in a direction which creates an enabling environment and opportunities where the need is greatest and the recipients are willing to participate for a better life" he said.

Congratulations also go to Abe Théla from Nyeleti Consulting who has been appointed as Deputy President of CESA.

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