

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CONSULTING ENGINEERS SOUTH AFRICA SUPPORTS MINISTER**

Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) representing 460 member firms employing in excess of 21000 staff members, fully supports the Minister of Higher Education and Training in applying for the Construction SETA (CETA) to be placed under Administration in full support of other established built environment professional bodies and employer organisations that include Master Builders South Africa (MBSA) and the South African Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC). CESA's support stems from the severe lack of service to the Construction Sector based on feedback from their member firms who are both CETA clients and contributors. Graham Pirie, CEO of CESA states, "The needs of professional organisations representing business in the built environment have been totally neglected over the last 11 or so years and we as an organisation are looking for a resolution to this untenable situation".

CESA has been reliably informed that the Construction SETA (CETA) had recently initiated a process for applying for an interdict against the Minister for Higher Education and Training to prevent the CETA from being placed under administration. This follows letters issued by the Department in May 2010 to four SETAs, including CETA, regarding possible appointment of administrators to manage their affairs. CESA together with other established built environment professional bodies and employer organisations is on record supporting the appointment of an administrator and has assured the Minister of Higher Education and Training of their full co-operation and assistance in addressing the shortcomings at CETA.

Despite the fact that CETA achieved an unqualified audit in 2010, the first in several years, many issues in connection with weak financial administration, poor learnership management and accreditation of training providers are evidence of ongoing management ineffectiveness which is not conducive to the promotion of training in the construction industry.

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#### **About CESA**

Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA), formerly known as SAACE (South African Association of Consulting Engineers) represents for its members, a body that promotes their joint interests and, because of its standing, provides quality assurance for clients. Over 460 firms employing just over 21 000 staff members are members of CESA, with a total fee income of almost R17 billion per annum. CESA offers:

- Adherence to quality management systems, and the basic tenets of commercial viability, on which CESA members' businesses depend, underwrite the quality assurance implicit in membership.
- Member firms are committed to continuous education, and to the upliftment of their staff and the communities they serve. Many firms have empowerment programmes, contribute to bursary schemes and assist professionals and construction companies to grow. The Construction Industry Charter is presently in the process of being gazetted in terms of Section 9 of Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE).

- Members carry a required level of professional indemnity insurance, which provides clients with financial recourse in the event of non-performance, insufficient design, failure or neglect caused by the engineer.
- Members are required to implement and maintain an ISO based Quality Management System in terms of the CESA Code of Conduct.