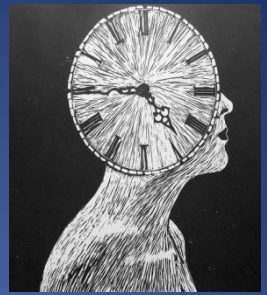




“Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world.” These are the wise words of our late President Nelson Mandela, the father of democracy, and the first democratically elected President of our country. The mourning of this legendary game changer also brought forth a nostalgia of a country that we once envisioned and still yearn for. Ideals that many fought for, but whose fruits they never got to taste. We have become passive as South Africans, it is almost as if we have given up our fight and we just decided to let the decisions of others happen to us.



The collective mourning, the booing of President Jacob Zuma during the mourning period (of Madiba), the scathing attacks on the recent release of the National Certificate examination results and the furore regarding e-Tolls are all reminiscent of the fact that we have let ourselves surrender and in avertedly decided to let the voice of a few speak for all of us. My appeal to you this year is for you to realise that not only are you a person working in the engineering sector, but that first and foremost you are a citizen of this country and that secondly you are a young person who has the tools required to incite change. You need to be audacious, relentless and uncompromising in fighting for the education of every citizen in any form because as Nelson Mandela put it no country can really develop unless its citizens are educated.

2013 was an interesting year in engineering in South Africa and worldwide. From the contentious ‘procurement issue’ which tends to be the hot topic of consulting engineering gatherings such as at the CESA conference that was held in November at The Westin Hotel in Cape Town (read on Page 3) to the issue of education. To this day schools still grapple with getting access to learning material and some still operate without basic infrastructure. It was evident at the conference that it is still worth airing our procurement woes, if the construction collusion debacle is anything to go by. As for education, how do you attempt to address a society that resorts to keeping their children from attending school when they are upset with service delivery? It speaks of a society that does not understand the value of education. Robert Frost couldn’t have said it better when he said that “Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self confidence”, so in essence the cornerstone of a reasoning mind.

We are approaching voting season and we are set to see new faces on the ballot. Julius Malema is now heading up his own political party and we heard the surprising news of Agang merging with the Democratic Alliance. These elections should make for interesting viewing. Granted it is your democratic right not to vote, but why wouldn’t you and how then do you speak on behalf of a nation you did not help to contribute to? I previously lamented over the fact that we all have a responsibility to advocate change and the greatest place to begin this process would be by exercising your right to vote. Then you can freely proclaim that you have the right to an opinion in pertinent issues regardless of whether your preferred party won or not.

Yes it has indeed been an interesting year in the world of science and technology and we have seen the benefits. Mandla Maseko a young boy from Mabopane, and an aspiring DJ had probably never in his life dreamt that he would be venturing into space, yet as just the second South African (after Mark Shuttleworth) he is living this reality. The rewards of science aren’t only for those that reach for the sky and ride on a star, but for those who have aspired to reach the stars but landed on a cloud and who stuck their head in the cloud until the dream became a reality.

This was the dream of José Mestre whose documentary I came across on TV. A haemangioma tumour started forming on his lips when he was 14 and mutated to eventually cover his entire face. Yet despite all the misfortunes and the reluctance of Doctors to operate on it (due to its complex nature) he managed to find a Doctor willing to have it removed. This was evidence of the benefits and wonders of modern science and chutzpah on the part of the surgeon.

It is a new year and we have probably already set goals that we would like to achieve this year. I would like to add a challenge to that list, to you as a young person living in South Africa, to use the channels (the YPF, your company, social media platforms, getting involved in your community long term or dedicating your time to education) to influence the change that we need in this country. As people servicing the engineering industry we need to get back to the values and principles of professionals, we need to lend our voices and hands to addressing socio-economic issues that do ultimately affect all of us in the long run (through taxation , crime, etc.).

If your child started school this year you have the opportunity to change the outcome of the public schooling system in such a way that it will benefit our 2025 matriculants. We cannot continue to be apathetic towards issues that concern us just because somehow we are myopic in thinking that because they do not directly impact us they don't have an indirect influence on our lives.

While he may be lost to South Africa and the world we, as South Africans and the engineering youth need to continue to espouse the ethos and leadership of uTata Mandela – **Keamogetswe Mmekwa**

### Mandla Maseko: The first black African heading into space

26 January 2014 Last updated at 02:15



A 25-year-old DJ from a South African township is set to become the first black African to go into space. Mandla Maseko is one of 23 people who won a seat on an hour-long sub-orbital trip in 2015. He explains how he beat one million other people to the prize.



I VOTE SOUTH AFRICA

Last chance to register: 8 and 9 February

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## CESA CONFERENCE:

The 2013 CESA Conference, set against the beautiful backdrop of Table Mountain in the Heart of the Mother City, was an event which provided a valuable educational and networking experience for any young engineer. The theme of the conference “Leadership - the Key to Sustainability” was a topic which has profound relevance in today’s engineering environment, where sustainability has become a key factor in all engineering projects.

The speakers chosen came from a variety of leadership backgrounds from engineering, finance, government and environmental. This provided well rounded coverage of the theme of the conference with opinions and information provided by influential people from a large variety of sectors. The talks and discussions were inspiring and positive, providing much needed insight into the challenges which South Africa faces. Possible solutions to these problems were proposed and the concept of having sound leadership to achieve goals set out for future growth was highlighted.

Along with the opportunity to learn, the conference provided a platform for great networking opportunities through a number of social events, including a golf day, cocktail evening and a Gala Dinner. Meeting peers from across the country and various leaders in the industry was a unique and important aspect of the conference, something which was both enriching as well as very enjoyable.

The CESA conference provides an ideal platform in which to address such issues.

In a Survey that was conducted by the YPF Western Cape Region it was found that for:

- MENTORSHIP AND TRAINING: 50% of YP’s feel they are not receiving the training they require; Lack of structured training and strong mentors; Fast-track project mind-set limiting training opportunities; 70% believe their tertiary education prepared them for a career in Engineering.

- REMUNERATION: Only 9% would study towards a different career, for improved remuneration, given a second chance.

- CAREER DEVELOPMENT: 93% of respondents are proud of what they do.

All in all a well attended, fruitful session for all who attended the conference. We look forward to the 2014 conference which will be held in Limpopo.

- **Eliane Balegamire and Nicole Teeling (Both from Hatch Goba)**



CESA NEWS:

# CONGRATULATIONS



ABOVE: Picture of Abe Thela taken at the CESA Conference 2013 in Cape Town courtesy of CESA

At the Consulting Engineer’s Conference in Cape Town, **Abe Thela** from Nyeleti Consulting was appointed as President of the organisation for the next two years.

Thela’s Presidential theme for the year will be **‘Sustaining Consulting Engineering is Key to Growing the Economy’**.

The South Gauteng YPF Branch Congratulate YOU!!

## MEET AND GREET AT SMEC:



### ABOUT SMEC:

In June 2012, SMEC acquired Vela VKE, a professional consulting engineering company in South Africa. Vela VKE opened its first permanent office in Johannesburg in 1951. Vela VKE now has 12 offices throughout South Africa: Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, George, Johannesburg, Kimberley, Kroonstad, Polokwane, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria and Rustenburg.  
*For more information on SMEC visit: [www.smec.com](http://www.smec.com)*

**CESA** **SMEC** **YPF**

*Local People. Global Experience.*

An event brought to you by CESA YPF South Gauteng Branch

# MEET AND GREET

**Date: Wednesday, 05<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

Time: 17h30 – 20h00

**Speaker: Kostas Rontiris**

Venue: SMEC South Africa, 267 Kent Avenue, Randburg, Ferndale

**Topic: Balancing the 7 concepts of Leadership**

A chance to get to know SMEC  
 Don't forget to bring stationery  
 Bring your business cards  
**An opportunity to meet YP's in your branch**  
 Don't forget to RSVP  
 See YOU there!!!!

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

**CONTACT US!**

RSVP TO: [YPFSouthGauteng@gmail.com](mailto:YPFSouthGauteng@gmail.com)  
 BY: 3 February 2014  
 Tweet us: @YPFSouthGauteng  
 Facebook: CESA-YPF

Please bring Stationery for our drive

LEADS2 BUSINESS Nyeleti Royal HaskoningDHV Jeffares & Green aurecon GIBB PDNA BIGEN AFRICA AECOM CARIFRO HATCH GOBA SNA UWP ILISO SMEC



THIS IS HOW THE SOUTH GAUTENG COMMITTEE CELEBRATED THE END OF THE YEAR: PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR...



UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS:

**FEBRUARY 2014**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 X	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 X	15
16	17 X	18 X	19 X	20 X	21 X	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 X	

FEBRUARY:

- 5 Feb: Meet and Greet SMEC
- REGISTER TO VOTE FOR ELECTIONS 8 AND 9 FEB
- 14 Feb: Stationery Delivery
- 17-21 Feb: YIC Week
- 28 Feb: Newsletter Issue

TALK TO US:

TWITTER: @YPFSouthGauteng  
 FACEBOOK: CESA-YPF  
 EMAIL: [YPFSouthgauteng@gmail.com](mailto:YPFSouthgauteng@gmail.com)  
 JOIN YPF:  
<http://www.cesa.co.za/node/105>

First ever 'GREAT DEBATE' AT Zitholele coming in MARCH – TAKE PART/COME SUPPORT