



CESA's Platinum Jubilee

Celebrating 70 years of Partnering for Engineering Excellence





This year marks **Consulting Engineers South Africa's (CESA's) 70th anniversary**. CESA's Platinum Jubilee celebrates the organisation's remarkable and most enduring history of contributing to the representation and development of the all-important engineering sector within South Africa, and therefore has much to celebrate.

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CELEBRATING A REMARKABLE AND ENDURING HISTORY

The fact that CESA is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year is a testament to the critical role it has played within the engineering sector since the organisation was first established at a meeting of specialist consulting engineering practitioners back in 1952. That was a time in which engineering design, construction and supervision was conducted by the then chief engineers, city engineers and town engineers and there were but a handful of expert practitioners in the private sector. Now, all these years later, CESA has close on 600 members and has unquestionably become the apex organisation of the consulting engineering sector.

HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE WITH THE UTMOST INTEGRITY

With the aim of assisting in optimising the planning and delivery of infrastructure projects both in the public and private sector, CESA has continued to serve as the channel for clients to address industry concerns while at the same time providing a platform for the sharing of information.

CESA would not of course be in such a strong position today without the strong volunteer membership culture of member companies, who have continued to provide support, insights, and strategic direction to the organisation through the years. Members know that CESA is there with them for the long haul, assisting to not only maintain the integrity of the industry, but also work to grow and develop the sector on an ongoing basis.

THE APEX ORGANISATION OF THE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SECTOR

The past decade has been a particularly eventful one for South Africa and the industry. The COVID-19 pandemic had an important impact on the country's economy in recent years and has contributed to setting back a number of infrastructure development initiatives, as well as the broader SA economy. Within this constrained environment, CESA has played a critical role in supporting its members, the broader built environment and construction sector, whilst at the same time contributed to the development of practitioners both in the public and private sectors. All of this and at the same time requiring members to provide a high standard of services with the utmost of integrity at all times.

STRONG VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP CULTURE

All of this has served to keep CESA at the forefront of the engineering and construction industries and the outstanding 'voice' of Consulting Engineering in South Africa. The organisation has a proud history and legacy, always being in the forefront of driving positive change in the industry and as can be seen from its continuously growing membership, has continued to thrive over the years and most definitely during the past decade.

A multiple award-winning organisation remains committed to the promotion of excellence in the consulting engineering industry on behalf of its members and stakeholders. The association continues to strive not only to develop and support the consulting engineering sector, but also to have a meaningful impact on the lives of all South Africans through its members. And so, we wish the organisation another 70 years of fruitful contribution to the sector and country.

A grayscale background image of a construction site. Several large tower cranes are visible against a cloudy sky. In the lower right, the steel framework of a building under construction is shown, with a crane arm positioned near the roofline.

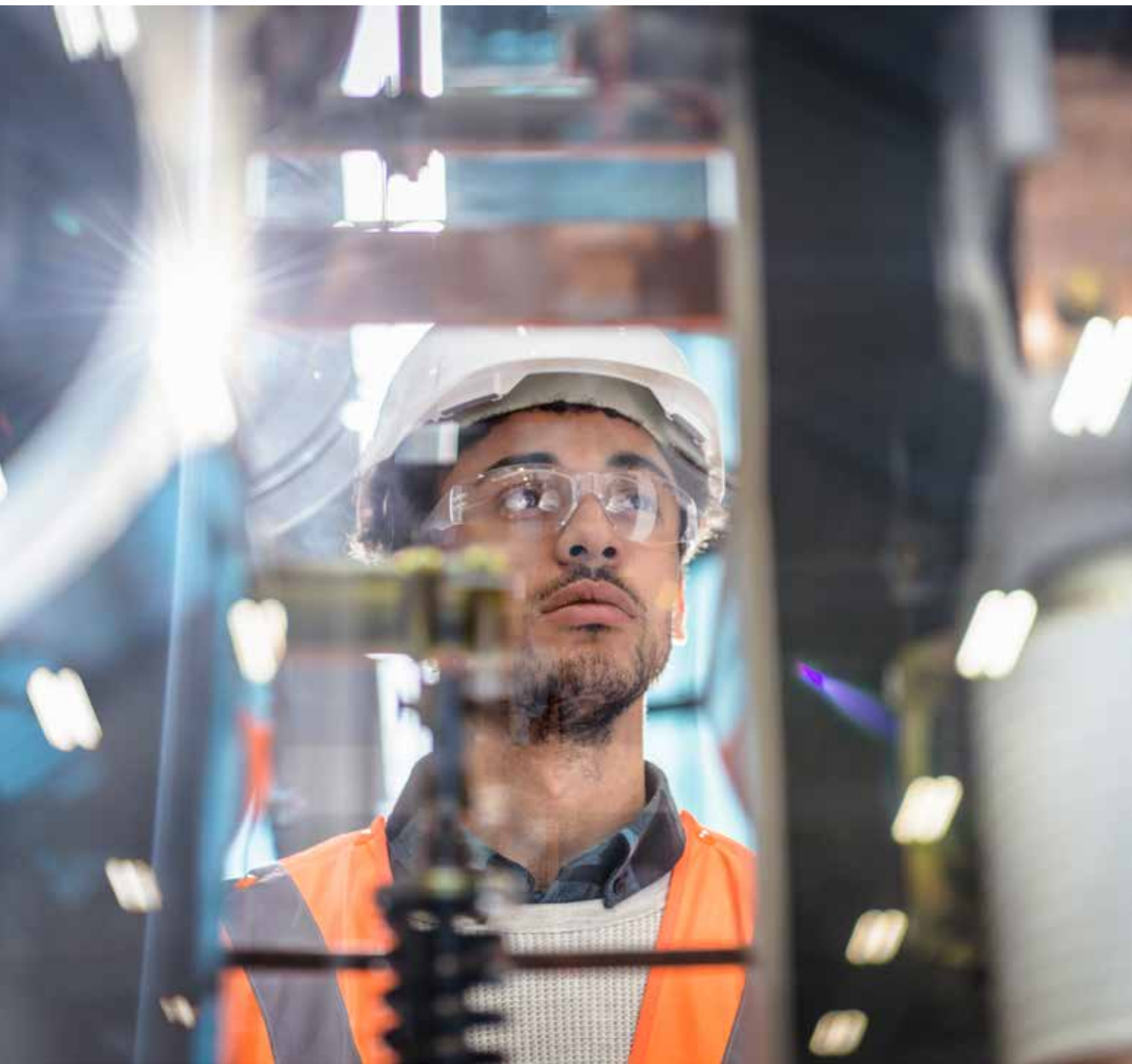
**MULTIPLE AWARD WINNERS
COMMITTED TO PROMOTION
OF EXCELLENCE!**

The Presidents:

CESA has the great fortune of being led by an exceptionally talented set of leaders since its inception in 1952. Transformation within the Organisation has always been taken very seriously starting right at the very top. The first Black President took the helm in 2002, the first lady President took the chair in 2004, and in 2005 CESA had its second Black President, followed by several more since then.

LED BY EXCEPTIONALLY
TALENTED LEADERS – **CESA**
PRESIDENTS

Mr Olu Soluade, CEO of AOS Consulting Engineers, was inaugurated as President of the organisation in November 2021, succeeding Mr Sugan Pillay. Soluade is a Professional Engineer and Professional Construction Project Manager with over 30-years' experience. He holds a Masters in Industrial Engineering, and a BSc. Hons. degree with Second Class upper in Mechanical Engineering. He had served on CESA Committees for several years before then with the last two years in the capacity as Vice President of CESA before taking up the role as President.



Sustained **Growth:**

CESA has grown over the past decade, the number of member firms increasing by close on 50% with the number of member companies now standing at more than 580. The collective employee base of CESA member firms stands at some 17000, highlighting the significant role the organisation plays in representing the industry, which in turn plays such a critical role in the development in South

Transformation, Diversity & **Inclusivity:**

As the 'voice' of consulting engineering in South Africa, one of CESA's strategic goals is to "Promote continuous improvement in the transformation of the sector".





PROMOTING CONTINUOUS TRANSFORMATION AND DIVERSITY

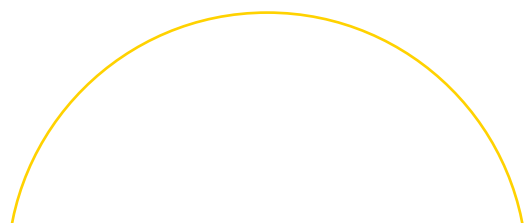
In South Africa there is a recognition of the need to develop local capacity to address the backlogs in infrastructure resulting from the Apartheid era. This has necessitated the focus on capacity development and through its member base, CESA has through diverse initiatives developed the means for larger established companies to partner with newer SMME businesses and for the latter to participate in public sector projects where possible. This has worked to address inequalities in the access to business, as well as to support and capacitate these small businesses.

Notably at present, more than 70% of member companies are more than 51% Black owned and of these, 3,1% are owned by Black women. Two thirds of the member firms have a staff of 20 or less and 50% less than 10. Many of these being emerging consulting engineers which are either majority owned or wholly owned by Black South Africans. The number of Black owned and managed firms joining CESA has grown from 38% in 2009 to 55% in 2022. This is in full support of the Government's transformation targets.



School of **Consulting Engineering:**

The School of Consulting Engineering (SCE) was launched in 2002 and after a modest start with a few one-day courses offered on subjects relevant to the consulting engineer, the school today offers more than one hundred courses country-wide and has provided training to thousands of practitioners.



The school, which is now fully geared towards e-learning, provides the opportunity for consulting engineers, their staff, their clients, and other interested parties in the Built Environment to enhance their business, professional and entrepreneurial skills. The SCE courses go a long way to ensuring skills development and the retention of skills within the consulting industry.

The SCE launched its flagship Business of Consulting Engineering (BCE) Certificate Programme, in 2012. The BCE Programme is tailor-made to equip future leaders in the business and management of consulting engineering companies and has had a hand in the accelerated development of some 150 practitioners.

OFFERING MORE THAN **100**
COURSES COUNTRYWIDE -
ENHANCING BUSINESS SKILLS

The image features a hand reaching out from the bottom left towards a digital globe on the right. The globe is composed of a network of white dots connected by thin lines, with some dots highlighted in yellow. The background is a blurred city skyline at night, with lights reflecting on a surface. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and purples, with yellow highlights on the globe's dots and the word 'INTERNATIONALLY'.

CESA – PUNCHING WAY ABOVE ITS
WEIGHT **INTERNATIONALLY**



International **Footprint:**

CESA became a member of International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) in 1959 and a member of its regional grouping the Group of African Member Associations (GAMA) in 1981 which in 2020 was renamed FIDIC Africa with CESA playing the important role as Secretariat to this Regional Grouping representing the African continent. As a developing country with a relatively small economy, South Africa punches way beyond its weight within the international engineering environment, and we can hold our heads high in this regard.

Testimony to this is the fact that CESA has been recognised during two FIDIC Award ceremonies both in 2019 in Mexico City and online in 2021 for its achievements amongst FIDIC's 106 country member associations.

Management Sustainability **Development:**

CESA has developed an entire suite of processes over the years to assist in the management of quality, sustainability, and risk management at member companies, and these are now being rolled out. Part of a family of processes, these have been specially designed to support member organisations.

For more than a decade, the engineering excellence of CESA member firms has been demonstrated at CESA's annual Engineering Excellence Awards. This is a showcase of projects in all engineering fields, which are world class in their standards of design and innovation and enhance the quality of life of the public and the communities served by CESA.

In recognising the unarguable importance of understanding and promoting the concept of Sustainable Development, CESA developed a Sustainability Framework for use by members and most recently has been working on strengthening its ties with entities such as the Green Building Council of South Africa.

Developing Future Leaders

TRAINING AND DEVELOPING FUTURE INDUSTRY LEADERS

In 2004, CESA established the Young Professionals Forum (YPF) – a division within the organisation serving the needs of professional engineers, technologists, and technicians in member firms, who are under the age of 35. This platform has provided young practitioners with a platform to network and grow, while the School of Consulting Engineering (SCE) provides top quality training through its Business of Consulting Engineering Management Development Programme (BCE) to up and coming future leaders in the industry.

The YPF, which consists of young professionals who are passionate about the engineering industry and are interested in ensuring the sustainability and promotion of the profession, gave a voice to these innovative and energetic engineers. A number would go on to become industry leaders playing a prominent role in taking the sector into the future. In a real case to bear evidence that CESA does indeed contribute to developing its 'own timber,' it is noteworthy that one of our President was previously the Chairperson of the YPF during its founding years and he testifies to the invaluable role the forum plays in developing young talent.



Protecting Lives & **Livelihoods campaign:**

Known as the 'silent profession', consulting engineers drive economic growth through the design and development of infrastructure aimed at improving service delivery and in turn contribute to uplifting communities, alleviating poverty and unemployment in South Africa. Despite this, the role that engineers, and specifically consulting engineers, play in Protecting Lives and Livelihoods is often not clear to, nor fully understood by, clients and stakeholders and even less so by the general public.

HIGHLIGHTING THE POSITIVE IMPACT ENGINEERING HAS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

In order to address these issues, CESA commenced a major three-year public relations campaign in 2020 to raise the profile of the industry and highlight the positive impact it has in underpinning economic growth and development in South Africa. Undertaken to educate all stakeholders, but most importantly the general public, as to what a consulting engineer is and the value they bring to society, the campaign has been integrated into all CESA activities including the CESA Aon Engineering Excellence Awards. As a result, the campaign has been highly successful, even winning the Strategic Programme category at the 2021 FIDIC Member Association Excellence Awards as earlier mentioned.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Advocating for the use of member firms, CESA has engaged with a plethora of public service entities, while at the same time stepped up engagements with the private sector. Unlike in bygone days when most of the engineering work came from the public sector, the work of member companies is today split 50:50 between public and private sectors.

Throughout its life, CESA has actively promoted close liaison with client bodies – the customers and recipients of the professional services rendered by member firms. An important task being that of positively and constructively influencing Government policy and creating a degree of certainty for business operations within the industry.



INFLUENCING
GOVERNMENT POLICY

Technology & **innovation:**

Over the past decade CESA has increasingly migrated to digital platforms, so that the organisation's channels of communication have been opened both locally and internationally. Accelerated by events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the School of Consulting Engineering (SCE) became fully geared towards e-learning, while CESA's many industry networking events seamlessly moved to digital platforms encompassing both the virtual as well as hybrid worlds in which we all now live. CESA has not only effectively used tech to support its own sustainability but also encouraged the adoption and use of appropriate technologies at member organisations.



Outlook for the **next decade:**

Committed to the promotion of excellence in the consulting engineering industry on behalf of its members and stakeholders, CESA aims to strengthen and enhance its role as the 'voice' of the industry over the next decade. Through its members, the organisation seeks to protect the lives and livelihoods of all South Africans by partnering with all key stakeholders.

The organisation has noted that in many other countries around the world, associations such as CESA are directly involved in state decision making bodies related to matters of infrastructure development and in the lifecycle management thereof. In South Africa, however, we remain conspicuously excluded from such decision-making processes driven through government structures, unlike the constructive and inclusive approach that has worked well in other Countries, such as the UK, the USA, Canada and Australia to name but a few. CESA maintains that more proactive engagement in such bodies will enable better planning, execution, management and maintenance of infrastructure. This will enable the industry to ensure that the infrastructure developed today, will last in much the same way as was envisaged when CESA was first established 70 years ago. The need for a partnership between Government and the Private sector has never been stronger and achieving this is something that CESA will be strongly advocating for well into the future. We will remain relentless in these efforts.

Strategic Objectives into the Future:

As part of its guiding lights, CESA has identified the following strategic objectives for the foreseeable future of the organisation, namely:



Pro-active, targeted, effective, and constructive engagement with all relevant stakeholders.



Actively Influence Procurement Policies and Practices to Ensure Best Practice in Infrastructure Procurement.



Strengthen and re-position the brand of CESA as the champion of Consulting Engineering Excellence



Promote continuous improvement in transformation and inclusivity in the Consulting Engineering sector.



Deliver Value-Add to Members and Stakeholders



hold the Integrity of the Consulting Engineering Sector



CESA – YOUR PARTNER IN ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

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