



2023 CESA Infrastructure Indaba

CESA President's Speech

Engineering the Future Now..... is a powerful statement that highlights the critical role that we as engineers play in the design and development of both social as well as economic infrastructure that will provide the foundation for sustainable development enabling economic growth for future generations to come!

Good morning, ladies, gentlemen, and a warm welcome to our esteemed speakers, sponsors and exhibitors.

Our annual Infrastructure Indaba provides a platform where stakeholders from all sectors of the Built Environment come together under the theme of '**Engineering the Future Now**' to share knowledge and best practice aimed at ensuring the provision of **value-for-money** infrastructure for economic development and prosperity.

As we approach the end of the first quarter of 2023 there has been much activity within the infrastructure environment. We started the year off with our annual CESA Presidential Media Address in which we called on government to commit to increased and informed spending on infrastructure as a key economic driver.

We strongly believe that **Government needs to overcome the current supply chain and procurement issues as well as the skills challenges** our country faces. The less than glacial pace that has been the order of the day is not good enough, when one considers the urgency with which a change in the trajectory is needed. This was then followed by the State of the Nation address and thereafter the Budget Speech.

Our hope is that with government's focus on **professionalizing the state** that we will start to see the right people with the requisite skills, experience and competencies being placed in key positions to ensure that money is spent in a cost-effective manner for both the social and economic benefit of the people of our country. As an industry organization our mandate is to **lobby for positive change within the regulatory environment to enable our members better serve society**.

As a developmental country, South Africa is already facing many of challenges, and as engineers, we are called upon to **make a difference**. In light of this our theme this year is '**Make a Difference by Collaborating for Change**' which is an action theme for us to work and be intentional in our quest to achieve tangible results and in doing so we have many challenges to overcome.

At CESA we have a **commitment and passion to be of service and make a difference**, we need to collaborate by getting everyone involved as it is the only way that we will be able to **make a difference** as an industry, as engineers and as citizens of our Country.



Our theme for this Indaba of 'Engineering the Future Now' is **very critical and relevant**. We cannot proceed with just talking while actions dictates otherwise. As a nation, we cannot continue give lip service to infrastructure development, but **concrete action must be put in place** and partnerships created for development.

We need to engineer our future now!

I thank you for attending this important indaba and invite you to be a part of our collaborative approach by engaging with our speakers, your fellow delegates, our sponsors and exhibitors, as each and every one of us has a critical role to play in our country's **Reconstruction and Recovery Plan!**

Olu Soluade