

THE SUMMIT NEWSLETTER: COVID - 19 EDITION

A CESA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S PUBLICATION

Issue 1

December 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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“In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed” ~ Anon. When the year 2020 began, none of us could have predicted just how true this statement would hold. Looking back at the unprecedented event, the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), that drastically altered the world as we know it, resulting in the Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) and the Young Professionals Forum (YPF) having to adapt to the “new normal” by postponing many events (like most of the world) including the flagship annual Job Shadow and CESA Relay.



With 2020 drawing to a close, we take time to reflect on the uncertainties that the year brought but also look forward to the potentials that 2021 brings now that we know a little bit more about Covid-19 and are better prepared for the second wave already predicted to follow soon. The year 2020 might have been one of the most unusual years for the CESA YPF, however, if there ever there was a time our members had to demonstrate leadership, this was it. With a complete shut down of the country in March of this year, many of the exciting events that had been planned came to a screeching halt. But as the young voice of CESA, we couldn't stay down for long, we had to regroup and find ways to rise above the challenge...and rise we did. As professionals we have had to adapt to the new way of doing things which involved working from home and slowly adjusting to returning to the office with the lifting of lockdown restrictions (Pages 7-8). Like most of the world, we also had to explore the online world for many of our flagship events (Pages 10-12), which makes one appreciate just how connected we actually are despite the physical barriers placed by ourselves limiting our reach.

On behalf of the forum, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Sponsors (Page 4), whom despite the challenges of 2020, still see it fit to be part of the journey of developing Future Leaders by ensuring the forum continues to achieve its targets in 2021 and beyond.

I would also like to thank the CESA Office team for their support, guidance and reassurance as we navigated these uncharted waters together.

Lastly, thank you to my amazing EXCO and National Committee members who in the face of adversity, heeded the appeal to innovate and salvage some of our 2020 regional and national events (Pages 13-14).



YPF

Young Professionals Forum

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONT.

As a forum, we hope that over the past 16 years, more so this year, we have managed to and will continue to encourage YPs to actively participate through volunteerism to be the change they want to see in the industry. As Elizabeth Andrew put it “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart” and that is what all our committee members, past and present have demonstrated, the heart to be change agents. If you would like to be part of our A-mazing team of volunteers, please do get in touch with us (Page 5, 6 & 15).

We hope you will enjoy this special “Covid 19 edition” of our Summit Newsletter as we all get to unwind after the whirlwind year that was 2020 and look forward to new beginnings .

Yankho Banda - CESA YPF National Chairperson & A-M Consulting Engineers

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR



2020 has certainly been a roller-coaster of a year for the entire world. Some of us lost loved ones and some of us even got ill. The anxiety of leaving our homes for any reason, a simple task like going to the shops has become a thought out or dreaded process. Remote working and learning, webinars and online workshops, Zoom and Teams meetings, all of the above are definitely here to stay and we should embrace this new normal by finding ways to be innovative and creative in our own spaces.

As the year draws to a close, I reflect on my own journey with CESA YPF and wow it has been awesome! Challenging at times but overall, it has been great! Co-ordinating activities around the country; organising Lekgotlas, the annual CESA YPF

Imbizo and CESA YPF leadership seminars are amongst the highlights of the host of activities that I have had the privilege to spearhead, not forgetting that I had a wonderful EXCO and National Committee to work with. Opportunities like attending the CESA conferences, the GAMA and FIDIC conferences, being speaker, facilitator and having a fundamental role at the YP congresses at the international events have grown me. Being a member of the CESA Board has definitely taught and shown me how our industry decision makers have mountainous tasks set out for them. It has been an honour to serve as a Board member and represent our youth in the decisions and deliberations that have taken place during my term.

I gained an extended family in the form of the team at CESA. Every single person at the CESA office has been a contributor to the successes achieved during my term. I would like to specifically thank Engr. Chris Campbell, Ann-Marie Kelly, Engr. Lynne Pretorius, Engr. Neresh Pather and Godfrey Ramalisa. Each one of these individuals played a tremendous role during my term as CESA YPF National Chairperson and Immediate Past Chairperson. I have been encouraged to push myself out of my limits, motivated to do so knowing that my role at CESA afforded me an opportunity to be amongst some of the greatest people in the engineering industry, not only in South Africa but around the world. The time has come for me to take a bow and one can only move forward and up from here, but I know that CESA YPF is in good hands. We have an amazing group of Future Leaders who are continuing to do great things amidst all the challenges that life is currently throwing at us. I know they will carry the spirit of volunteerism, continue to fly the CESA flag high around the globe and achieve great things.

“I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” Albert Schweitzer

Best regards,

Amanda Masondo-Mkhize - CESA YPF Immediate Past Chairperson & MPAMOT



YPF

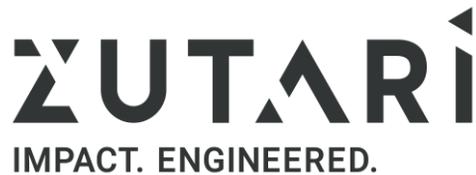
Young Professionals Forum

<http://www.cesa.co.za/ypf>

OUR SPONSORS

THANK YOU

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YPF

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KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE & BRANCH CHAIRS

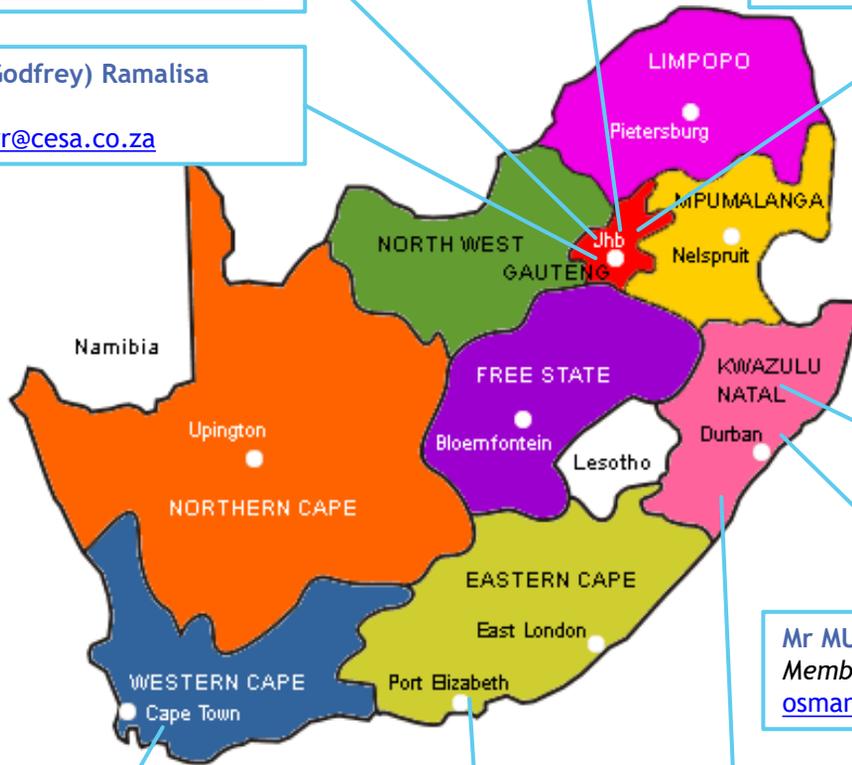
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Mr N (Nurudeen) Nieftagodien
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YPF

Young Professionals Forum

<http://www.cesa.co.za/ypf>

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE & BRANCH CHAIRS

YPF Branch Chairpersons

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VACANT

VACANT

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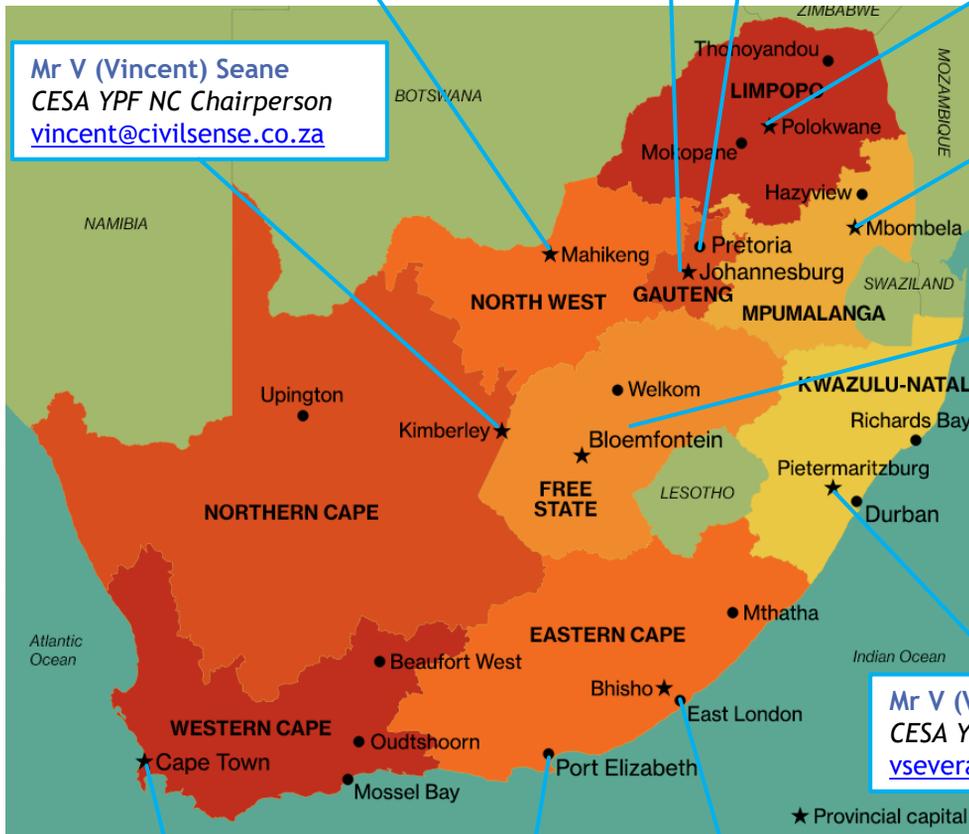
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Mr N (Nurudeen) Nieftagodien
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YPF

Young Professionals Forum

<http://www.cesa.co.za/ypf>

FUTURE LEADERS CORNER

Covid-19 lessons: Earlier this year, we asked a few of our future leaders to share their lockdown experiences.

Renee Petersen is a Traffic Technologist employed by SMEC South Africa, Cape Town and the current CESA YPF National Vice Chairperson. Renee started attending virtual Zumba classes and tried making a new food dish at least once a week during lockdown. Renee has developed an appreciation for working from home and has become to the possibilities of employees having the choice to mix up their work week by alternating between working at the office and working at home. This would allow one to choose the most optimal environment specifically when focus is required to meet deadlines.

60 seconds Spotlight :-

CESA YPF: How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected you both personally and professionally?

RP: Initially the adjustment was difficult especially considering that my office is big on department socialising. I missed being able to interact with fellow colleagues especially during our morning coffee runs. We kept the “Gees” going by having virtual interactions but nothing beats face to face interaction. On the positive side, reduced travelling time and expenses have been welcomed since my journey to work can take up to an hour in traffic. I have come to enjoy the flexibility of working from home despite sometimes having to resist the urge to burn the midnight oil; switching off is equally important.

CESA YPF: What do you appreciate more as a result of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions?

RP: The freedom to move around, human interaction and quality time with family.

CESA YPF: What keeps you motivated during this time?

RP: Looking back and seeing all the times things have worked themselves out and believing this time it will be no different. *“Man never made any material as resilient as the human Spirit.” ~ Bern Williams*



Working from home



Uzair Osman is a Civil Engineer employed by Bosch Projects, KwaZulu Natal and is a member of the National EXCO. Uzair enjoys collecting coins and as a result of the lockdown, has realised that working from home is just as productive and beneficial; and one can go into the office for resources not available at home like printing or for key activities such as meetings

60 seconds Spotlight :-

CESA YPF: How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected you both personally and professionally?

UO: I believe coming from a small town and having enjoyed staying home, it was easy

for me to have a positive outlook and embrace the lockdown. However, due to the lack of / slow roll-out of work as well as the increase in infections (second wave), it raises new concerns and challenges. Personally, as a Muslim, having to celebrate Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr without congregating and sharing food as family and friends was different however, I have gotten much better at chores around the house!

CESA YPF: What do you appreciate more as a result of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions?

UO: My parents and other loved ones that we missed during strict lockdown period.

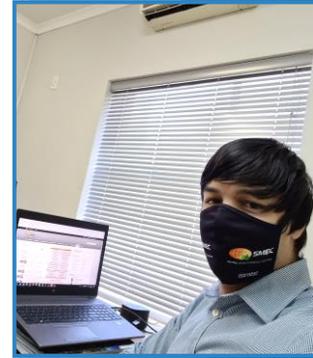
CESA YPF: What keeps you motivated during this time?

UO: We do this for our people, we do this for our country, we do this for all our future. One day this will be over, and we can live adapted and well drilled, because something worse may come soon, where there will be no time for complacency.

FUTURE LEADERS CORNER

Covid-19 lessons: Earlier this year, we asked a few of our future leaders to share their lockdown experiences.

Nurudeen Nieftagodien is a Design and Urban Development Technologist employed by SMEC South Africa, Port Elizabeth (PE). Nurudeen currently serves as the CESA YPF National Deputy Secretary and Eastern Cape - PE branch Chairperson. Nurudeen has developed an appreciation of the opportunity presented by Covid-19 for less rigid working environments especially considering he will be a first time dad too! However despite the flexibility he is cognisant that there are certain work aspects that require one to be in the office, such as obtaining decisions on designs, reviewing of drawings and physical meetings. He also feels that work hours are quite blended, with one often working more



60 seconds Spotlight :-

CESA YPF: How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected you both personally and professionally?

NN: The pandemic hasn't had a major impact on a personal level apart from the restriction of movement and the underlying fear of contracting the virus. From a professional perspective the effects were more noticeable with construction sites closing, limited approvals from authorities, lack of roll-out of new projects and progression on projects being slowed down. There has also been a major change in invoices being paid. The contribution of all the aforementioned problems has resulted in some colleagues in the industry taking salary cuts and being retrenched. I've been fortunate to have not been affected by the latter.

CESA YPF: What do you appreciate more as a result of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions?

NN: Spending more time with my family.

CESA YPF: What keeps you motivated during this time?

NN: Motivation from colleagues and the general resilience of the human race. This too shall pass.

Dikeledi Maboja is a Civil Engineer employed by Royal Haskoning DHV who currently serves as the CESA YPF National Secretary and Gauteng South branch Chairperson. Dikeledi tries to keep healthy, but admits that her sweet tooth is the enemy of progress! Dikeledi notes that the pandemic is forcing many to develop different routines, as both work and personal life are intertwined in the same environment. She admits this was a daunting experience, but thanks to the easing of the lockdown regulations she believes she will find the balance again. Dikeledi also notes that a change in environment helps with productivity, and some work is easier to perform in an office environment with the entire project team present and no network issues to interrupt progress.

60 seconds Spotlight:-

CESA YPF: How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected you both personally and professionally?

DM: At RHDHV we have always been able to work from home, but due to covid-19 working from home fulltime has been a bit more challenging. Living and working in the same space can seem like you never leave work, and so a new "work-life balance" or routine is required. I have not mastered this yet, but I am slowly adjusting.

CESA YPF: What do you appreciate more as a result of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions?

DM: Time. We tend to think that we have all the time in the world to do certain things or achieve our goals. Truth is, all we have is the present. If you have the means, make that change now.

CESA YPF: What keeps you motivated during this time?

DM: Knowing that this will not last forever! We adapt and move on.

EVENTS



INFRASTRUCTURE **Indaba** Engineering the Future now!

Date: 11 - 12 March 2020

Venue: Spier Conference Centre,
Stellenbosch

By: Renee Petersen - CESA YPF National Vice Chairperson & SMEC South Africa, Cape Town

The infrastructure Indaba was hosted in the Western Cape on the 11th and 12th of March at the Spier Wine Estate Conference Centre in Stellenbosch. The aim of the Indaba was to build partnerships between the public and private sectors especially the engineering industry and to align service delivery by development of common goals. The event was attended by delegates from all parts of South Africa, packing the venue to the brim. The Indaba was rich with a various speaker, from the government as well as the private sector, providing valuable input and insight on how the Engineering industry can contribute towards pushing the country forward through infrastructure.

On the first day the speakers focussed on willingness to collaborate between the different sectors while day two saw topics such as gender equality and transformation in the built environment.

Other talks included the issue of consulting fees that are coupled with discounts to secure work. However, these discounts usually put a strain on the same consultants who are still expected to deliver high-quality work at a loss or risk to them. In addition, tools were provided to the attendees on how to work smarter as well as providing continuity on projects and how manage identified risks.

The first day ended with all the attendees being spoilt to a scrumptious dinner whilst further networking and engaging on all the information from an action packed day. A special thank you to all the sponsors and the attendees, but most of all to the Young Professionals who understand that this is their conversation too.



YPF

Young Professionals Forum

<http://www.cesa.co.za/ypf>

EVENTS



CESA Youth Best Practice Webinar: Leadership and Management

Presented in partnership with: **AON**



The event was initiated by CESA in 2019 with the aim specifically being to close the skills gaps in the engineering environment through empowering our youth. Hosted as a series of seminars, underlying the reach is the philosophy that sharing of unique experiences by senior consulting engineers will result in more informed young professionals who will make informed choices, either to grow within the firm of their employment or to start their own consulting engineering firm.

Three (3) broad topics have been identified within the seminars to enable different leaders / speakers to relate their own life stories and expertise coupled with best practices and volunteerism. These topics are:

- Engineering, Business and Entrepreneurship;
- Engineering and Career Options and
- the Young Professionals Forum (YPF).

It is in the spirit of the NDP Vision 2030's theme 'Our future - make it work', that we invite Senior Consulting Engineers to invest in our youth and the development of SA's consulting engineering skills that are critical to the elimination of poverty, reduction of inequality, creation of jobs and improvement of livelihoods and economic growth.

Despite the format of the Seminars being changed from one day face-to-face events to 2 hour virtual events due to Covid-19 restrictions, four (4) successful sessions were hosted as per the schedule on the right. Thank you to all the Senior professionals who have given valuable insight and allowed CESA to "thuma mina" to empower our Future Leaders.

THEME	DATE
My Engineering Career	30 June 2020
Business of Engineering	24 July 2020
My Engineering Career	20 August 2020
Business of Engineering	10 September 2020



EVENTS



8TH CESA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SUSTAINABILITY IMBIZO 2020

Schedule: 29 September, 16 October, 6 & 27 November, and 10 December 2020



By: Uzair Osman - CESA YPF EXCO Member & Bosch Projects

2020 presented the YPF with a new challenge - that of ensuring the Sustainability Imbizo takes place under the current lockdown conditions also known as the “new normal”. A decision was made to convert the 2-day conference into 4 webinars hosted every month from September to December 2020. Despite this year being the year of the

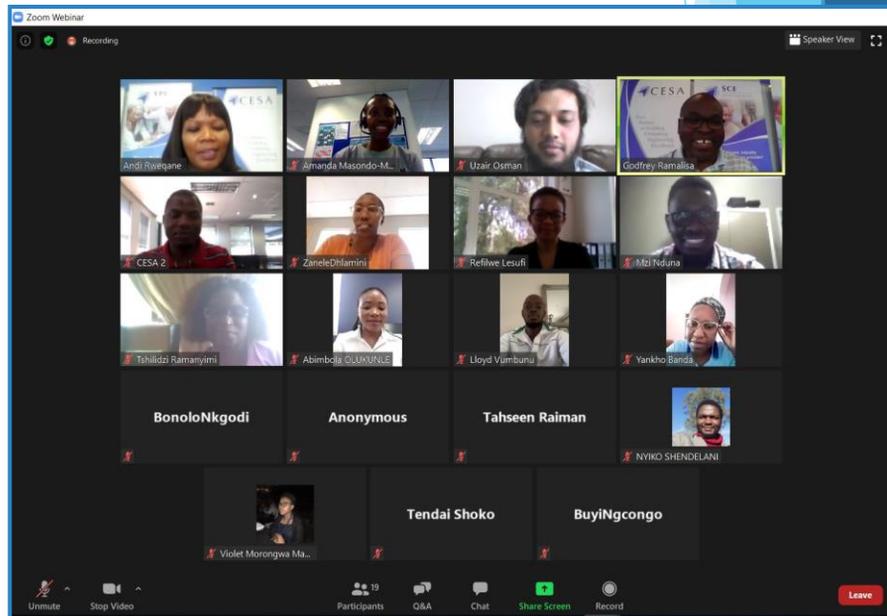
webinars, the Imbizo ALWAYS has that magic and that was not going to be an exception with the online platform. Under the topic of *Sustaining the Future of Engineering*, sessions looked at the Role of Future Leaders, Relationships of the Future, Engineering in general and the impact on the Environment.

Various speakers, both Future Leaders and seasoned professionals, like CESA president Mr Sugun Pillay, CESA YPF National Vice Chairperson Renee Relationship expert John Smallwood, CESA young Engineer of the Year Dr Lloyd Fisher-Jeffes, Founder of Aspire Consulting Engineers Zeenat Ghoor and director of Khweza Environmental Consultants Nazeer Jamal amongst others engaged the audience on a variety of issues affecting Young Professionals in the EBE industry over three (3) sessions.

With only one session out of four remaining, the last session which will be held on **10 December 2020 at 12:30**, will focus on Engineering Management, Ethics, Politics and Activism presented by SMEC SA Eastern Cape Regional Manager Johnathan Ellis, Director of ProEthics Advocate Simoné van Helsdingen as well as political analyst and media personality Victor Kgomoewana.

The CESA YPF who like to thank all speakers as well as those who contributed to making these webinars a success. A special thank you also goes to our CESA YPF Imbizo 2020 sponsors; PPS, AON and DBSA.

To those who have attended our past three virtual sessions, we thank you and welcome feedback on our first attempt of hosting the CESA YPF Imbizo online as we also wish to improve seeing as this is an avenue that could be with us for a while. So, if you wish to contribute, learn more about the Imbizo or join us for the last session, please contact Uzair Osman on the following email address osmanm@boschprojects.co.za.



EVENTS



CESA AON
ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
2020

11 November 2020 | 5pm

 **CESA**
Consulting Engineers South Africa



CESA AON
ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
2020

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

 **CESA**
Consulting Engineers South Africa



CATEGORY WINNERS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS:

Mentoring Company of the Year Award:

Winner: Naidu Consulting
Commendation: Nathoo Mbenyane Engineers

Mentor of the Year Award:

Pierre Cronje (Naidu Consulting)

Young Engineer of the Year Award: (Joint Winners)

Mr Yolán Pillay (SMEC South Africa)
Dr Lloyd Fisher-Jeffes (Zutari)



YPF

Young Professionals Forum

<http://www.cesa.co.za/ypf>

EVENTS - BRANCHES

When the year 2020 began, the various YPF Branches had plans to either keep the momentum that has been going and further extend their reach within their province or to revive their branches that had somehow become dormant. This was to be done through an array of events but due to the nationwide lockdown in March 2020 and the subsequent restrictions that were gradually lifted, the various branch Chairpersons and their committees had to get creative with how they engage with their members. Below are some of the events held by National and some of the branches:

NATIONAL

These were the other activities held by the National Committee virtually:

Event	Date
Wellness Interact Workshop in association with the CESA Gender Diversity Forum	20 - 24 April 2020
Personal Financial Wellness Workshop in association with PPS	14 May 2020
FIDIC Future Leaders Webinar Series	June 2020
67 Minutes of Mentoring	18 July 2020

WESTERN CAPE

These were the activities held by the branch virtually:

Event	Date
Quiz Night 1	30 July 2020
Quiz Night 2	08 October 2020
Financial Talk	15 October 2020
Quiz Night 3	24 November 2020
Road to Registration	10 December 2020

GAUTENG SOUTH

These were the activities held by the branch virtually:

Event	Date
YPF Gauteng South Quiz Night 1	09 July 2020
N2 Wild coast Highway Technical Talk in collaboration with KP	03 September 2020
YPF Gauteng South Quiz Night 2 in collaboration with Mariswe	01 October 2020
Substation Design Fundamentals Technical Talk in collaboration with Bigen	22 October 2020
Professional talk in collab with Zitholele: CPI index for Engineers and what one should look for in a mentor	01 December 2020
YPF Gauteng South "Brain of 2020" Quiz	07 December 2020



YPF

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EVENTS - BRANCHES

KWA-ZULU NATAL

Young Einstein's Math Workshop 2020

By: Raksha Balraj (CESA YPF KZN Treasurer & MCPM)

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"~ Nelson Mandela

Many careers demand a high understanding of mathematics (Math), and for the Grade 11's, who have big dreams, it is imperative that they excel in Math. The KZN branch has identified the Young Einstein's Math Workshop, now in its 5th year running, as a brilliant initiative to ensure these future stars achieve this dream.

To date, the workshop has assisted ±60 disadvantaged Grade 11 learners from Margot Fonteyn Secondary School in Klaarwater with tutors comprising volunteers from CESA member firms and students from UKZN Howard College representing engineers without borders. This year, tutors sacrificed three (3) hours on Saturday, 15th February to travel out and teach math as a part of the CESA-YPF's mandate, which is to make a difference, while promoting engineering as a career. Tutors also had the opportunity to advise learners regarding their future career and tertiary studies. CESA KZN generously sponsored yummy healthy snacks for the learners for this session.



Due to the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) escalating into a global pandemic, school districts all over the world made the difficult decision to shut their doors—forcing an abrupt and nearly universal shift to distance learning that proved disruptive for teachers, students, and parents alike. As a result, the branch took a decision to cancel the rest of the sessions planned for the year for health concerns of students and tutors.

Despite the challenges, the branch would like to acknowledge the fantastic job done by Raksha, Uzair and their team of tutors for the time and effort contributed to the futures of these learners. A thank you also deserves to go to the CESA member firms that continuously sponsor sessions as these are truly appreciated by the learners.

If you are interested in participating or sponsoring this event, please do not hesitate to contact the CESA YPF KZN branch Chairperson or email osmanm@boschprojects.co.za.



These were the activities held by the branch virtually:

Event	Date
Professional Registration Workshop Launch	14 September 2020
First Financial Friday's webinar session	23 October 2020

COMMUNICATION ALLEY

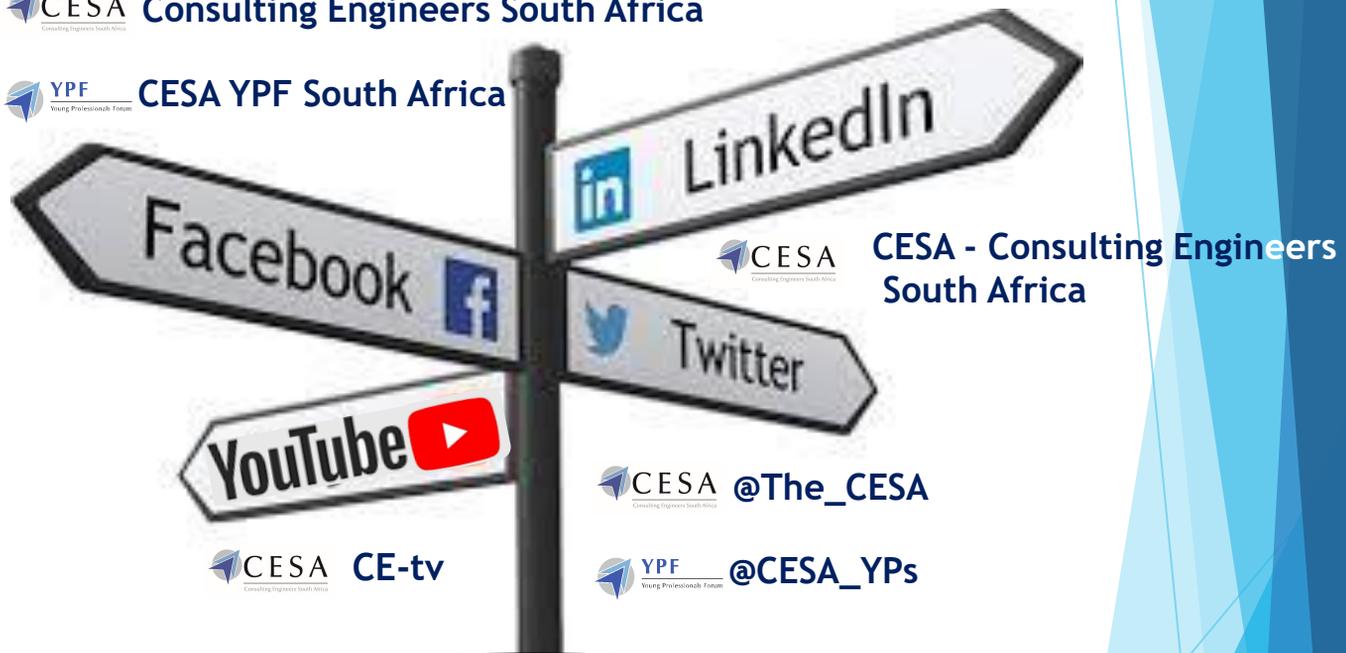
Talk to us

If you would like to contribute an opinion piece article on any 'Burning Issue', please contact the Chairperson on ybanda@amce.co.za

Also feel free to give us a shout, compliment or suggestions on any of the following social media platforms:

 **CESA Consulting Engineers South Africa**

 **CESA YPF South Africa**



TO JOIN:

<http://www.cesa.co.za/node/105>

Open to professionals in the private
(Consulting Engineering) and public
(non-consulting) sector



YPF

Young Professionals Forum

<http://www.cesa.co.za/ypf>

MARKETING

SAVE THE DATE
3-4 MARCH 2021

INFRASTRUCTURE
Indaba
Engineering the Future
2021

CESA will host its annual Infrastructure Indaba from 3-4 March 2021.

The two-day session brings together leading experts including government officials, consulting engineers and built environment professionals for the purpose of improved delivery and management of public infrastructure.

The event aims to:

- Foster partnerships between government and the private sector, particularly the engineering sector;
- Capacitate the channels of service delivery through cooperation and the development of common goals and
- Provide a platform to engage, network and share best practice required for improved service delivery within the built environment.

The 2021 CESA Infrastructure Indaba (#CESAIndaba) has been validated for ECSA CPD credits.



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<http://www.cesa.co.za/ypf>

MARKETING



SCE

School of Consulting Engineering

EXCEL IN THE FIELD OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING

with the:

Business of Consulting Engineering Development Programme

If you are serious about a career in consulting engineering, then you should enrol for the CESA Business of Consulting Engineering (BCE) Development Programme. Likewise, if you are an employer of consulting engineers, you should be availing key staff members on the programme. Better still, consider attending yourself!

Rise to the Top of Your Profession!

The programme focuses on developing non-technical skills, essential for a career in consulting engineering, but not part of normal tertiary engineering education including the:

- Project Delivery Process
- Consulting Engineering Environment
- Business and Project Finance
- Legal and Contractual Matters
- Inter-personal Skills

"BCE – Developed by the Industry – For the Industry"

- Prepare young talent in the organisation to be legitimately fast tracked into future leaders in the company
- Young professionals will acquire a more comprehensive understanding of the consulting engineering environment and the entrepreneurial side of the business
- Develop and upskill the young engineers you already have, limiting risk and yielding a pool of dynamic young professionals.

BCE Development Programme includes:

- One afternoon class, consisting of two of three lectures
- Over 35 topics presented by 15 Subject Matter Experts
- Access and use of the CESAnet student portal
- Individual student facilitator's support
- Training Material, including the manual the 'Role of the Consulting Engineer during Project Delivery'
- The Assessing and Moderating of Assignments, Individual Feedback, and exams
- 15 CESA CPD credits, claimable on the company's SETA WSP/NTR submission and B-BBEE Construction Sector Scorecard.

The BCE programme demands a lot of hard work and commitment, but the rewards make it all worthwhile!

Tel: +27 11 463 2022

Email: sce@cesa.co.za

www.cesa.co.za/bce

PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN



CESA YPF ENCOURAGES ALL FUTURE LEADERS TO

**STAY
HOME**



SAVE SOUTH AFRICA



AND BE PART OF THE SOLUTIONS BEING IMPLEMENTED.



YPF

Young Professionals Forum

<http://www.cesa.co.za/ypf>