

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

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- **NCC: Aims and Objectives**

- To unify the construction Industry, to promote its well being, to strive to create a profitable environment for its constituents, and to establish a united national platform encompassing formal and informal sectors of the industry and its professions
- To contribute to the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of Zambia and the uplifting of all its people
- To promote and advance the status and public recognition of NCC, its members and the construction industry
- To promote encourage, support or oppose any legislation or other measures affecting the industry
- To address macro issues affecting the industry
- To co-ordinate, improve and facilitate the accessibility of training
- To strive, achieve, monitor and maintain the highest possible standards in the construction industry
- To add and amend these objects from time to time as decided upon by the National Council

WHERE IS LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING UNDER ROADSIP? ASKS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

The RoadSIP 2000 workshop was held at the Pamodzi Hotel on the 17 and 18th February 2000. The Workshop which was organised by the National Roads Board (NRB) with a view to “disseminating the Road Sector Programme (ROADSIP) work Programme for the year 2000, the procedures and responsibilities of each stakeholder to ensure the work programme is implemented effectively”. The Workshop was very well organised and attended.

The Minister of Transport and Communications, Hon. Prof. Nkandu Luo officially opened the workshop on the 17th February 2000. The Workshop was also attended by Permanent Secretaries from the other line Ministries and from the provinces. Participants were drawn from a cross section of stakeholders

and came from around the whole country.

A number of papers were presented, including one from the NCC, which was on the theme, Local Construction industry development: Programme and Procedures. The NCC paper was prepared by the RoadSIP Sub-committee, headed by Mr. Bwalya Lumbwe and presented by the Executive Secretary. The ambiguous title notwithstanding, the NCC paper centered on the concerns and problems faced by most of our local consultants and contractors in actively participating in the RoadSIP programme. If the reaction of the participants is anything to go by, then the NCC paper was well received.

The question of local capacity building through RoadSIP was one issue that kept coming time and

time. Most participants, if not all that made submissions kept on hammering on the lack of support from RoadSIP to encourage local construction companies.

The workshop could not, however, agree on the definition of a local construction firm. An earlier motion to define local construction firm as one owned by indigenous Zambians was defeated and removed at the very last stage of the Workshop resolutions stage, for “having racial connotations. The removal of this motion did not however, help in resolving the problem. If we are always talking of local construction firms, we need to define who these are.

We hope that the NCC with your help, will very soon come up with a working definition of what is a local construction firm.

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF MALAWI VISITS ZAMBIA

Mr. Zingano, a member of the National Construction Industry Council of Malawi (NCICM) was recently in the country to study our (Secretariat) operations, structure and funding arrangements. Malawi is also moving towards having a full time (NCIC) secretariat, hence

the visit by Mr. Zingano to this country. His mission was to learn from our experiences.

It will be noted, that although Malawi has long had an Act of Parliament (1996) to back the creation of their National Construction Indus-

try Council, they have not had a full time secretariat.

We also took the opportunity to learn from Mr. Zingano, Malawi's experiences in having an Act of Parliament to support their Construction Council's activities.

SIZ CALLS FOR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

“As a lobby organisation, the NCC is just another waste of time, it must have teeth to be effective in this industry. We don’t want any more NGOs, we have too many already”

“Next time you orgainse a workshop like this, please don’t give speakers 3-5 minutes, what do you expect them to say in that time? They just introduce themselves and the time is up, and then you expect as to ask them questions”

-President-Pedestrian and Cyclist Association of Zambia Speaking at the RoadSIP 2000 workshop

The Surveyors Institute of Zambia (SIZ) has called upon its members to uphold professional ethics in the construction industry. Speaking during a one day professional ethics seminar held at the Professional Centre, on 16th February 2000, SIZ President: Mr. Alfred Kasito called upon his members to resist the temptations that the new World economic order had brought about and stick to their professional ethics in their business dealings.

Three papers were presented at this same seminar. Presenters were Mr. Martin Kalungu-Banda-Lecturer at

UNZA, Mr. Musonda S. Kasase-Chairman, Valuation Surveyors Registration Board and Mr. Fred S. Mtamira-Partner, Peter Richards and Partners.

The three papers presented were all very worthwhile, and tended to complement each other. Mr. Kalungu-Banda touched on the theoretic framework of professional ethics, while those from Mr. Mtamira and Mr. Kasase touched very much of the practical aspects of professional ethics in the surveying field.

The only unfortunate drawback about this seminar was

that the seminar was **apparently** meant or restricted to SIZ members only. I am sure that the unregistered “professionals” and other allied professionals in the industry will have found this seminar very beneficial.

It was equally disappointing to note that even among the surveyors in Lusaka, very few were able to attend this very important seminar

A question was asked, “Why should we stick to professional ethics and conduct, when it is very clear that “cowboys”out there, are not? **Answer**, ..but that is what differentiates us from them

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELEASES ITS 2000 MAINTENANCE AND FUNDING PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Local Government and Housing has released its 2000 road sector strategy. The programme covers both feeder and Urban roads.

REEDER ROADS.

Priority 1: Routine maintenance of all rehabilitated roads and those in good condition (3,119Km costing

US\$1.278m).

Priority 2:: Contingency for emergency works (US\$0.432m).

Priority 3: Periodic maintenance of a limited number of roads in fair condition (1,295Km costing US\$5.181m).

URBAN ROADS

Priority 1: Routine maintenance of all rehabilitated roads and those in good condition (2,200Km costing US\$2.97m).

Priority 2: Contingency for emergency works (US\$1.04m).

Priority 3: Holding maintenance of a limited number of roads in poor condition to arrest further deterioration (3,300km costing US\$2.32m).

ILLEGAL USE OF FOREIGN LABOUR BY FOREIGN CONTRACTORS IRK ABCEC

The Association of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors (ABCEC) has written to the Chief Immigration Officer over the growing tendency by some foreign contractors to engage foreign labour, even when local labour is readily available. What is more, this foreign labour is brought into this country without following our immigration and labour laws.

It is important that the initia-

tive taken by the ABCEC is supported and reinforced by all affiliated bodies of the NCC. Whereas, the letter written by the ABCEC might suggest that the current trend is only to engage unskilled or semi-skilled labour, the reality on the ground is that even very skilled labour is involved in this vice. Only recently, the Zambia Institute of Architects, The Surveyors Institute of Zambia and the Association of

consulting Engineering in conjunction with the Engineers Registration Board have been meeting to strategise on how best to sort out this problem in the industry.

In the long term the answer lays in the NCC being turned into a statutory Body with powers to punish the offenders. However, urgent steps need to be taken now, otherwise there will be no industry to talk about in the long term.

NCC-PHI TIES STRENGTHENED

In an effort to strengthen local construction participation in the PHI projects, the NCC National Council members met with Mr. Richard Sakala, the Chairman of the Presidential Housing Initiative (PHI). The meeting was held at State House on the 16th February 2000 and was a continuation of the first one, which was held on the 7th January 2000.

Although, there is very little that can be done over the existing contracts that are already under-way, the

meeting did agree to forthwith co-operate in all future projects.

The meeting was told that PHI was planning on building 10,000 new housing units country wide, of which 1,200 will be in Lusaka. The rest of the units will be spread out to the rest of the country. We hope that the spreading of PHI projects to the rest of the country will further strengthen the industry in other parts of the country. An offer was also made to NCC to submit partnership

proposals to PHI on how best to incorporate local consultants and contractors on all future PHI housing projects. The National Council is currently studying this offer and will soon communicate to all its affiliate members of the same.

Proposals are also been worked out between the NCC and PHI on exchanging representatives on each others Board. Details will be released as soon as they become available.

FREDERICK CHILUBA CENTRE FOR DEMOCRATIC AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS STUDIES LAUNCHED

President Chiluba on Tuesday 15th February 2000 broke ground at the site for the proposed Frederick Chiluba Centre for Democratic and Industrial Relations Studies.

The Centre which will be built on the Great East opposite the junction with Katima Mulilo, will have space for offices, lecture theatres, confer-

ence rooms, banquets, seminar rooms archival materials, museum artifacts and a library.

The construction of this Centre will no doubt contribute to the promotion of the local construction industry. Mystery however, surrounds the choice of the Architects for this project.

Local Architects will again be wondering as to what they have to do to win the confidence of Government. On the contractor side, Sinetech is already on site, and preliminary site work is already underway.

We are not aware of who the Quantity Surveyors and Engineers are on this project.

SMALL SCALE CONTRACTORS TO FORM NATIONAL BODY

Small scale contractors around the country, took advantage of the recently held RoadSIP workshop at Pamodzi Hotel and came together to try and organise themselves into a National Body. Past attempts by the small Scale contractors to form a National Body have not materialised, hence the intervention of the NCC Secretariat. A meeting was thus called on Saturday the 19th

February 2000, at Ndilila Offices were an interim executive for (National) Small scale contractors Association was selected. The key mandate of the interim executive is to draw up a draft national constitution, after which it is expected that a national meeting will be called to adopt the constitution and elect an executive committee. Only then, will small scale contractors be able to speak with one voice

and affiliate to the NCC.

It is unfortunate to note, however, that most small scale contractors have no aspirations of moving into the "big league" or become middle or even large scale contractors. We want to believe that the small scale status is only but the beginning, and that these contractors will strive to eventually join the Association of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors.

I know that I will not be in State House next year because I will have served my two-five year-terms. If the law says you must go, you must respect it and go. Do not give excuses that people still want you to continue-President Chiluba speaking when he broke ground at the site

*Standing in the middle
of the road is very
dangerous; you get
knocked down by the
traffic from both sides-
Margaret Thatcher*

*We welcome joint
ventures with foreign
firms, but we are not
going to support or allow
partnerships of
convenience, where
Zambians are only given
tea making jobs.-Mr.
Levi Zulu-President
Association of
Consulting Engineers of
Zambia (ACEZ)*

WORKSHOP - PROCUREMENT ON WORLD BANK FINANCED PROJECTS

The national Council for Construction in conjunction with the World Bank will be conducting a Seminar/workshop on the theme: "Procurement on World Bank financed projects.

1. Objectives

To present an overview of World Bank procurement, guidelines and procedures relating to works and consultancy services.

2. Target Group

Contractors and consultants

3. Timing

28th March 2000 from
08:00hrs to 17:00hrs.

4. Venue

The Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka.

5. Seminar Content

Procurement Methods
Standard Bidding Documents
Evaluation Criteria and award
of contracts

Payments procedures and
Practices

Feedback from contractors
and consultants

6. Fees

Payment made before 15th
March - K100,000

Payment made after 15th
March 2000-K150,000

Participation fees cover the cost of materials, tea and lunch. Payments to be made at the National Council for Construction Offices, Bau House 1125 Parirenyatwa Road, Fairview, Lusaka.

Crossed Cheques to be made payable to the National Council for Construction.

Closing date for applications and payments: **24th March, 2000.**

For further details, please contact the Executive Secretary or the Conference Coordinator at the Secretariat.

FOREIGN AND LOCAL JOINT VENTURES MOST WELCOME, BUT...

The President of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Zambia, Mr. Levi Zulu has reiterated his Association's desire to go into joint ventures with foreign firms. He said that joint ventures were one way of transferring high technology from the developed to less developed countries like Zambia. He was, however, quick to point out that his association was not going to support or allow partnerships of convenience,

where Zambians were only given "tea making jobs".

Mr. Zulu was speaking at recently held RoadSIP 2000 workshop at the Pamodzi Hotel. Mr. Zulu's sentiments were shared by many participants who said that there was a tendency among some foreign construction firms to set up business under the above scheme, where the shares owned by Zambians were questionable. The NCC is

monitoring the situation, and will keep its readership informed.

Maybe the Engineers may want to consider the arrangement the Architects have, where all Joint Venture partnerships have to go through the Zambia Institute of Architects Council before approval of the partnership is given. What do others say, the NCC would like to hear from you, please write..

CONSTRUCTION MERIT AWARDS PROPOSED

Without rekindling the debate as to whether the millennium has started or not, wouldn't it be nice if we as an industry could have a construction Industry MERIT AWARDS NIGHT, where certificates and prizes could be given to deserving Architects, Surveyors, Engineers, and Contractors. The above event could obviously become an annual event, where deserving awards for the previous year could be given. For a start we would start with the millennium merit awards night for the past ended millennium.

With your support, the NCC secretariat will be willing to organise and scout for prizes and certificates. We want to hear from you, please forward your comments, suggestions and contributions to the NCC secretariat, soonest.

ZIA, SIZ AND ACEZ [ERB] TACKLING PROBLEM OF UNREGISTERED “PROFESSIONALS”

The Zambia Institute of Architects (ZIA), the Surveyors Institute of Zambia (SIZ) and the Association of Consulting Engineering of Zambia, (ACEZ) through the Engineer's Registration Board (ERB) have in the past few weeks been meeting to try and tackle the problem of unregistered “professionals” practicing in this country. The problem is two fold, on one hand, there are those local “cowboys” who without the pre-requisite qualifications and registration papers, set up offices and practice as construction professionals. On the other hand, there are those foreigners, who have foreign qualifica-

tions and may be experts in their own right, but are not registered with the appropriate professional bodies to practice in this country.

There is therefore need to bring this phenomenon to an end. We note that all-over the World and particularly within this region, there are very strict rules and regulations on who and how one sets up a construction or consultancy firm. Why then are our laws ignored or disrespected?

The NCC is also finalising submissions to the Investment Centre on the same subject matter, for it would seem that this is where the

whole problem starts.

In the same vein, the NCC is also finalising compilation of its data base on all construction related firms and personnel. It is expected that this same information will be placed on the internet and on hard copy, and given to all potential investors, donors and other key stakeholders.

Now is your chance to register with your professional body or trade association if you have not yet done so We also hope to co-ordinate this exercise with other regional NCC bodies through the Southern Africa Regional Construction Industry Council.

OBITUARY: PRABHAT PATHAK-ARCHITECT AND NCC MEMBER

The National Council for Construction (NCC) has lost one of its prominent National Council members: Mr. Prabhath Pathak aged 63 years. The late Mr. Pathak was born on the 14th November 1936 in Yeotmal in India. He went to school in the then State of Govalior, under the Maharajah of the state. Subse-

quently, he joined the Indian Institute of Technology Kahagpur, which is the oldest and most prestigious Institute in India. Mr. Pathak graduated with a honours degree and was first in the first batch of Indian Architects. He also had a Master of Science Degree in Architecture, which he obtained from the University

College of Dublin.

Mr. Pathak's Architectural career spanned forty three years, beginning as an Architectural Assistant at the Stein Chatterjee and Pol Joseph in India through to Nigeria, Libya, Australia and finally Zambia.

In Zambia, he worked his way *Continued on page 6.*

The whole point of getting things done is knowing what to leave undone-Lady Stella Reading

GOOD NEWS!-US\$12M EARMARKED FOR CAPACITY BUILDING UNDER ROADSIP II

As if to answer the question of local capacity building under RoadSIP I, US\$12m has been earmarked for local capacity building under RoadSIP II. According to the “Road Sector Investment Programme (RoadSIP 1997-20007) document, a total of US\$12m will be released to contractors, under the Contractor Development Fund, to assist small-scale contractors to purchase equipment needed for heavier

activities.

When asked as to how soon this fund will be made available, the NRB could only say, that this money was not available under RoadSIP I and that it will certainly be made available under RoadSIP II. The same document goes on make mention of a fund that will be made available to (other) contractors for the provision of equipment through leasing arrange-

ments. It is important to note, however, that no details have been worked out yet.

This therefore, is the right time for the concerned parties (contractors) to start lobbying and submitting their proposals. For example, what will be the interest rates under the leasing arrangement component, given the hire interest rates prevailing in Zambia? Contractors will certainly have to be given low rates, otherwise...

National Council for Construction

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We are now on E-mail, send
us your mail on
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*Helping to build the local construction
industry*



Organization

Continued from page 5

through from Senior Architect at the Government Buildings Department from 1971. In July 1977, he was promoted Chief Architect. In July 1979, he was re-appointed Chief Architect under the Commonwealth Secretariat, a position he held for 7 years.

In July 1985, he was seconded to the Government of Dominica, West Indies and was responsible for the development of a system of rules and regulations covering building codes for the Islands. April 1988 saw him back on the African Continent as Group Architect for Lonrho (Z) Ltd. In 1990, Mr. Pathak finally decided to start a Practice: BOPA Architects and Building Management Consultants with a Norwegian Partner, the late Mr. Tom Boardman. Since then, BOPA has taken on numerous projects big and small.

His professional membership included:

Zambia Institute of Architects-	President 1982-1984
India Institute of Architects -	1956 onwards
Architects and Quantity Surveyors	
Registration Board -	1978-1983
Council of Scientific Research -	Advisory Council
	Member (1977-1985)
	(Building) 1977-1985
Royal Commonwealth Society Institute -	1983 onwards

He also served as a member of the Round Table, the Zambia India Friendship Association, the Rotary Club of Lusaka Central and the Masonic Society/

May his soul Rest in Peace.

THINKING OF ORGANISING A WORKSHOP/ CONFERENCE/SEMINAR? THEN CONTACT NCC SECRETARIAT

The NCC, as part of its activities either on behalf of its members or for independent clients. Organises conferences, workshops and seminars on a variety of topics related to the Construction industry. Resource persons can be drawn if required from its membership of consultants, contractors and Government.

The NCC operates a full time secretariat which is currently situated at Bau House, Plot 1125, Parire-

yatwa road, Fairview.

The NCC also provides the following services; Photocopying, fax, e-mail, typing and internet facilities.

To organise a workshop/conference/seminar the independent client or member organization will have to:

Make a request in writing stipulating the type of service required

Pay a non-refundable commitment fee of US\$250

Contact persons:

Dr. M.S. Mashamba -
Executive Secretary :
235856/7763669

Francesca Imutowana,
Conference Co-
ordinator:
235856/761678