

# National Council for Construction

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## NEWSLETTER

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### Welcome

We wish to welcome all our members and readers to the year 2000 and indeed to our new monthly Newsletter. The main objective of this Newsletter is to provide latest and vital construction related information to all stakeholders and other interested parties.

We are hoping that by publishing this Newsletter, construction companies will be able to keep abreast of latest developments in our local and global industry. We however need your support in ensuring that the above objectives are met. Please send your articles, letters and other contributions to the NCC secretariat. We thank you in anticipation.

### Zambia's construction Industry grows by 11.2%

The Finance Minister, Hon. Dr. Katele Kalumba, announced in Parliament on Friday 28th January 2000, during his Budget address that, the construction industry in Zambia grew by 11.2% last year, compared to a decline of 10% in 1998.

This remarkable growth rate has been attributed to Government's road maintenance and construction activities, development of prime commercial real estate such as the Manda Hill project, housing construction under schemes such as the Presidential Housing Initiative (PHI).

Although a 11.2% annual growth rate for any sector of the economy is a remarkable achievement by any standards, there is still room for improvement. For example, there is need for Government to put in place measures that will ensure that local consulting and contracting are the main and direct beneficiaries of this remarkable growth rate. Unless, immediate steps are taken to ensure that the economic trickle down effects of the industry are passed on to Zambian firms and individuals, the long term sustainability of the industry may be lost.

The other worrying factor in this year's budget is the fact that the bulk of Government's capital Expenditure will be

financed by external or donor funds. This development will, therefore, mean that the execution of most capital projects will very much depend on the relationship between the Zambian Government and the donors, and not forgetting the sale of the remaining parts of ZCCM.

### **NCC secretariat now fully operational**

As most of you will probably be aware, the NCC secretariat is now fully operational, following the recruitment of the Executive Secretary, Conference Co-ordinator and an Office Secretary/documentalist (currently on temporary basis).

Affiliate organisations and Institutions are, therefore, urged to make full use of the NCC secretariat, for conferences, workshops, and seminars. Please, note that, the NCC charges a minimum fee for this service. For more details please see page 3.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### **SARCIC/SADC COLLABORATION**

The NCC President and Executive Secretary attended a one day Southern African Regional Construction Industry Council (SARCIC) meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa on the 8th November 1999. The meeting was called to review progress made since the first (Lusaka) SARCIC meeting of 1996 and to chart a new course for future SARCIC/SADC collaboration.. Eight countries were present at the Johannesburg meeting. The countries present were:

1. Botswana
2. Malawi
3. Mozambique
4. Namibia
5. South Africa
6. Swaziland
7. Zambia
8. Zimbabwe

Lesotho and Tanzania sent in their apologies.

It was agreed at the Johannesburg meeting that the next SARCIC meeting will be held in Lusaka-Zambia, sometime at the end of June 2000. Zambia will also be expected to hand over the SARCIC chairmanship to Zimbabwe at this same Lusaka meeting. Preparations are already underway for hosting of this very important meeting and event.

We expect to have a construction materials and services exhibition during the course of this meeting. Contractors and suppliers are, therefore, invited to apply for advertising space at this event. This will no doubt be a very profitable way of advertising your goods and services, thereby breaking into the Southern Africa construction market.

It is also important to remember that at the 1996 Lusaka meeting, the respective Construction Ministers in the region ratified a common framework for the construction industries of the region. The implementation of the common framework was (and still is) expected to

- Open the Construction markets in the region
- Level the playing fields for construction companies in different countries

- Encourage donors to standardise the procedures under which development projects are funded
- Facilitate the movement of construction resources, firms, and personnel within the region
- Contribute towards creating more equitable development in the region.

The Ministers went further to express their common intention to collaborate jointly to implement the following:

- Develop local construction economies and creating local employment
- Promoting skills and business education and training so as to provide transferable skills to ensure career development and the stimulation of micro-, small and medium enterprises.

#### **Meeting with Mr. Sakala-PHI**

National Council members of the NCC, led by its President, Dr. Ndilila held a meeting with Mr Sakala, the Chairman of the Presidential Housing Initiative (PHI) on the 7th January 2000 at State House. Also present at this meeting was Mr Mbao, the Chief Officer at PHI.

#### **The NCC National Council**

The National Council is the supreme policy making body of the NCC. Each affiliate member organisation of the NCC has a certain number of National Council members, as per constitution. Currently, the members are: The Executive Council made up of the President, two Vice Presidents and the Immediate Past President.

Zambia Institute of Architects (ZIA) two members, Surveyors Institute of Zambia

- Advocating the use of appropriate technology and the encouragement of labour-based construction and materials production.
- Ensuring end-user participation in the definition and implementation of construction work
- Negotiating a regional labour pact which would define minimum working conditions for construction labour in terms of the framework
- Co-operating in the sourcing of donor funds in order to ensure that benefits of the joint framework are shared throughout the region
- Negotiating regional co-operating agreements between professional Institutions for crossborder practising

A number of issues were raised, by your National Council concerning the operations of the PHI and the way forward. The meeting was however, not conclusive, hence a follow up meeting has been set for 11th February 2000. More in the next Newsletter.

(SIZ) two members, Association of Consulting Engineers in Zambia (ACEZ) two members, Association of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors (ABCEC) three members Government of the Republic of Zambia Ministry of Works and Supply (GRZ-MWS) three members.

## **Thinking of organising a Workshop/seminar?**

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.

To organise a workshop/conference/seminar the independent client or the member organisation will have to:  
make a request in writing, stipulating the type of service required  
Pay a non refundable commitment fee of US\$250

Please be advised that the NCC will charge 10% (administrative Cost) of the actual total cost of the Workshop/conference/seminar budget.

For further details, please contact the Conference Co-ordinator, Ms. Imutowana on 235856 or 761678

## **CONSTRUCTION FORUM**

The NCC in conjunction with the ZIA will be running Construction Fora, at which topical matters in the construction industry will be discussed. We have made tentative arrangements with the Pamodzi Hotel for the holding of these fora at the Hotel. It is envisaged that politicians, professionals and prominent citizens will be invited from time to time to give talks at this forum.

## **NCC on the Internet**

The NCC has bought space on the internet, and is now asking all its affiliates to assist in developing our web page further. We hope the NCC web-

page will have all the information of its affiliate members.

We further hope to put on the internet, the directory of firms and individuals in the Zambian Construction, once we finish compiling the directory.

## **National Council meets with the Hon. Minister for works and supply**

In its continued effort to improve the business environment in which our members operate in, the National Council has been having meetings with the Minister of Works and Supply and his two deputies. Notable issues that have been discussed include the issues of:

- the lack of access to capital
- Unfair foreign competition
- Unfavourable Tendering procedures
- Delay by Government in implementing projects

With the members support, the National Council for Construction is determined to exert the necessary pressures to help put in place measures to strengthen the consulting and contracting industry. The growing partnership between the National Council for Construction, the National Roads Board, the Ministry of Works and Supply and the other line ministries is bound to bring consolidated efforts in achieving positive results in strengthening the local construction and consulting industry.

## **Association for Small Scale Labour Based Road Contractors to form a National Association**

In its continued effort to broaden membership, the NCC secretariat has made contacts with the two known Association for Small Scale Labour

Based Road Contractors. The only two known Small Scale labour based Road Contractor associations are from the Eastern Province and the other that combines Lusaka and Southern Provinces. A national association has been proposed, and we now await the formation of a national association which should join the NCC. The NCC is, however, very worried at the slow pace this re-organisation/formation is taking.

**Forth coming events:**

**RoadSIP Seminar**

The NRB will be holding a RoadSIP seminar on the 17th and 18th February 2000, at the Pamodzi Hotel. Participation fees have been pegged at K150,000 per participant. For bookings and other details please contact Mr. Mabenga of the NRB or contact him on Tel; 253145.

**COMESA and Free Trade Area Seminar**

COMESA will be holding a COMESA and Free Trade Area Seminar at the Pamodzi Hotel on the 8th February 2000, starting from 9:00hrs to 16:0hrs. Any of our affiliate members wishing to attend should contact the NCC Executive Secretary at the NCC secretariat.

**ZIA, SIZ and EIZ form joint action against unregistered "professionals" in Zambia**

The Zambia Institute of Architects (ZIA), Surveyors Institute of Zambia (SIZ), and the Engineering Institute of Zambia (EIZ) through the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) have been meeting to try and tackle the problem of the influx of unregistered 'Professionals' in Zambia. Our members will no doubt have noticed that there are current a lot of individuals both locals and foreigners

calling or doing the work of professionals in our industry.

**The Current NCC National Council**

President:	F. M. Ndilila (Dr)
Vice President:	A. Luring
Vice President	R. Jhala
ZIA	M. Mungandi
ZIA	P. Pathak
SIZ	F. Mtamira
SIZ	R. Mwanza
ACEZ	I. Miller
ACEZ	J. Kaluwa
ABCEC	B. Lumbwe
ABCEC	I. Smart
ABCEC	P. Turner
MWS (HQ)	B. Kaonga (Ms)
MWS (Roads)	E. M. Chilundika
MWS (Buildings)	T. Hamane
Executive Secretary	S. Mashamba (Dr)

**The Optimist sees opportunity in every danger; the pessimist see danger in every opportunity- Winston Churchill**

Please send your contributions to the above address marked "The Editor"  
**Deadline for articles in the next issue: 20th February 2000.**  
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