

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

LOCAL CONTRACTING FIRMS COME UNDER SEVERE PUBLIC CRITICISM



Zambian Contractors: Is there any hope of restoring their image?

This month we turn our attention to the severe public criticism that has been leveled on our local contracting firms, particularly those owned and run by indigenous Zambians. Our local contractors have come under severe criticism for alleged poor workmanship, especially in the roads sub sector. Indeed some of this criticism is very genuine, although some of it is totally baseless and without merit. In terms of contractor performance, there are basically three types of contractors: 1. The Good; being those that perform to client satisfaction 2. The

bad; being those that genuinely want to perform to client satisfaction but fail for various reasons and lastly 3. The ugly; these are the unscrupulous men and women who set out from the outset to con their unsuspecting clients.

In the context of this feature article, which centers on the poor workmanship of our local contractors, there is nothing much to say about those of our local contractors who perform accordingly. It is however, important to note that those construction firms that excel are those that have invested adequately in capital, human

resources and time.

There is also the other group of our local contracting firms that genuinely would want to satisfy their clients but fail owing to a number of both internal and external factors. Among the external factors, we note that non payment of interim certificates by clients, especially by the Government is the major reason that has lead to many of our local contractors failing to satisfactorily execute their works. What is worse, is the fact that when Government fails to honour these certificates, the general public and

Turn to page two

LOCAL CONTRACTING FIRMS COME UNDER SEVERE PUBLIC CRITICISM

“He who would accomplish little must sacrifice little; he who would accomplish much must sacrifice much.”

James Allen

From page one

especially our politicians blame the contractors for non completion of works. It should also be noted that there is also a lot of vandalism on our public infrastructure in this country. For example, culverts and other road furniture have been known to be stolen during and after the construction period and yet the public still expects the contractor to keep replacing these from his pocket!. Some of the internal factors that lead to failures by our local contractors include among others their failure to employ competent and qualified key personnel. For instance, there is a growing tendency among most local construction firms to be family business, whereby all the key positions are filled by family members without any relevant qualifications and experience. Consequently, therefore, most of these companies have no economic basis for bidding for the jobs they tender for. When, one looks at their bids, you find that their contract bid was far below what it would take to professionally execute the works, let alone make a profit. When they realise that they had grossly under bid for the job, they then start to make “corners”, thus compromising the standards of their workmanship or resort to buying poor or sub standard materials.

It is equally important at this juncture, to mention that the supervising officers are equally to blame

for accepting this sub standard work and recommending for their payment. Ideally, contractors that have failed to match the recommended levels of workmanship and competence should be cautioned and not be paid for the bad works, and yet time and time we hear and see that contractors are paid for unsatisfactory works.

Lastly, we have among our midst the unscrupulous “contractors” who simply set out from the outset with the motive of conning their unsuspecting clients. These are contractors who use sub-standard materials, unqualified workers and will even go to the extent of claiming payment for works for which they have not done. It should also be noted that even in such cases above, if we had proper professional supervision and a water tight contractor registration scheme, these unscrupulous contractors would not have their way. It has been observed that some of these unscrupulous contractors, albeit small in number are in the industry (business) basically to make what they perceive to be quick money. There is also the lack of appreciation of the fact that contracting is a business, thus requires certain business acumens be it in training, personal and capital. Consequently therefore, there has been a tendency by many people to go in contracting business with little or no experience, let alone any background / construction training in this business.

It is not surprising therefore, that in most of the complaints that we have to deal with, we have found that the defaulting contracting companies do not have prerequisite qualifications, capital and equipment to carry out the work in question. The above scenario obviously thus raises the million dollar question, as to why then do the individual clients and corporate bodies, including Government departments engage these contracting firms.

Although, it must be admitted that there are number of unscrupulous contractors among our local contractors, albeit very small compared to the good ones, it must also be borne in mind that every nation needs to invest in its construction industry if it is to have a vibrant and a strong cadre of local contractors. The continued non investment in the development of local contractors means that Zambia will continue to import unemployment from other countries and consequently continue to lose our hard earned foreign exchange on the use of foreign contractors. It must also be reaffirmed that the incorporation of the former Roads Training School into the NCC (renamed) Construction School is therefore a manifestation by the Government through the NCC to ameliorate the problem of unscrupulous and shoddy local contractors. It is important to end by stating that every country has it share of shoddy and unscrupulous contractors who should accordingly be dealt with.

NCC COURTS WORKS MINISTER

Following the appointment of Hon. Marina Nsingo M.P., as Minister of Works and Supply, the NCC Board organized a seminar whose objectives were as follows:

- a. To appraise the Minister of Works and Supply with the background, activities and plans of NCC
- b. To discuss and resolve issues of common interest among the Ministry Departments
- c. To officially present the final report of the 'Comprehensive Study of the Construction Industry in Zambia'.

The Seminar focused on various key issues affecting

the construction in Zambia and the various departments and sections of the Ministry of Works and Supply. The NCC Board also provided an overview of the developments at the NCC.

Some of the key issues discussed at the seminar included: the review of the National Policy on the Construction Industry; Establishment of the Building Centre; local debt to contractors and consultants; export of construction knowledge; and, Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure.

Further, the NCC Board Chairman led discussions regarding the history, activities and future plans of NCC. Board Members representing the Sub-

committees made presentations regarding the progress and issues affecting the four departments of NCC – Finance and Administration, Education and Training, Registration and Regulation, and, Business Development.

The final report on the 'Comprehensive Review of the Zambian Construction Industry' was presented to the Hon. Minister, by the Consultants, Brian Colquhoun Hugh O'Donnell and Partners, and Ernst and Young.

A number of resolutions were made regarding aforementioned issues. It is hoped that the related actions will follow shortly and that they will have a positive impact on the construction industry.

“For it is bad theology that will lead to a bad Constitution if today that right would be denied and that duty ignored.”

Fr. Peter Henriot

NCC MANAGEMENT CHARTS WAY FORWARD FOR NCC STRATEGIC PLAN

Despite the on-going procurement process for the Consultancy to Formulate a Strategic Plan for NCC, the NCC Secretariat has commenced the process of outlining a preliminary strategic plan that will be used by the Consultants when appointed.

So far, the mission and vision of the NCC has been drafted and the various Departments are yet to finalise the detailed proposals for Board approval.

It is important to note that the NCC Strategic Plan will not only be a docu-

ment that outlines the aspirations of the NCC Secretariat but more so, the goals of the Zambian construction industry.

One unique feature of the NCC is that it represents both the public and private sectors; thus it provides an interface between the policy-making and regulatory roles of Government and the private sector participation in the implementation process.

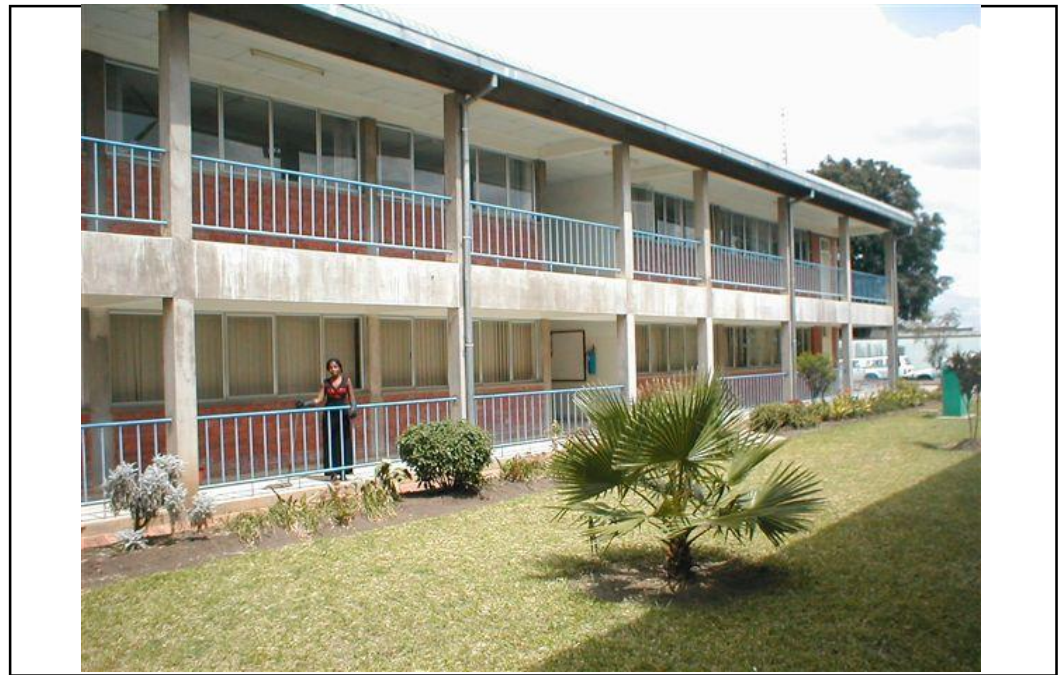
The challenge therefore lies in how well the two sectors interact to share a common vision for the

construction industry. That is already evidenced by the composition of the NCC Board, however, this needs to be translated to the broader arm of Government and the private sector stakeholders.

The goal of the NCC is to develop the Zambian construction industry to a level where it effectively meets the local demands for infrastructure; competes favourably in the global market; and, becomes a significant entity in the Zambian economy.

SPECIAL FEATURE:

Construction School



“It’s what you learn after you know it all that counts.”

John Wooden

The Construction School (formerly - the Roads Training School), was established in the early sixties as an in-service training institution for the Roads Department personnel to undertake works through force account. The School was later opened to the private sector contractors when force account was phased off by Government.

In 2004, the Roads Training School was handed over to the National Council for Construction (NCC) following the enactment of the NCC Act No. 13 of 2003. The School is there-

fore one of the four departments of the NCC.

The core function of the Construction School is to co-ordinate, improve and facilitate accessibility to training in the Zambian construction industry. This is an endeavour to achieve and maintain the highest possible stands in the construction industry.

Courses Offered

The construction school currently offers labour-based courses in road construction, rehabilitation and maintenance for small-scale contractors,

road authorities and non-governmental organisations. However, building and other relevant construction related programmes will soon be introduced. The courses offered include:

- Enhanced Road Maintenance (ERM)
- Road Rehabilitation
- Maintenance of Paved Roads
- Culvert and drainage Construction
- Contract and Business Management
- Culvert and drainage Construction
- Contract and Business Management

Construction School



Students applying chip and spray

Minimum Company Requirements for Admission

The following are the minimum requirements for construction companies to apply for training:

1. Registration with Registrar of Companies
2. Registration with the NCC
3. The company must have been engaged in construction activity for at least two years

Minimum Individual Qualifications for Admission

A. The Director or Company Owner

- Minimum of Grade Twelve Certificate
- Good knowledge of written and spoken English

- A pass in Mathematics
- Any formal training in construction will be an advantage

B. Supervisor

- Minimum of Grade Twelve Certificate
- Good knowledge of written and spoken English
- A pass in Mathematics
- Any formal training in construction will be an advantage
- Not less than two years field experience in construction.

Socio-Economic Value of Labour-Based Technology

The impact of labour-based technologies to society and the economy cannot be over-emphasized. It

is however, worth mentioning that among the many benefits, the following are major:

- 30% less the cost of using equipment for construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of gravel roads;
- 40% less expensive than machines for full rehabilitation;
- Creates jobs up to five times more than equipment based approaches;
- Significant savings on foreign exchange;
- Simple equipment—easier to acquire, assemble and maintain.
- Cost of import of equipment reduced and potential for the manufacturing industry;
- Creates ownership of the product by the local community;
- Empowers communities with skills that improve their livelihood;
- Equal opportunities for both men and women.

It is the goal of the Construction School and the NCC to promote the use of labour based methods in the provision of infrastructure, as it is one key strategy for economic growth.

“Let us learn to do politics.”

The Post Editorial

Notice

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SUPPLY TENDER COMMITTEE LUSAKA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR THE DESIGN REVIEW AND SUPERVISION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED WEIGHBRIDGE IN KAZUNGULA DISTRICT

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has received funds from Royal Norwegian Government for the Implementation of Axle Load Control Programme. It is intended to apply part of these to cover eligible payments under the contract for construction of new fixed electronic weighbridge. The designs for the weighbridge house, driveways detention areas and parking areas have already been done. However, the design review will be part of the consultancy services.

The Ministry of Works and Supply Tender Committee now invites sealed proposals from eligible consultants to provide consultancy services for Design Review and Supervision for the Construction of proposed weighbridge in Kazungula District comprising weighbridge offices and driveways detection areas.

Further details of the services required are provided in the Terms of Reference, which are part of the Request for Proposals (RFP) documents.

The Request for Proposals is open to all Consultants that are registered with the Roads Development Agency of Ministry of Works and Supply; and the selection of Consultant will be done using the "Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)" procedures described in the Request for Proposals (RFP) documents.

Eligible bidders may obtain the Request for Proposals from the office of the Tender Committee Secretary, Room 10, Ministry of Works & Supply, Procurement and Supplies Unit, P.O Box 50140, Lusaka, situated between Government and Fairley Roads, opposite the Buildings Department, and next to the Road Traffic Commission at Ridgeway, Lusaka, Zambia, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of K 150,000.00 in cash or bank certified cheque. The contact telephone number is 260-1251726 and the telefax number is 260-1-251099. **HOWEVER, TELEGRAPHIC AND TELEFAX OFFERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

All proposals, in sealed envelopes, clearly marked, "CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN REVIEW AND SUPERVISION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED WEIGHBRIDGE IN KAZUNGULA DISTRICT" must be deposited in the Tender Box at the Ministry of Works and Supply, Procurement and Supplies Unit, at the above address, on or before Friday 12th August, 2005 at 14.30 hours local time.

The closing date for receipt of Proposals is Friday 12th August, 2005 at 14.30 hours local time at which time and day, the Proposals received will be opened in the conference room at the Road Development Agency Headquarters in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. **LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**JASON SONGWE, HEAD-PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLIES UNIT.
FOR/PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SUPPLY**

"The price tag for failure is greater than the price of success. The price for accepting failure is poverty, depression, dejection, and a downtrodden spirit."

Virgil Berry

Notice

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

TENDER NO. MOE/CBU/INFRA/006/05 TENDER FOR THE REHABILITATION OF COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY (PHASE II)

1. The Government of the Republic of Zambia has released funds from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) towards the cost of rehabilitation of various public institutions, and intends to apply of the proceeds of these funds to eligible payments under the contract (s) for which this invitation for bids is issued.
2. The Ministry of Education on behalf of the Copperbelt University now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the rehabilitation works at the Copperbelt University as follows:

- Lot 1 Rehabilitation of School of Built Environment Studies
- Lot 2 Rehabilitation of School of Technology Classrooms
- Lot 3 Rehabilitation of University Library and Centre for Life Long Classrooms
- Lot 4 Rehabilitation of Students' Wash Rooms and Common Rooms
- Lot 5 Rehabilitation of School of Business Offices

3. The Tender Documents may be obtained from the office of the Head-Ministry of Education, Procurement and Supplies Unit (MEPSU) Room G013 on payment of a non-refundable fee of ZMK400, 000.00. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 2% of the bid amount. The Bid Security shall be duly signed and sealed by the Guarantor(s)

The Ministry of Education telephone number is (01) 251318 and fax number is (01) 251318. However, telegraphic or telefax bids will not be accepted.

The closing date for receipt of bids is 12th August, 2005 at 1400 hours local time in Zambia. Any bids received after the time and date stated above will not be accepted. Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the Ministry of Education Conference Room. All interested bidders are welcome to attend.

The employer reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or all bids and annul the bidding process at anytime prior to award of the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the employer's action.

There are five forms of Bid and the bidder may bid separately for each lot, bid jointly for five lots, or bid separately for any combination of lots.

Victor Tembo
The Head MEPSU
Ministry of Education

“What kind of people are we who cannot do anything right.”

Douglas Syakalima

Events

MAT CONSTRUCT 2005

Building Partnerships in Southern Africa

**29 November – 2 December, 2005
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA**

What is **MAT CONSTRUCT 2005**?

MAT CONSTRUCT 2005 is the first in a series of Investment Promotion Meetings held under the aegis of the EU-SADC Investment Promotion Programme (**ESIPP**), and focuses on Building Materials and Construction.

MAT CONSTRUCT 2005 is a forum where promoters and entrepreneurs from the Southern African region will present a carefully selected variety of new and high-quality business development projects in Building Materials and Construction sector to interested European and other international investors.

Up to 400 participants will be invited to attend this Investment Promotion Meeting to discuss project proposals and to negotiate partnership agreements.

The main focus of **MAT CONSTRUCT 2005** will be the one-to-one business meetings between European and Southern African enterprises.

Further information & application

For further information about this event or for a copy of the latest Newsletter and Press Release, visit **www.matconstruct2005.com** or contact us at the following addresses.

European and international companies interested in attending this event may contact us at the following address:

euprom.matconstruct2005@mondimpresa.it

Southern African companies interested in presenting a project proposal may contact us at the following address: **matconstruct2005@eciafrica.com**

*“When you give
your best to the
world, the world
returns the
favour.”*

H. Jackson Brown

Tender Notice

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION—LUSAKA PROVINCE
TENDER COMMITTEE**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

TENDER FOR MAINTENANCE OF VARIOUS ROADS IN LUSAKA PROVINCE

The office of the President, Provincial Administration, Lusaka has received funding under the Poverty Reduction Programme towards the cost of maintenance of various roads in Lusaka Province. The Provincial Administration, through the Road Development Agency (Office of the Provincial Roads Engineer), intends to apply part of these funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for maintenance of the following roads in Lusaka Province.

SL NO.	LOT NO.	ROAD NAME	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS
1	1	Mikango Barracks	Road works, Drainage and vegetation control
2	1	Old Kafue Roads	Road works, Drainage and vegetation control
3	2	Old Kafue Roads	Road works, Drainage and vegetation control
4	3	Old Kafue Roads	Road works, Drainage and vegetation control
5	1	State Lodge	Road works, Drainage and vegetation control
6	2	State Lodge	Road works, Pothole, Edge repair Drainage & Vegetation Control
7	1	Twikatane	Ripping and pothole patching
8	1	Kasupe	Road works Drainage and Vegetable Control
9	2	Kasupe	Road works Drainage and Vegetable Control
10	1	Kavalamanja	Road works Drainage and Vegetable Control

The Provincial Tender Committee now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders registered with the National Council for Construction in grade 5 & 6 under category R. The scope of works in these contracts comprises:

- a. Grading
- b. Reshaping
- c. Re-gravelling
- d. Vegetation Control
- e. Drainage Works
- f. Pothole Patching and Edge Repairs

(Continued on the next page)

“It takes two to tangle. If there is an official who is bribed, it means that there is someone giving that bribe. The challenge is to persuade people to fight both ends.”

Sylvia Masebo

Tender Notice

Eligible bidders may obtain the tender documents from the office of the Head Procurement & Suppliers Unit), Lusaka Province, P o Box 34430, Lusaka, situated at the former Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services offices (Between Cabinet Office and Zambia Police Service Headquarters, along Independence Avenue), upon payment of a non-refundable fee of K150,000.00 in cash or bank certified cheques. The contact telephone number is 260-01-255887 **HOWEVER TELEGRAPHIC AND TELEFAX OFFERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Bids must be deposited in the Tender Box at the Provincial Administration Offices, Lusaka Province at the above address and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 2% of the bid price for bid sums above K200 million, in bank certified cheque, duly signed and sealed by the Guarantor(s).

The closing date for the receipt of bids is Friday 12th August, 2005 at 14.30 hour's local time, at which time and day the bids received will be opened in the conference room at the Road Development Agency Headquarters in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**JASON SONGWE, HEAD-PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLIES UNIT.
FOR PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WORKS AND SUPPLY**

*“We cannot
become what we
need to be by
remaining what we
are.”*

Max DePree

NCC AT THE 79TH AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SHOW

**THE NCC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
THAT THEY GOT THE SECOND (2ND) BEST
SERVICE INDUSTRY EXHIBITION AT THE
JUST ENDED AGRICULTURAL AND SHOW.**

Theme:

“Rebuild our Economy”

Public Notice

All persons or organizations wishing to engage the services of contractors must ensure that they only deal with contractors registered with the NCC, who hold valid certificates of registration for the year 2005.

Contractors are classified according to their capacity and specialization, and are therefore only allowed to carry out works according to the categories and classification grades registered in. Note that the NCC Registration Scheme is intended to protect the interests of the public in that it offers a range of appropriate skills and capacity to ensure value for money.

The list of all eligible contractors is available at the NCC Secretariat, therefore, it is not longer necessary for Contractors to register with various institutions when they have been registered with the NCC.

Please note that it is a serious offence for the client to engage a construction firm that is not registered or affiliated with the NCC; and, for a construction firm to undertake construction works if it is not registered or affiliated with the NCC.

All parties wishing to engage contractors are therefore advised to ensure that:

- The contractors are registered with the NCC.
- Correct and transparent procurement procedures are followed.
- Only contractors registered to carry out the construction activities required and with the relevant capacity (classification grade) are engaged. Please refer to the schedules below for the appropriate categories and classification grades:

The following are the professional/consultants' bodies affiliated with the NCC:

Association for Consulting Engineers of Zambia
Surveyors Institute of Zambia
Zambia Institute of Architects

The NCC Act also provides for appropriate action in form of a fine or imprisonment or both, for any defaulting Contractor. Similarly, Consultants (Architects, Surveyors and Engineers) are regulated by their respective Acts. Therefore, the public is further advised to submit all complaints against contractors to the NCC in writing, at the address below, in order to facilitate the necessary action.

For details or clarifications please contact the following:

The Executive Director
National Council for Construction
P. O. Box 39548
Lusaka, Zambia.

Tel: 01 – 240386/247185
Fax: 01 – 243115
E-mail: nccl@zamnet.zm

*“Agriculture is
broader than seed
and fertiliser.”*

Akson Sejani

Notices

ZAMBIA NATIONAL TENDER BOARD

CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 2005

30 May 2005

TO: All Permanent Secretaries
All Chief Executives of Parastatal and Statutory Bodies
Auditor General
Chief Administrator, the Judiciary

Secretaries: All Service Commissions
Commission for Investigations
Ant-Corruption Commission

Directors: Electoral Commission
Permanent Human Rights Commission

PAYMENT OF NON-REFUNDABLE FEE: REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS

This serves to inform you that the rules and fees for Registration of Suppliers and Contractors have revised as follows:

- i. Registration of suppliers shall be limited to goods and services that are procured on a repetitive or continuous basis:
- ii. Registration of Contractors, quantity surveyors, architects and engineers to be undertaken by the National Council for Construction only.
- iii. Registration of the following items shall be undertaken by the Zambia National Tender Board only:-
 - a) Computers and photocopiers
 - b) Foodstuffs to national learning/training institutions and hospitals
 - c) Office furniture and air conditioners
 - d) Vehicles and spare parts; and
 - e) Service repair of vehicles
- iv. Registration period shall be 3 years and
- v. Non-refundable fees shall not exceed fifty thousand Kwacha (K50,000.00)

D. Kapitolo
Director General
Zambia National Tender Board

NOTE:

Please note that consultants are required to be registered members of the respective professional bodies—Engineering Institution of Zambia (EIZ), Surveyors Institute of Zambia (SIZ) and Zambia Institute of Architects (ZIA)

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P. O. Box 3954
Lusaka, Zambia

Phone: 260-01-243115
Fax: 260-01-243115
Email: ncc1@zamnet.zm

We are now on E-mail, send
us your mail to
ncc1@zamnet.zm

*Helping to
develop Zambia*



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7. **Mr. Nkole Bwalya** Zambia Institute of Architects
8. **Mr. Stephen Kamuhuza** National Ass. for Small Scale Contractors
9. Ass. for Building and Civil Engineering Contractors
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