



NSBE (SA)

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS OF SOUTH AFRICA "BRIDGING THE ENGINEERING SKILLS GAP"

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17 March 2022

Mr. Monwabisi Maclean
Chief Director : IGR & Capacity Assembly
Department of Human Settlements (DHS)
Private Bag X 644
Pretoria, 0001
Tel : (012) 444 5208

RE: NSBE POSITION ON THE USE OF CUBAN ENGINEERS IN DHS

Dear Mr. Maclean,

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter which was e-mailed to our office on 16 March 2022, wherein you solicited NSBE's position on the renewal of the South Africa Cuba Technical Support Programme (SACTSP) which is rooted in the South Africa Cuba Bilateral Agreement of 2002.

I wish to put it on record the fact that NSBE does **not** support the renewal of the SACTSP as per the reasons that were given to the then Honourable Minister of DHS & DWS – Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu – at the Breakfast Seminar which the NSBE hosted on 18 June 2021 at the Courtyard Hotel Waterfall City, Midrand.

According to the PWC economic outlook report published in September 2021, South Africa now has the highest unemployment rate in the world after formal jobs declined during the covid-19 pandemic. The worsening levels of unemployment rate for Black Africans and Youth in particular, more than 48% and 75% respectively as reported by StatsSA. Unemployment rate for technical skills is also very high with engineers at 12% (16,000), technicians and artisans at 22% (63,000).

South Africa is still the most unequal country in the world, ranking first among 164 countries, with race playing a determining factor in a society where 10% of the population owns more than 80% of the wealth, this is according to the US based World

President: Mdu Mlaba;

National Executive Committee: Lwazi Gogwana: Deputy President; Freddy Mugeru: Treasurer; Tumi Tsehlo: Head of NSBE Commercial; Andile Dayi; Kwazi Mabaso; Lungi Maminza; Bongumusa Thusi; Thato Selebogo; Simphiwe Mbanga

Bank report released on 9 March 2022. Nearly 30 years since the collapse of apartheid and the dawn of democracy, SA is still grappling with the long-standing triple challenge of extreme levels of poverty, inequality and unemployment. These challenges are inherently linked with one another.

We have enough competent and qualified engineers in our database who can fulfil the mandate that was given to the Cuban Engineers. NSBE put together a draft MOA detailing our proposal to provide technical support to DHS and submitted it to the Honourable Minister of DHS – Ms. Mmamoloko Kubayi – after our zoom meeting with her on 03 December 2021.

We look forward to having the MOA signed as soon as possible to hit the road running.

Yours truly,



Mr. Mdu Mlaba

President

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