



NSBE
OF SOUTH AFRICA

NSBE AGM

**DBSA HEAD OFFICE, MIDRAND
JOHANNESBURG**

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

**THE ROLE OF ENGINEERING & LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE
IN ESKOM'S COMPLEX JOURNEY TO END LOAD
SHEDDING IN SOUTH AFRICA**

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ACRONYMS



- BBC: Black Business Council
- DBSA: Development Bank of Southern Africa
- ECSA: Engineering Council of South Africa
- GCE: Group Chief Executive
- NSBE: National Society of Black Engineers
- RE: Renewable Energy
- TETA: Transport Education Training Authority

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), a non-racial, non-profit organization, is dedicated to advancing diversity, equity, and excellence within South Africa's engineering sector. With a focus on empowering black engineers, NSBE offers a platform for professional growth, networking, and community engagement, aimed at fostering economic development and nation-building. The 2024 NSBE AGM focused on the theme of "Engineering and Leadership Excellence in Eskom's Complex Journey to End Load Shedding in South Africa." Eskom Group Chief Executive Dan Marokane's keynote address underscored the pivotal role of skilled engineering and strong leadership in tackling the nation's energy challenges, specifically highlighting Eskom's efforts to bring an end to load shedding. NSBE President Mdu Mlaba reinforced the organization's commitment to driving transformation within the engineering industry, celebrating NSBE's role in building an inclusive, skilled workforce essential to South Africa's infrastructure and economic resilience. Other prominent discussions featured insights from DBSA, ECSA, and BBC leaders, all aligning with NSBE's goal to strengthen engineering capabilities across sectors. The AGM also included the signing of an MoU with TETA to support workforce development and concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing excellence in engineering. Through its various initiatives, NSBE continues to enable black engineers to drive meaningful progress in South Africa's infrastructure, energy, and transport sectors.



WELCOME

DR. YANDILE GALADA



DR. YANDILE GALADA

The program director, Dr. Galada, opened the afternoon session of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Annual General Meeting (AGM) by extending a warm welcome to all guests, delegates, and members of the NSBE. He expressed his honor in serving as the program director for the event and emphasized the session's focus on the role of engineering and leadership excellence in Eskom's complex journey to end load shedding. Dr. Galada noted that the earlier session had concentrated on the performance and strategic issues of NSBE, which had included closed reports presented by NSBE members. Dr. Galada then introduced the first speaker, Mr. Mdu Mlaba, the president of NSBE to deliver opening remarks.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: NSBE'S COMMITMENT TO TRANSFORMING THE ENGINEERING LANDSCAPE

NSBE PRESIDENT MDU MLABA



NSBE PRESIDENT MDU MLABA

NSBE president, Mdu Mlaba, began his remarks by acknowledging the presence of the keynote speaker, Mr. Dan Marokane, as well as the management team and staff of Eskom Holdings SOC Limited. He extended his gratitude to guest speakers, including Dr. Bridget Ssamula from Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), Mrs Maphefo Anno Frempong CEO of Transport Education Training Authority (TETA), and Mr. Elias Monage, Black Business Council (BBC) President. Mlaba also recognized VIP guests, including the president of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers, Mr. Pascal Motsoasele, and the national executive committee members of the NSBE, as well as past presidents and members who were present, either in person or via live stream.

He noted that it had been five and a half months since the most recent load shedding event, expressing satisfaction at seeing Eskom "alive and kicking" and successfully delivering megawatts to the grid. He reflected on an insightful conversation between Chief Investment Officer Nick Balkin and Eskom Chairman Dr. Mteto Nyati, which highlighted Dr. Nyati's personal journey and the progress made since the appointment of the current board in September 2022. Mlaba emphasized Dr. Nyati's authenticity, particularly his candid acknowledgment of the negative assumptions often placed on black individuals from birth, and how such assumptions contribute to an atmosphere of underestimation.

With this context, Mlaba conveyed that the gathering was not only to celebrate but also to honor black engineers who have significantly contributed to Eskom's turnaround. He praised their accomplishments as evidence of the technical expertise present in Africa, asserting that local talent is capable of addressing complex challenges without reliance on foreign expertise.

He extended heartfelt thanks to Mr. Dan Marokane, a long-term friend of the NSBE, and acknowledged the entire Eskom management team present. He expressed pride in the engineering excellence that has been crucial to Eskom's transformation and emphasized that NSBE does not take these achievements lightly.

Mlaba then provided background on the NSBE, which was founded in 1995 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and has grown into a national advocacy group for black engineers in South Africa. He articulated the organization's mission to transform the engineering profession by ensuring the full participation of black engineers in the mainstream economy, with a vision aimed at achieving socio-economic justice for black communities.

He underscored NSBE's commitment to promoting public awareness of engineering opportunities for black individuals, increasing the number of black students in engineering disciplines, and enhancing the number of qualified black engineers registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa. He pointed out the current statistics, which show that only 20% of professional engineers are black, highlighting the ongoing need for NSBE's work.

In conclusion, Mlaba emphasized the importance of inspirational leadership, engineering excellence, academic success, and mentorship. He called on attendees to support NSBE's mission, as it contributes to building a legacy of skilled professionals who will have a lasting positive impact on South Africa. He expressed excitement about the upcoming signing of a memorandum of understanding with TETA, aimed at advancing the professional development of engineers, and warmly welcomed everyone to the event, wishing for successful discussions and celebrations.

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE: DBSA'S COMMITMENT TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENGINEERS

MPHO KUBELO, CHIEF RISK OFFICER OF THE DBSA



DBSA'S CHIEF RISK OFFICER MPHO KUBELO

Mpho Kubelo, the Chief Risk Officer at NSBE's corporate sponsor, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), opened his remarks with gratitude humorously identifying himself as a "backsliding engineer.". He expressed both pride and admiration for the accomplishments of practicing engineers, particularly at Eskom, noting that seeing their achievements instills in him a sense of pride even as a non-practicing engineer.

After acknowledging the presence of notable guests, Kubelo then introduced DBSA, a state-owned entity fully owned by the Republic of South Africa, under the oversight of the National Treasury. He explained DBSA's mandate to invest across the infrastructure value chain in South Africa, from planning and preparation to building and maintaining infrastructure. This mandate, he highlighted, makes DBSA unique among financial institutions as it not only funds infrastructure but also assists with planning and operational aspects, allowing it to participate comprehensively in the country's development.

Kubelo detailed that while 60% of DBSA's investments are designated for South Africa, the remaining 40% is allocated across the sub-Saharan continent, with their current portfolio standing at 70% domestic and 30% regional investments. He emphasized DBSA's longstanding relationship with Eskom, noting that the institution's efforts to stabilize the utility have contributed to his peace of mind, given Eskom represents one of DBSA's largest loans.

Kubelo further elaborated on DBSA's involvement in the energy sector, citing their significant role in renewable energy funding and their engagement in supporting municipalities in strengthening distribution networks.

He also mentioned their growing involvement with Transnet to help revitalize the logistics sector, and with the Department of Water and Sanitation, setting up a dedicated office at DBSA to address national water issues. Kubelo emphasized DBSA's commitment to municipal-level infrastructure delivery, explaining their Partner District Initiative aimed at fostering partnerships with willing municipalities to tackle infrastructure challenges.

He invited engineers to consider DBSA as a resource for support and collaboration, asserting that South African issues are theirs to solve and that no external entity would take on this responsibility for them. Drawing inspiration from Eskom's turnaround, he called on engineers to recognize the potential within South Africa and to leverage existing institutions like DBSA to achieve the nation's infrastructure and development goals.

In discussing DBSA's broader contributions, Kubelo emphasized its commitment to supporting Black entrepreneurs and emerging businesses in infrastructure projects, particularly in the areas of energy, water, and student accommodation. He underscored that while DBSA is a bank, it engages deeply across the entire infrastructure project lifecycle, often partnering with local engineering firms for project execution and maintenance.

Kubelo reflected on the achievements of NSBE, noting that he had been a pre-university student when the organization was founded. He commended NSBE's work in promoting engineering careers to young Black South Africans but posed a challenge: retaining these young engineers within the profession to contribute meaningfully to the country's challenges. He expressed optimism, asserting that the goal was not impossible.

Addressing his relationship with Eskom's recent progress, he acknowledged that DBSA stood ready to support efforts to revitalize the utility. Kubelo humorously recounted a conversation with auditors who had questioned how he could rest easy with DBSA's significant exposure to Eskom; he had assured them that Eskom's success was essential for South Africa's stability, and that DBSA's commitment to the utility reflected its dedication to the nation's overall prosperity.

In closing, Kubelo reiterated DBSA's resolve to "bend the arc of history" in creating a prosperous future for the region, emphasizing the need for skilled, committed professionals to tackle South Africa's infrastructure challenges. He encouraged collaboration among institutions, emphasizing that DBSA was prepared to provide the necessary resources to support the country's progress.

NSBE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

THATO SELEBOGO, NSBE WESTERN CAPE CHAIR



NSBE WESTERN CAPE CHAIR THATO SELEBOGO

Thato Selebogo, Chairperson of NSBE Western Cape, conveyed his gratitude to the honorable guests, esteemed colleagues, distinguished speakers, and valued NSBE members. He expressed his pleasure in discussing the NSBE Engineering Development Program, which he described as a key initiative for advancing engineering professional development in South Africa.

Selebogo explained that, in addition to leading NSBE Western Cape, he also chairs the professional portfolio, a position that has allowed him to observe the substantial challenges facing the field. He noted that South Africa continues to grapple with skill shortages and a lack of representation among historically disadvantaged groups in engineering. He emphasized that the apartheid regime's discriminatory policies left a legacy of unequal access to education and professional opportunities, which has contributed to the shortage of qualified Black and female engineers. As highlighted in the president's earlier remarks, Selebogo pointed out that current statistics illustrate a clear imbalance, making it imperative to transform the engineering landscape.

Selebogo then described NSBE's efforts to address these issues through the NSBE Engineering Development Program, which was launched earlier this year. The program was designed to support candidates pursuing engineering credentials, such as PR Technologist, PR Technician, PR Engineer, and GCC Factories certifications.

Following an advertisement of the program across various platforms in March, NSBE received nearly 100 applications within just two weeks, reflecting widespread interest. With the assistance of funding from TETA, NSBE was able to select 15 promising young engineers for the program.

Each participant, Selebogo shared, is paired with a mentor from NSBE's registered database, starting their journey with a comprehensive online induction that outlines the program's processes and goals. Mentors and mentees engage in structured and monitored sessions aimed at ensuring effective guidance and progress. Selebogo expressed confidence that each participant would successfully complete the program with their PR or GCC credentials.

In conclusion, Selebogo noted the program's successful start and shared his excitement about its potential for growth, which he hoped would allow NSBE to support even more candidates in their professional development. He thanked everyone for their support and collaboration in striving toward a transformed engineering profession in South Africa.

EMPOWERING ENGINEERS: ECSA'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ENGINEERING SECTOR

DR. BRIDGET SSAMULA, ECSA CEO



ECSA CEO DR. BRIDGET SSAMULA

Dr. Bridget Ssamula began her keynote by expressing her deep gratitude for the invitation to speak at the NSBE Annual General Meeting. She acknowledged the leadership of the NSBE and the members present, emphasizing the collective responsibility they share as black engineers in addressing global challenges.

She stressed that today's world demands innovative solutions to problems that many engineers did not encounter during their studies. For example, those involved in designing floodlines are now faced with unprecedented rainfall, highlighting the necessity for agility in their approach. Similarly, engineers accustomed to coal-based power generation are now transitioning to hydrogen, reflecting the dynamic nature of their work. Ssamula emphasized that their role as engineers extends beyond technical expertise; it encompasses collaboration and mutual support. As the regulator, she acknowledged the complexities of her role but reassured attendees that engineering practitioners are well-equipped to evaluate risk, thanks to their training and experience.

Drawing attention to the significance of engineers in leadership roles, she pointed out that more than 30% of Fortune 500 CEOs are engineers. She made a clarion call for engineers to embrace leadership, highlighting their unique ability to foresee and address issues comprehensively. Ssamula reminded the audience of the long-term implications of their work. Unlike other professions, the responsibilities of engineers often extend beyond immediate projects; they can be held accountable for decades. She recalled conversations with lawyers and accountants, underscoring the distinct liabilities faced by engineers and the importance of their professional registration.

She outlined her responsibilities as CEO of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), focusing on building credibility within the profession. Ssamula noted that the digitization of application processes, including the introduction of a candidate portal, aims to streamline operations and enhance transparency in the engineering field. She emphasized the economic impact of engineering, highlighting that each job in the sector creates eight indirect jobs. This interconnectedness brings additional responsibility, especially as engineers navigate decisions influenced by a diverse range of stakeholders, from politicians to financial institutions. Ssamula expressed the need for greater public awareness regarding the support available to engineers facing professional challenges. She reassured attendees that if they ever feel compromised in their roles, they can reach out to ECSA for assistance, whether that means ECSA communicating with their employer or providing guidance. She advocated for building a robust pipeline of skills to meet the nation's engineering needs. Citing the disparities in the engineering workforce, Ssamula emphasized the importance of engaging with universities across all provinces to ensure that engineering education is accessible and relevant to local communities.

Ssamula highlighted the urgent need for more agricultural engineers to address food scarcity, stressing that professional registration is essential as a mark of competency. She noted a significant gap in mentorship, with only 15% of applicants qualifying, and encouraged experienced engineers to support emerging talent. Ssamula also emphasized the importance of candidacy programs in bridging the gap from education to practice, as only 20% of graduates enter the engineering field, with registration often taking up to seven years. She called for collaboration among employers to expand training opportunities for aspiring engineers.

Ssamula underscored the critical need for capacity-building programs to equip engineers with the skills required for emerging challenges, noting that many municipal engineers face unprecedented issues. She emphasized the importance of reskilling and upskilling to adapt to industry demands and called for a collaborative network, especially through organizations like NSBE, to drive sector transformation. Ssamula envisions a future where South Africa's engineering workforce is diverse, highly skilled, and well-prepared to address complex challenges.

THE ROLE OF BLACK ENGINEERS IN TRANSFORMING SOUTH AFRICA'S ENERGY LANDSCAPE

ELIAS MONAGE, BLACK BUSINESS COUNCIL PRESIDENT



BBC PRESIDENT ELIAS MONAGE

Elias Monage addressed the audience with a message of both celebration and caution regarding the current state of the energy sector. He opened by acknowledging the leadership of NSBE, including the president and the leadership of Eskom, particularly Group CEO Marokane, as well as the CEO of ECSA, who discussed the engineering challenges facing the country.

Monage emphasized the importance of recognizing the contributions of Black engineers, stating that their role in addressing energy issues has often gone unacknowledged. He noted that, throughout the crises faced by Eskom, many energy experts prioritized their interests while the excellence of Black engineers remained largely uncelebrated.

He highlighted the systemic challenges that Black professionals have faced over the past decade and stressed that the leadership seen in Eskom today is a result of persistent advocacy and collective effort from within the community. Monage urged attendees to remain vigilant and supportive of Black engineers as they work to transform the energy landscape.

Looking to the future, he pointed out the significant challenges ahead, particularly regarding the extension of transmission lines and the integrated resource plan. Monage expressed concern over the silence of Black engineers on these critical issues, calling for increased public engagement and participation in discussions related to the national energy crisis and logistics.

He also underscored the need to encourage children to pursue STEM education, emphasizing that without a strong foundation in mathematics and science, it would be difficult to cultivate the next generation of engineers.

Moreover, Monage addressed the lack of representation in academic institutions, noting that leadership positions in engineering faculties are often held by individuals who may not have a vested interest in the future of South Africa. He asserted that collaboration between academic institutions and industries is essential for the development of infrastructure across the continent.

Finally, he urged participants to engage in discussions about BRICS and explore how Eskom could provide energy solutions not only locally but also for neighbouring countries facing similar challenges.

In conclusion, Monage called on all attendees to actively participate in key discussions, whether in the energy work stream or in strengthening relationships between industry and academia. He emphasized the need to ensure that the excellence of Black engineers is recognized, particularly in critical institutions like Eskom.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE IN TRANSPORT

MAPHEFO ANNO FREMPONG, CEO OF TRANSPORT EDUCATION TRAINING AUTHORITY (TETA)



TETA CEO MAPHEFO ANNO FREMPONG

Maphefo Anno Frempong expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to speak at the NSBE AGM, stating that it was a privilege to address an institution dedicated to developing leaders and skilled workers in the transport sector. She highlighted the critical role of TETA in fostering a pipeline for future professionals.

She acknowledged the current challenges faced by TETA, noting a significant lack of candidacy applications from the engineering subsector. She pointed out that most applications had come from the maritime industry, which created difficulties in meeting targets and advancing transformation initiatives.

Frempong shared that TETA had adopted 60 no-fee schools across South Africa, particularly focusing on those in rural areas. She emphasized that the initiative aimed to support students from Grade 8 to Grade 12 in making informed career choices. She mentioned the enrichment programs for mathematics and science that TETA provided, including the deployment of mobile laboratories to schools lacking resources.

She called upon industry partners to join TETA in these efforts, inviting them to engage with students and provide mentorship opportunities. Frempong emphasized the importance of early intervention in students' education to guide them toward engineering and transport careers.

In discussing the need for collaboration, she noted that TETA's work involved not just students, but also teachers and school leadership, creating a comprehensive support system. She urged the audience to consider how they could contribute to enhancing educational experiences in the adopted schools.

Frempong concluded her address with a hopeful vision for partnership, stating that the collaboration with NSBE would not only strengthen the skills pipeline but also promote innovation and diversity in the transport sector. She affirmed TETA's commitment to bridging the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that students were well-prepared for their future careers.

She remarked on the importance of unity in addressing the skills shortage and called for a collective effort to create pathways for the next generation of black engineers. Finally, she expressed optimism that, through their joint efforts, they could leave a lasting impact on the communities they serve, emphasizing the need to build a better future for all.

THE ROLE OF ENGINEERING & LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE IN ESKOM'S COMPLEX JOURNEY TO END LOAD SHEDDING

DAN MAROKANE, ESKOM GCE



ESKOM GCE DAN MAROKANE

Dan Marokane began his keynote address by expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to speak at the NSBE Annual General Meeting. He acknowledged all present, stating that he was honored to share the platform with such esteemed colleagues. He reflected on the insights provided by previous speakers and noted that he was inspired to deviate slightly from his prepared remarks. He recalled the impactful methods employed by Nelson Mandela to rally support for social causes. Marokane highlighted how Mandela would invite influential figures for lunch, often bringing children along to illustrate the needs of the community. This strategy reminded him of the importance of personal connections in advocacy. He expressed concern over unfunded programs and urged attendees to think critically about how they could collectively address these gaps.

Marokane reminisced about the inaugural launch of the NSBE in Durban, recalling the passion and patriotism of the black engineers present at the event. He emphasized that the mission of the society extends beyond individual interests; it is about enacting meaningful change in society. He urged everyone to reflect on whether they were doing enough to support these broader goals and the ideals of the organization. He then shared significant news from Eskom: the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding with Sasol aimed at exploring the potential of gas as a transitional energy source. Marokane stressed the importance of this collaboration, noting that both organizations are led by black engineers who understand their corporate responsibility to address national challenges. He acknowledged that while the path forward is filled with obstacles, strong leadership can facilitate meaningful progress.

Marokane called for a shift in focus towards long-term strategies, urging attendees not to be consumed by present challenges. He emphasized that true leadership involves not only managing immediate issues but also preparing for future success. He recognized the critical role that Eskom plays in engineering excellence and highlighted the organization's commitment to training and development. As he discussed Eskom's initiatives, Marokane pointed to the upcoming Eskom Expo for Young Scientists, which serves as a platform for nurturing future engineering talent. He stressed the need for increased retention of students as they progress through educational pipelines, advocating for collaboration among stakeholders to enhance skills development across the country. He urged everyone to invest a little extra effort to contribute positively to society.

Marokane then addressed the recent turnaround at Eskom, clarifying that the improvements witnessed were not the result of luck or miraculous occurrences. He explained that the generation recovery plan, which began in March 2023, was a deliberate effort involving technical teams to identify key challenges and develop effective solutions. He emphasized that the right mix of skills on the board was crucial in guiding the organization through this process. He acknowledged that the previous lack of participation in renewable energy discussions had hindered Eskom's potential. However, he affirmed Eskom's commitment to actively engaging in the renewable sector moving forward, emphasizing the necessity of ensuring that all communities, particularly those most disadvantaged, have access to clean energy solutions. He reiterated that Eskom must play a leading role in this transition.

In closing, Marokane reaffirmed that the advancements made at Eskom stem from a well-defined plan grounded in engineering principles. He emphasized the importance of strong leadership, strategic thinking, and collaboration in achieving sustained success. He expressed gratitude to NSBE for its ongoing support and partnership, encouraging attendees to work together to expand training opportunities and to nurture the next generation of engineers. With a final note of encouragement, he assured the audience of Eskom's commitment to continue supporting NSBE and its mission, urging everyone to strive for excellence in their respective fields and to collaborate towards a brighter future for all.

THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN ESKOM'S TRANSFORMATION

LWAZI GOQWANA, NSBE DEPUTY PRESIDENT & ESKOM BOARD MEMBER



NSBE DEPUTY PRESIDENT & ESKOM BOARD MEMBER

Goqwana raised concerns about Eskom's ability to compete in a changing market, particularly in the face of rising competition from renewable energy sources and new technologies. He referenced the importance of adapting to these changes to ensure Eskom's sustainability.

In conclusion, he contrasted Eskom's situation with that of other state-owned enterprises, such as the South African Post Office and Telkom. He noted that while the former failed to adapt and faced significant decline, Telkom successfully embraced change and transformed its business model, ultimately thriving.

Goqwana expressed hope that Eskom could follow a similar path of transformation and thanked the audience for their support.

Lwazi Goqwana emphasized the need to clarify recent media narratives surrounding Eskom, particularly regarding its operational challenges. Goqwana recounted the board's appointment in October 2022, during a significant crisis for the country, marked by frequent load shedding. He humorously reflected on how they were introduced to the public as a team of "saviors" amidst a dire situation, with estimates suggesting the economic cost was around 5 billion rand per day.

He highlighted the composition of the Eskom board, noting it included five engineers, three chartered accountants, two personnel specialists, and a legal expert. This diverse mix was crucial as they navigated the complexities of Eskom's challenges while adhering to corporate governance principles.

Goqwana stressed the board's role in supporting the executive team, led by CEO Dan, by asking critical questions to prompt deeper thinking rather than direct intervention. He likened their position to spectators in a soccer match, emphasizing that the real work was carried out by the executives. He provided insights into Eskom's scale, revealing that it operates with a turnover of 240 billion rand annually and employs about 100,000 people. This massive size complicates any efforts for change, especially in the context of external pressures, such as the establishment of a new transmission company that would challenge Eskom's longstanding monopoly.

AWARDS CEREMONY

MDU MLABA – NSBE PRESIDENT

Mdu Mlaba began by expressing gratitude for the insightful speeches delivered by the guests, acknowledging the collective work ahead for NSBE. He noted the presence of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE), emphasizing the importance of collaboration among professionals in the field.

Mlaba invited the CEO of TETA and the CEO of ECSA, along with the president of BBC, to the stage to present tokens of appreciation to the Eskom team.



Presenting the first award, Mr. Matome Makwela, Head of HR at Eskom Generation, was recognized for his vital role in aligning talent with organizational goals to drive effective results.



Honoring Mr. Bheki Nxumalo, Head of Generation at Eskom, for his dedicated leadership and commitment to Eskom's mission.



Mr. Dan Marokane, Group Chief Executive of Eskom, takes the stage to receive his award in recognition of his leadership.



Mr. Lwazi Goqwana, NSBE Deputy President and Eskom board member, accepts an award on behalf of the Eskom board.

SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN NSBE AND TETA

In a significant step towards fostering professional growth and collaboration within the engineering sector, NSBE President Mdu Mlaba and TETA CEO Maphefo Anno Frempong formalized their partnership by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This MoU aims to enhance the professional development of engineers through targeted initiatives and programs that will support skills development, mentorship opportunities, and knowledge sharing. By working together, NSBE and TETA seek to create a robust pipeline of skilled professionals equipped to meet the evolving demands of the industry, ultimately contributing to innovation and progress within the engineering field.



VOTE OF THANKS

NSBE SECRETARY GENERAL, AMANDA MAKHUBELE



AMANDA MAKHUBELE NSBE SECRETARY GENERAL

Amanda Makhubele began her vote of thanks by greeting the audience, emphasizing the importance of greeting warmly as a reminder of African traditions and community. She acknowledged all protocols and thanked everyone for attending the event.

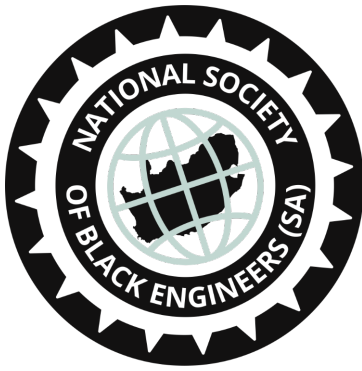
She highlighted the insights shared by the esteemed speakers, beginning with Mr. Kubelo from the DBSA, who emphasized the importance of engineers taking the initiative to seek support to solve problems the society is facing. Dr. Bridget was recognized for her reminder that engineers have responsibilities that extend beyond their lifetimes, making their roles unique. Amanda mentioned that Mr. Monage from the Black Business Council had tasked NSBE with acknowledging the work of others, which they had already begun through awards.

Amanda also commended the passion shown by the woman speakers, particularly in addressing the significance of supporting 60 schools through NSBE's efforts. She encouraged volunteers to ensure that these schools are not only seen as underperforming but as enriched institutions.

Acknowledging the keynote speaker, Mr. Dan Marokane, she noted his call for engineers to demonstrate discipline and strong leadership, qualities that resonate across all generations. She asked for teamwork to make his job easier, especially from the representatives of City Power.

Amanda then recognized T-legacy CEO and her team for their meticulous organization, as well as the regional elected committee members and the national executive committee for ensuring the event's success. She extended thanks to the event's MC, Dr. Yandile Galada, for his exceptional job, appreciating the opportunity to see him in this new role outside of their usual workspace.

Lastly, Amanda shared a light-hearted comment about Mr Mdu Mlaba noting his high standards and dedication to excellence, recalling his call to her when she was appointed SG. She concluded by encouraging everyone to keep inspiring, uplifting, and supporting one another, emphasizing that the work NSBE does is a collective effort toward a better South Africa.



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