



MUCH UPBEAT ACTIVITY

Within our sector there is much positive activity to be thankful for from which we can draw faith in this tough climate we're experiencing.

Even as we prepare for our 107th Master Builders South Africa (MBSA) Congress, we focus positively on and address important issues under the theme of Building South Africa, through our mandate of interacting with local and national governments and encouraging growth, development and sustainability of the industry.

During the year we have seen engagement with government rise to unprecedented levels, where government has truly started to 'come to the party.' Government's investment in infrastructure for 2012 and beyond for example has been particularly well received. Furthermore, various other direct engagements in which MBSA and the MBAs are playing a key role include open and transparent interaction with the Department of Correctional Services in which 12 new facilities are being released for construction; the Construction Industry Development Board is moving forward with MBSA and other bodies with its all important National Stakeholders Forum; and issues such as non-payment are also being addressed at the highest level.

On the African front, MBSA, through the concerted efforts of Past President Eunice Forbes, continues to strengthen our relationship with the African Federation for Construction Contractors' Associations (AFCCA), and MBSA recently hosted visitors from the Sudanese Contractors Association (SCA).

In the realm of construction health and safety, the important OSH EXPO has just taken place, and industry health and safety bodies continue to meet and hone industry regulations and practice, with considerable support from the MBAs across

the country in the form of training programmes for members.

Much progress is being made too on the Green building front, with landmark achievements being realised on a regular basis with both new and refurbished buildings.

On the international front we see the exchange of expertise and knowledge through visits by renowned leaders in various technologies. One example is an educational visit arranged by the SA Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC) on the all-important subject of light steel frame building (LSFB). We see the Indian giant BEML establish operations in Johannesburg; bauma Africa commit to their presence here from 2013; Sephaku cement company to start production soon on completion of plant construction; and the massive investment by Peri in South Africa.

The ongoing visits by our South African Builder magazine to various companies and projects across the industry reflect much positive growth, as can be seen through the pages of our magazine. Such companies include Elematic SA (ESA), WAM Group, Pan Mixers, Intaprop's Meadowview Business Park, Steyn City, Waterfall Estate, M&R activities here and abroad, Construction Computer Software (CCS) and Interbuild Africa, and the recent investment by Excalibur in TAL, to name a few.

Yes, as we go to Congress 2012 we can be proud of what we as South Africans continue to achieve in these difficult times. And as Master Builders South Africa and Master Builder Associations across the country, we continue to enhance our contribution to our industry and service delivery to our members.



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