

Technologists Keep The World Working.

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No 1. Obituary Mrs Adrienne Bird,

With sadness we have to notify you that Mrs Adrienne Bird, recipient of the IPET President's award 2016, passed away on the 15th of June. She was a friend of the Engineering Technology as well as the Artisan fraternity and did exceedingly good work in the Department of Education in this regard. She was known as a champion of the "Sweeper to Engineer" principle of articulation of educational qualifications that still is work in progress.

No 2.

ECSA Survey.

Please note that this below is an E Mail we received from ECSA. ECSA should also have E mailed you the same letter if they have your E Mail address.

You may wish to respond to this.

We await the results (eventually).

Please address your answers to ECSA and not us. Their E mail address appears below.

Thanks
Admin.

Dear Stakeholder,

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) has contracted the services of Eyes and Ears Marketing Services to conduct survey on its behalf. The survey seeks to solicit input from Registered Persons on the perception they have of ECSA, and the value you would like to derive from being a Registered Person among other things.

In compliance with the POPI Act, ECSA is requesting your permission to give Eyes and Ears Marketing Services your Name, Cell Number and Email Address to allow for your participation in the survey.

To grant permission please email **YES**

To withhold permission please email **NO**

Regards,

Mbalenhle Dlamini
Public Relations Officer

Engineering Council of South Africa

Waterview Corner Building, 2 Ernest Oppenheimer Avenue, Bruma Lake Office Park, Bruma, 2198, Johannesburg

Tel: +27 (0)11 607 9633 Fax: +27 (0)86 603 3589

sybil@ecsa.co.za | www.ecsa.co.za

If links don't work please type in the text into your internet browser.

No 3. IPET condemns violence

IPET condemns the violence that has taken place in the last few days across Tshwane, Johannesburg and on the N3 highway, during which foreign-owned businesses were vandalised and looted and foreign nationals attacked.

All lawlessness should be condemned. The small, medium-sized and microenterprise (SMME) sector, which is considered to be the most effective source of job creation, had faced the brunt of the protest action.

The racist and xenophobic undercurrents to some of the attacks are identified as extremely disturbing.

While these attacks look random and uncoordinated, it is increasingly clear that people are taking advantage of the situation and waging war on our economy. Taken in addition to the various attacks on construction contractors in the country over the past months these acts should be labelled economic sabotage and the authorities should be proactively dealing with them and not simply making late statements with nice sounding political words.

To assist Police IPET calls on all South Africans to report all acts of criminality, irrespective of who commits them. The South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa, has indicated that strong actions are to be undertaken to fix this problem.

No 4. Women in Engineering

(by IPET Vice President, M Engels).

Women are missing out on opportunities to leverage learning and skills in interesting and rewarding careers, explore new fields, develop new knowledge, design new solutions, and benefit from the rewards of financial independence and economic equity.

Despite some concerted attention and resources devoted to recruitment and retention of women in engineering over the last couple of decades, they are still woefully underrepresented in engineering and many related sciences.

This underrepresentation is problematic from several perspectives: From the point of view of the science and engineering workforce, nearly half the potential talent for the technical workforce is missing.

The gap in participation of specific groups is not as large as the gender gap, but race and ethnicity are also key factors in understanding the full spectrum of women's participation in science and engineering.

Since the social changes of the women's movement and legislation removing barriers and addressing gender equity changed the landscape for women's opportunities 30 years ago, women have made considerable progress in participation in a variety of professional fields.

Women are prompted by a social fabric that pervades our society, represented not only within our educational systems but also in homes, within families, and in popular culture, which, by and large, stereotypes engineering and scientific fields as "geeky" and particularly inappropriate for girls and women.

Women, to a somewhat greater extent than men, are apt to choose fields of study they believe will contribute to the social good, and engineering and related sciences are not widely perceived as professions making such contributions.

Though examples abound of discoveries, inventions, and solid engineering work and scientific research that contribute to the health and welfare of people all over the planet, to environmental protection and improved quality of life, the links between this work and engineering and science are not obvious to those outside these fields, and the perception remains. As a result, there won't be a "one size fits all" solution to increasing women's participation in scientific and technical fields, and many of the same strategies that work to encourage men's participation will encourage women's, and vice versa. There are already many strong programs in place, innovative as well as "tried and true," local, regional, and national, that help spark interest among young women; help to mentor students and emerging professionals at every level; provide "hands on" opportunities to explore the fun, challenge, and excitement of engineering and science; and offer role models and communities of support.

We need to focus on changing systems, practices, and institutions, not on "fixing" the individuals who aren't choosing engineering and scientific fields.

No 5. *Equality and facing the Giants*

(by IPET Vice President M Engels).

Equality - a symbolic expression of the fact that two quantities are equal; an equation. A statement that should at the least be understood by us all.

Equality - the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.

Equality is ensuring individuals or groups of individuals are not treated differently or less favourably, because of their specific protected characteristic, including areas of **race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age.**

When Israel was commanded by God to enter the holy land, their **leaders** decided that it would be wise to send out spies to survey the land, to understand its people. To maybe negotiate a truce or live in the land as subjects.

Twelve went out and surveyed the promised land, a land which they found to be GOOD. A land overflowing with milk and honey. A land where two was needed to carry a single bunch of grapes. Two spies out of twelve recounted the expedition differently than the other ten. A small percentage by far. When the great majority said that they would not survive they would be "As grasshoppers in the hands of men" the two said after a 40-day scouting expedition that they believed that they could take the land. Take the land against the odds.

They however stuck to their guns and suffered with their people for 40 years until they finally entered the same promised land with the same giants with the same obstacles. Yes, eventually they had to face them. Head on, in war, without holding back. Not without fear, not without fighting not without loss.

There is and always will be a fight against good and evil. A never-ending battle. But it will be fought, either by us or by our children or maybe their children, but the same obstacles will have to be overcome by someone.

If not us, then who? If not now, then when? Two perpetual questions echoing in my mind today.

Today I was happy when I read the news that a young girl age 6, kidnapped from her school's doorstep, was returned safely to her parents. I felt relieved. But one of many, many shocking and incomprehensible crimes that took place in **OUR** South Africa.

In modern-day South Africa women are faced with a wide range of issues such as the high crime rate, domestic violence, child abuse, Rape, HIV/AIDS, poverty, poor government delivery and high unemployment.

Yes, Men suffer from these to, we all suffer and will continue to do so until we face the Giants and boldly act. But many of the problems faced by women is a direct consequence of act of men.

Spring has arrived on the heels of Woman's month and there is no better time to reflect on the winter we have just survived, and in the winter of the Construction Industry we are still trying to survive.

Many of South Africa's leading Engineering firms took the opportunity in August to celebrate the woman working in their firms by posting articles highlighting these special ladies. As a woman you would emerge from this feeling inspired and empowered; but there is a quiet sadness looking into the eyes of the woman posted on social media. An empathy for their struggle because at this moment in South Africa no-one is safe, not on the streets, not in their homes and not at work. The words recession, retrenchments and restructuring are running wild on the fear grapevine. And we just know deep in our hearts that the struggle will not be equal.

We overhear comments at the water cooler; "why should I be retrenched; "Carol" doesn't even need this job her husband can support her financially".

Clients make sexual comments in a meeting towards women, and the men just ignore it or half-heartedly laugh. Contractors who in good financial times tolerates women but under pressure lashes out in a meeting telling everyone woman don't belong on a building site.

It's the woman director who suggest that they relook at the companies Work at Risk policy so they can manage spending during the recession, the moment she is out of the room her male counterparts dismiss her comment because women don't have the balls to pursue high risk high reward projects.

It's the whisper a woman business leader hears about her best client giving a new project away to her competitor because "He is a good guy, in times like these you want someone who has your back".

It's that Human Resources meeting your called into and told that while your flexible work hour seemed a good idea at the time the company has reassessed and would prefer all staff be in the office. Then comes the raised eyebrows you get when you have to leave at 5 to fetch your child from aftercare and someone comments "working half day now are we?" and you know everyone will be working till 8 because there simply aren't enough people to do the work.

You see we know that Gender Equality walks a thin line. In the good times people entertain the idea and pretend it's a human right. But in the bad times well... in the bad times Gender Equality is a privilege that companies feel they just can't afford. And that's sad because we are all missing out on so much by driving woman away from the profession. Do yourself a favour, look up from your desk at the woman working round you. Think about the resilience it took for her to be there, look at the challenges she has already overcome to be sitting next to you. Why would you not want more people like that in the profession.

I am sitting here struggling to write this. Not sure of how to express my feelings.

I am ashamed. I am ashamed, of us. Of South Africa. Of the men in this land. I am ashamed.

I am a husband and a father. My daughter is ending her school career soon and is looking forward to her studies and student life. The innocence of youth....

Is the country ready for a young woman child taught by her dad that she is equal in every which way, it seems not?

Just of the back of woman's month. Looking back at the last year, how many women would feel **EQUAL** today?

South Africa is a country with many faults. Many problems, many headaches many complex issues. That will have to be, either by you, or by your children, be faced head on, without fear.

I sincerely hope we, us, this generation decides to face it now and not wait for the next to bail us out.

How to stop crime against women? I don't know I am a man. I have never been belittled because of my gender. I have never been sexually harassed. I have never been victimised because of my gender. I have never been attacked.

I suspect it starts with respect and I suspect respect starts at home, I suspect it start with men standing up taking the higher road and leading the other men to follow them.

No 6.

The Court Case Against ECSA – Update.

ECSA was approached some years back on what seems to have been a flawed process of appointment of individuals onto ECSA's then new council which may render the new council illegal. This was a concern raised by various Voluntary Associations (VA) as it impacts on the validity of the work of ECSA's committees and the VA's.

Due process was followed after ECSA did not respond to the concern and the matter was taken to the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) for investigation. Legal advice indicated that there is sufficient evidence that the process was flawed. This concurs with the legal finding of the CBE.

Before going to court these individuals followed all available processes to resolve the matter amicably and in a collaborative manner with ECSA.

ECSA and the CBE were approached, then the Minister of Public Works. The team met with the Minister, deputy minister, the DG and their advisors. The Minister and his deputy both confirmed that they were not aware of the details of the issues regarding the ECSA case apparently promised to get back to the VA's. It's been more than two years since this meeting was held and the team has not received any response.

Due to no response from these bodies, the only option available was to go to court. Some 16 Voluntary Associations are indirectly part of this litigation process. Papers were lodged in high court in October 2016. The court date for this case has not yet been finalised as far as we are aware.

At the time of writing no positive steps have been yet ocured.

No 7. Good to Know.

IPET Social Media.

Please follow us on Facebook (<https://web.facebook.com/ipet.technologists>) and Linked-In (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ipet-engineering-technologists/>). Become an active member and start sharing your great ideas with the technology family.

We would love to hear from you. Please give us feedback on these profiles and suggest what you think should be on it so that we can attract new members.

IPET, The Institute of Professional Engineering Technologists, speaks for all Engineering Technologists in South Africa.

Becoming an IPET member will mean you enjoy benefits such as discount on your ECSA annual registration fee. The money saved is more than your IPET membership fee! Which means cash-back in your pocket.

CPD courses and workshops and other communication will be communicated to you on these platforms. See you soon!

Further IPET News

In an attempt to strengthen ties with our members you will now get a personal birthday message on your birthday thanking you for your ongoing support and patronage, also telling you of some recent developments and membership services that may be of value. You are also asked to provide suggestions of other possible services and email addresses of potential members

We are planning multi-disciplinary CPD courses, where paid up members will only pay for the catering and venue hire, making it very affordable, costing about R250 per day versus the going rate of R3500 per day. We are also working towards providing free CPD lectures on line on our web site. We appeal to members who have written papers and presented them at conferences (there must be no copyright on them) to share them with us for this purpose.

Members must please link with our Facebook and LinkedIn pages for ongoing contact and interesting reporting.

If links don't work please type in the text into your internet browser.

#. Services Offered By Members.

(Free ad for members)

Please visit our Website

<http://engineersdirectory.co.za/>

For all details.

If links don't work please type in the text into your internet browser.

Wherever possible support your fellow members!

No 8.

Office News.

In June and July we had a few weeks with no telephones or internet as well as a power failure over a few days. Thieves stole cables and also the standby batteries at local Cell Phone towers. The good news is that the battery thieves were caught some days later with the goods.

The Post Office has closed two of its local offices. The PO Boxes are still available but now one has to go to another Post Office to collect registered items. This is time consuming. To add to the general decline of services the Standard Bank, ABSA bank and Nedbank have closed their local branches.

Judging by the number of closed shops in the shopping malls in the area, the country's economic situation has worsened drastically over the past six months or so. We have also lost a number of members who resigned, emigrated or simply advised that they could no longer afford the fees. We have tried to accommodate as many members with problems as possible.

From the admin side we have further decreased our use of the Postal services. We no longer accept posted applications and all applications and correspondence should be done on line by E mail.

No 9. Adverts of interest to members.

Recruit a Graduate!!

South African businesses have a new platform to recruit skilled graduates, interns, and apprentices in a simple, low-cost format.

RecruitAGraduate.co.za is a new online recruitment platform. The new platform aims to pair young graduates, interns, and apprentices who have graduated from reputable higher learning institutions in the past five years, or those who need work experience to complete their qualifications, with businesses and entrepreneurs looking for the energy and skills that young recruits can offer.

Recruitagraduate.co.za completed a successful trial phase in March 2019 and opened its doors for job listings and professional recruitment in April.

By offering an easy-to-use platform with low fees and a targeted approach, RecruitAGraduate will help forward-thinking businesses invest in hiring graduates, interns, and apprentices, addressing one of the challenges of youth unemployment in South Africa, which is the highest in the world. Graduate youth employment integrates with existing governmental tax and B-BBEE incentives and dovetails with foundational programmes such as [Youth Employment Services](#) (YES)

Ed. This may assist students, graduates and employers.

If links don't work please type in the text into your internet browser.

No. 10. B Tech versus NHD.

On the question of which is better the article below is what IPOET published more than a year ago.

IPET's view of the question on the matter of the B Tech versus the NHD is as follows below.

B Tech and NHD, Job Adverts and Professional Registration.

2018

In a comparison between the National Higher Diploma and B Tech in engineering the following points are found.

1. In **The National Qualifications Framework** both the NHD and B Tech are rated as follows;
NQF Levels Designation / Description

7 Bachelor's degree, Advanced Diplomas, Post Graduate Certificate and B Tech.

Both are thus rated at the same level.

The **South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) is a statutory body**, regulated in terms of the National Qualifications Framework Act No. 67 of 2008. All education and training in [South Africa](#) fits within this framework.

2. The B Tech and NHD are *not identical* as the subjects and the levels differ *but are similar* in many respects. The NQF rate them at the same level.
3. The B Tech did not exist in the early days of the NHD and was not available to students. Without doing the whole B Tech course over, doing a few extra B Tech subjects after a NHD would generally result in being awarded a pass in those subjects but not a B Tech degree. (The same rule applies at the traditional universities).
4. While the current bench mark requirements for registration as a Professional Engineering Technologist with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) are a B Tech and at least 3 years of acceptable engineering responsibility the NHD is also accepted but with a few more years of acceptable engineering experience.
5. The Employer should be made aware that when assessing candidates for registration the outcomes to be met are that the applicant must be solving problems at B Tech level. It is not necessary that he has a B Tech, he could obtain that knowledge though Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and work experience. CPD is an ECSA requirement to retain Professional Registration. In this regard he should make his employer aware of ECSA's policy documents on

education evaluation, registration and the RPL policy. Reference should also made to the National Building Regulations which allow both Pr Eng's and Pr Tech Eng's to carry out rational design

6. The problem with NHD , B Tech *and the future B Eng qualification* is that each time there is some rearrangement of content etc the name changes. The traditional Universities make changes to content and level of their engineering degrees on an ongoing basis and a Bsc of say year 2000 is not the same as 2017. As the name has not changed they are generally accepted as equal and the same!

The Universities of Technology and Authorities should take heed of this and stop their confusing stance that just benefits Bsc graduates!

7. The problem with adverts that specify only a B Tech flow from the above and fall into the trap of requiring a specific qualification instead of requiring a competency. Such adverts are, in our opinion, discriminatory and in some cases age discriminatory.

8. Any advert for a competent engineering vacancy should specify a professional designation such as a Pr Tech Eng (Professional Engineering Technologist) or equivalent. (The equivalent could be an overseas recognised designation).

9. All the above should be brought to the attention of the Employer especially their Human Resources (HR) departments as it seems that they are not fully informed on this matter.

10. If this is not resolved then the applicant should consider approaching the Human Rights Commission and the Competition Commission.

**No 11.
Snippets.**

The following mini articles, notices and news follow the trend of interesting scientific, engineering developments and general interest items that we come across. Read and enjoy!

Please feel free to contribute by sending your items to share with our members!

Ed

In the Middle East and Africa (MEA), personal computing devices (PCD) market, which is made up of desktops notebooks, workstations, and tablets, declined 9.1% year on year in Q2 2019, according to the latest insights from International Data Corporation (IDC). The global technology research and consulting firm's Quarterly PCD Tracker shows that a total of 5.1 million units were shipped during the quarter. As with previous quarters, the decline primarily rooted from tablets however these seem to have dropped as well due to financial constraints.

India is about to land a lunar lander where no one has been before on the moon. The Chandrayaan-2 lunar lander Vikram, built by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is scheduled to land amid the craters of the moon's south pole (Sept. 6). Touchdown was scheduled for some time between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. EDT (2000-2100 GMT, 1:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. Sept. 7 IST). What was supposed to be India's first soft landing on the Moon appeared to end in failure when the country's robotic Vikram lander seemingly crashed into the lunar surface during its powered descent to the ground. If it had been successful, India would have become the fourth country to land a spacecraft intact on the Moon. But for now, only the United States, Russia, and China hold that title.

No 12.



The Joke Column.

Warning / Disclaimer.

Sensitive readers are warned that the following may erroneously and unintentionally be taken to contain sex, violence, strong language, gender, race, ethics etc. Readers are warned not to read or have any of the following read to them. Recommended readers age is limited to 140 and 161 years of age. A further requirement is you must have a sense of humour. No Persons or animals are intended to be harmed in any way by this column.

- # *On the economic front.
Two guys talking about the strength of the stock market. "Why would the stock market fall" the first man asked. "This economy has created so many jobs."
Yes, I know," replied the second man. "I have three of them."*

- # *I wonder about unemployed blacksmiths. Do they stand around talking about possible jobs?
Or do they just say, "Yes, I have a few irons in the fire"!*

- # *In this electronic age, a person is known by the company they beeps?*

- # *A thief stuck a pistol in a man's ribs and said, "Give me your money." The gentleman, shocked by the sudden attack, said: "You cannot do this, I'm a South African Minister!" The thief said, "In that case, give me my money!"*

- # *"One day, Einstein, Newton, and Pascal meet up and decide to play a game of hide and seek. Einstein volunteered to go first. As he counted, Pascal ran away scrambling to find a great hiding place. Giddily, he squeezed into a crawl space sure that he would win this time as this was his best hiding spot to date and Newton surely wouldn't find an equal. Newton on the other hand, stood right in front of Einstein, pulled out a piece of chalk and drew a box on the ground of roughly 1x1 meters. Once this was completed, he sat down neatly inside the box and waited for Einstein to finish counting. When Einstein opened his eyes, he of course saw Newton and with a bit of disappointment said "I found you Newton, you lose"... but Newton replied, "On the contrary, you are looking at one Newton over a square meter... Pascal loses!"*

Part 13.

Unsubscribe Option.

As a member of IPET you should want to receive the E News. If however u do not want to receive the IPET E News as an E Mail then you have the option to unsubscribe.

To unsubscribe send an email with "IPET unsubscribe newsletter" in the text to engineer@netactive.co.za

Part 14.

O. & O. E.

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