



MEDIA STATEMENT

18 JUNE 2024

REGISTERED PERSON PLACED ON PRECAUTIONARY SUSPENSION FOLLOWING GEORGE BUILDING COLLAPSE

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) has exercised its powers under Section 14 of the Engineering Profession Act and imposed a precautionary suspension on the Registered Person linked to the George Building Collapse.

The decision that the Council has taken as a preventive measure, to protect any potential and/or actual prejudice to public health and safety as a result of engineering-related undertakings, was deemed necessary following the tabling of the report and recommendations on the George building Collapse and the role of the ECSA registered person at a Council Meeting held this month.

The precautionary suspension by the Council is not a disciplinary action but a temporary removal of and/or restriction on all of the Registered Person's rights, privileges, and/or activities associated with professional registration with the ECSA.

Council will maintain this suspension until a decision is made regarding the potential charges against the Registered Person and/or the finalisation of any subsequent disciplinary action or appeal.

In addition to the suspension, the Council in accordance with Section 14 of the Act, will request the Registered Person and/or other identified stakeholders to provide, within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the request, a comprehensive list of all engineering related undertakings, projects, and services rendered by the Registered Person in both personal and professional capacities, whether trading under the name and style of Mitchell and Associates or otherwise.

At a minimum, the draft design and as-built drawings of the projects must be provided.

Within three (3) weeks thereafter, the contractor or accountable party for the project is required to provide an independent engineer's report concerning the structural integrity of the structure. This report must be compiled by a Registered Person, specifically a structural engineer, with no less than ten (10) years of experience who has actively practiced in the field of structural engineering and who is/was not involved as a project team member. The report should address the structural assessment and structural integrity of the engineering-related undertakings.

The scope of the request includes current and past projects dating back three (3) years from the date of this resolution.

Subsequent to receipt of these reports, a panel of ECSA-appointed investigators will review the reports and prepare a report with findings, focusing on structural integrity, for presentation to the Investigating Committee. The Investigating Committee will then consider these findings and recommend any necessary steps to the Council concerning the powers and/or duties of the Council as outlined in the Act.

ECSA invites all stakeholders affected by this resolution to send information to the following email: ECSA-IC@ecsa.co.za .

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Issued by the Engineering Council of South Africa

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