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MEDIA STATEMENT

South Africa takes over Presidency of the Federation of African Engineering Organisations

Johannesburg, South Africa, 04 March 2025. South Africa, represented by the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), was today officially inaugurated into the presidency of the Federation of African Engineering Organisations (FEAO) from 2025-2026.

The prestigious event was held at Boipuso Hall in Gaborone, Botswana and attended by the government of Botswana including the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Assistant Ministers, Presidents and representatives of African engineering regulatory bodies as well as delegates representing the profession from across Africa.

The presidency marks a milestone for the country and engineering fraternity in Africa as it envisions a future where engineering is used to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life in Africa.

The Engineering Council of South Africa will have the ECSA 6th Term Council President Eng. Refilwe Buthelezi Pr. Eng take on the role of the 7th FAEO President. Her appointment solidifies South Africa's continued leadership within FAEO and reaffirms ECSA's commitment to fostering excellence in engineering across the continent.

Handing over the reins to Eng. Buthelezi, the outgoing FAEO President Eng. Papias Dedeki, said "Our journey as FAEO has not been without challenges – policy misalignment, disparities in accreditation, and infrastructure, financing gaps. But through innovation, strategic partnerships and unwavering commitment, we turned these obstacles into stepping stones for progress".

"A key lesson I leave you with, is this: Africa`s engineering solutions must be homegrown, yet globally competitive. Initiatives such as Multidisciplinary Coalition of Professionals, Collaborative Engineering, Innovation Bandboxes as well as Engineering Accreditation Framework, I believe will shape Africa`s engineering future" added Eng. Dedeki.

To conclude he said, "As I pass the baton to the new President, I do so with confidence and optimism. I have no doubt that under her leadership, FAEO will continue to soar to greater heights.

Reflecting on her appointment, Eng. Buthelezi noted, Today, I stand before you with immense gratitude, yet a deep awareness of the responsibility entrusted to me as I lead the Federation of African Engineering Organisations into its next chapter".

She added, "I have always sought to create impactful change – particularly in the areas of water, infrastructure development and management, power and energy solutions, and capacity building for young engineering professionals and women in the field. Standing before you today, I do so with great humility and a clear sense of purpose: to champion engineering as the driving force behind Africa's sustainable development." This moment is not a personal achievement; it is the culmination of years of dedication and the collective efforts of all who have come before me.

Eng Buthelezi`s role as President underscores the progress made in transforming what is a traditionally male-dominated profession, advances gender diversity and serves as an inspiration for future generations of female engineering practitioner coming through the pipeline.

The FAEO presidency rotates among member countries every two years, with member countries serving for a total of six years as President-Elect for two years President for two years and Immediate Past President for another two years.

FAEO is a key continental body dedicated to uniting Africa's engineering organisations to address critical challenges in infrastructure, water and sanitation, energy, and ICT. The Federation represents over 500,000 engineering professionals across Africa. Additionally, the engineering body plays a pivotal role in promoting technical excellence and professional mobility.

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