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MEDIA STATEMENT

ECSA Supports Coordinated Regulatory Response Following Building Collapse Investigations

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Johannesburg, South Africa – The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) acknowledges the findings released by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, into four recent building and construction incidents in South Africa.

The investigations, covering incidents in Redcliffe, Verulam; Doornkop, Soweto; Magnolia, Sea Point; and Ormonde, Johannesburg, resulted in the aggregate loss of 17 lives and injuries to 24 people.

The findings demonstrate that the incidents occurred in different circumstances, while also highlighting recurring concerns relating to regulatory compliance, oversight, professional accountability, competence and enforcement.

As the statutory regulator of the engineering profession under the Engineering Profession Act 46 of 2000, one of ECSA's core mandate is to address matters concerning the conduct, competence and professional responsibilities of Registered Persons that fall within its jurisdiction.

ECSA continuously fulfils its statutory mandate to safeguard the public interest in matters relating to the engineering profession. ECSA is aware of the infrastructure failures referred to above and has initiated investigations into these matters. While investigations into certain matters have been concluded, investigations into others remain ongoing, in accordance with ECSA's statutory mandate and applicable regulatory framework.

Where there are grounds to establish that a Registered Person may have failed to meet the professional standards or obligations applicable to them, the Council will take the appropriate action within its powers.

At the same time, ECSA recognises the importance of due process. The findings of an investigation do not, in themselves, determine professional, civil or criminal liability. Any regulatory action must therefore follow the applicable processes and afford all affected parties procedural fairness.

ECSA supports continued cooperation among the relevant regulatory institutions to strengthen professional accountability, information sharing, oversight and public protection. The Council will fulfil its statutory responsibilities where matters concerning the engineering profession fall within its jurisdiction.

The protection of the public remains central to ECSA's regulatory mandate, and where professional conduct falls short of the standards required by law, the appropriate regulatory

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processes must follow.

-ENDS-

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About ECSA:

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) is the statutory body established in terms of the Engineering Profession Act, 2000 (Act No. 46 of 2000). It is mandated to regulate the engineering profession in South Africa by setting and maintaining internationally benchmarked standards of education, training, and professional practice.

ECSA is responsible for the registration of engineering professionals, accreditation of engineering programmes, prescription and enforcement of a Code of Conduct, and the disciplining of unprofessional conduct. Through these functions, ECSA safeguards the public, enhances the integrity of the profession, and contributes to the development of competent and ethical engineering practitioners who are vital to the country's infrastructure and socioeconomic development.

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