



MEDIA STATEMENT

27 September 2019

6th SA-UNESCO Engineering and Technology Conference Calls for an Action Plan

“We need an action plan, or without one we will continually have one conference after the other without any results to show for it”.

These were the opening remarks of Mr Christopher Tsatsawane, Executive at the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and sentiments carried out by each speaker at the official opening of the 6th SA-UNESCO Engineering and Technology Conference on Thursday, 26 September 2019.

Mr Tsatsawane was speaking on the theme of the conference “***Decolonizing the 4th Industrial Revolution in support of the Sustainable Development Goals***” and emphasized the importance of this conference not being a talk show, but for the conference to map a plan on how to embrace and adapt to the technological evolvments for South Africa and the world.

He said, “South Africa needs to harness the technological change presented by the fourth industrial revolution to serve the development aspirations of South Africa”.

Mr Tsatsawane was speaking among the Director General of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) Dr Phil Mjwara as well as the Premier of the North West Province, Professor Job Morogo who reiterated the same sentiments and called for this conference to be different and cognisant to the needs of the country as it manoeuvres through the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution.

The main conference which took place over two days from 26-27 September 2019, was hosted by North-West University's (NWU's) Mahikeng campus and is a collaboration between the UNESCO, the DSI ECSA and the National Research Foundation (NRF).

The conference sought to bring together role players from various engineering fields to discuss opportunities, challenges and propose strategies South Africa can adopt to develop relevant and future-oriented capacity and capabilities.

Some of the discussions included youth in engineering in the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), infrastructure for the 4IR, advanced manufacturing and sustainable engineering and energy.

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Issued by the Engineering Council of South Africa

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