



# NEWS

Part 2

Volume 7 Issue 11  
November 2011

## *SAHF forges links with Department of Human Settlements, Western Cape and the Chartered Institute of Housing, UK*

Following the agreement between the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and Southern African Housing Foundation (SAHF) signed in 2007, the CIH South East (CIHSE) committee International Group continues to promote the exchange of information and best practice between agencies in the UK and Southern Africa.



From left to right: Robert Keats - Chairman - CIH SE Branch, John Hopkins - CEO - SAHF & Mbulelo Tshangana - HOD - DHSWC

At the SAHF International Housing Conference held in Cape Town in September 2011 a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Department of Human Settlements, Western Cape, CIHSE Branch and the SAHF with the aim of developing

stronger ties with Southern African housing, community and academic organisations which is a continuing priority for the CIHSE International Group which has identified resources to support these international links.

To assist with this continuing work the CIHSE proposes to establish more formal links with Department of Human Settlements for the Western Cape (DHSWC)

via the Southern African Housing Foundation to help: build capacity for housing practitioners through collaborative exchanges of staff and mentoring, develop professional education and training for housing qualifications.

The Agreement will further support knowledge transfer between practitioners and academics and contribute



additional resources for joint or collaborative projects.

These outputs from this Memorandum of Agreement will be delivered through a small team of

interested individuals consisting of members of DHSWC, CIHSE, SAHF and representatives of partner organisations or other key personnel invited by these founding groups.

The team will promote their activity through periodic specialist reports and annual reviews and, through this process, seek to develop further collaborative projects. The projects will, in turn, build wider and deeper collaborative relations between housing and community professionals in the UK and Southern Africa.

## *RDP houses bad for health*

Thousands of people in RDP homes across the Western Cape are at risk of contracting TB or diarrhoea, after a study found a direct link between defects in the poorly built homes and people falling ill. The study found that the health of backyarders was better than that of people living in the homes.

The study by Stellenbosch University and UCT researchers found that leaking roofs, cracked walls, insufficient insulation and meagre sanitation facilities negatively affected health.

After the findings were made public earlier this year, the city's Human Settlements Portfolio Committee asked for a more detailed report. The report on the study said

health factors needed to be considered in housing policy and design. TB and diarrhoea were the key conditions linked to poor design and maintenance of the RDP housing, the report said. Leaking roofs was one of the most common problems, the study found.

"The majority of the owners interviewed could neither afford to maintain the houses nor to repair the structural defects," read the report. According to the study, 99 percent of the respondents could not afford the repairs.

The study also found that 33 percent of the respondents had had diarrhoea in the two weeks before the study. The report on the study said 38 percent had TB. "The lack of proper insulation and ventilation, as well as overcrowding, were the major contributors to this problem," said the report. The study, done last year, included a survey of 1 080 people at 336 "dwellings" in Driftsands, Tafelsig, Masiphumelele and Greenfields.

Fatima Ismail of Tafelsig was one of the respondents. Entering the home, a small passage of a few paces leads to an open-plan kitchen and dining area. Because there was only one bedroom, Ismail converted the dining area into a bedroom. *To Page 2*



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The SAHF is the catalyst for networking, conferencing and workshops for Africa, bringing housing professionals together.

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# Namibia - Construction sector 'let down' by State

Windhoek – The construction industry has asked government to stop paying lip service and take practical steps towards job creation and other measures that would boost domestic industries.

The Construction Industry Federation of Namibia (CIF), which represents about 150 company members, has recorded an uptake in new membership and "is convinced that the rapid growth in membership is due to the industry feeling let down by government".

Referring to the granting of exemptions and awarding of construction tenders to non-Namibian construction companies, the CIF, at its recent Annual General Meeting, said this was "regarded as counter productive and entirely contradictory" to the State's job creation efforts.

The Federation has met with the Ministry of Works and Transport, the National Planning Commission, the Office of the Labour Commissioner as well as with the trade union body asking for mutual working relations and a level playing field. "With rapidly growing foreign participation in Namibia's construction sector, the industry is becoming an increasingly competitive environment for Namibian companies," said CIF President, Karl-Heinz Schulz.

According to the Federation, all institutions have pledged their support. An agreement has been negotiated between the Federation and the Metal and Allied Namibian Workers Union (MANWU) on minimum wages and employment conditions within the country's construction sector, which, CIF says, would help raise awareness of minimum employment conditions thus creating potential of levelling the playing field for both local and foreign companies. The CIF says all construction companies should be made to comply with legislation affecting the industry, including minimum employment conditions. "It is vital that an environment is established in which all companies in the market follow the same rules and are given an equal opportunity to compete," said Schulz.

Continued from Page 1 - RDP houses bad for health

There is a small passage leading to the bedroom, which is opposite the toilet. The homes are untiled, with only cement floors. All RDP homes are between 30 and 36m<sup>2</sup>. Ismail moved into her one bed-roomed home about three years ago. She shares it with her husband and their five children. They spent thousands of rand trying to make it more liveable.

Ismail said that when she moved in, there had been no bath or wash basin. They had to bathe in a plastic basin in the kitchen. For the first month, she said, they had used a candle before installing electricity. She has plastered the bedroom and front room, where four of her children sleep on double bunks, and replaced the plastic sink with a glass one. However, patches of thick mould are still on the bedroom walls and in the dining room. When it rains, water often seeps into the house.

"I didn't ask any questions when they told me I was getting a house. I was happy, I just jumped for it. I'm not ungrateful and I'm happy my children have a roof over their heads."

Fatgia Davids, another Tafelsig resident, said her disabled son, Mogamat Zaid, had suffered constant "sickness and allergies" since moving in, but was grateful to the city for building a ramp at her home which made it easier to move wheelchair-bound Mogamat.

Another resident, who did not want to be named, said he had lodged several complaints with city officials about the state of his house.

Ernest Sonnenberg, the Mayoral Committee Member for Housing, said some of the houses had been built by the city, but most had been built by the provincial government. He said the city believed the key reasons for problems with the general upkeep of the homes were unemployment, poverty and a lack of education.

He said RDP houses were privately owned so it was the home owners' responsibility to maintain them.

Source: IOL Property - 5/10/2011

The general feeling in the industry, he says, is that foreign construction companies are able to get away with being non-compliant and none adherent to legislation and minimum employment conditions.

The Federation had a huge turnout at its recent Annual General Meeting in September, which, it says, is "clearly a reflection of the growing apprehension about the issues the industry is facing."

"All government authorities and tender bodies at central, regional and local level, as well as State owned enterprises had been approached to work more closely with the CIF with regard to information about upcoming projects as well as tender information," the organisation said.

The Federation says given the right conditions, the industry has potential to "generate the highest multiplier effect and to provide the growth impetus through backward and forward linkages with other sectors in the economy thus stimulating economic activity and essentially becoming a driver for employment in other sectors".

Source: New Era - 17/10/2011

## Christchurch wastewater spills

About 7.8 billion litres of untreated wastewater, which would fill more than 3100 Olympic-sized swimming pools, has spilled into Christchurch's waterways since the earthquakes, mostly since February. Environment Minister Nick Smith said the overflows were "unavoidable" and no criticism should be levelled at the city's authorities, which had "acted pretty quickly".

However, Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust Chairman Martin Maguire said the figures suggested there had been huge ecological damage and ideally the city's sewerage system should be reconfigured so overflows into waterways were not necessary.

Christchurch City Council figures show that 7.57 billion litres of wastewater, including raw sewage, had been spilt into the Avon and Heathcote Rivers, the Estuary and into the sea between February 22 and September 22 this year. About 240 million litres of wastewater overflows happened after the September 2010 quake. It would take 3120 Olympic-sized swimming pools to hold 7.8 billion litres. As at September 22, 5.6 million litres a day was still being spilt from two sites into the Estuary.

The council's \$87 million ocean outfall, which diverted the city's wastewater from the Estuary to three kilometres out to sea, began operating in March last year. However, the quakes, particularly the massive shake on February 22, shattered the city's infrastructure and almost stopped the Bromley Treatment Plant from operating. Smith, who has been regularly briefed about the discharges, said the ocean outfall had sparked significant water-quality improvements in the Estuary but the overflows had caused a deterioration.

Source: Press.co.nz - 8/10/2011

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Scirocco Enterprises Ltd's objective is to provide the highest standards in all aspects of their business. It is the biggest supplier of building materials and services in Zambia offering a range of product from basic aggregates to turnkey projects, construction and mining.

## Block Production

The first Finlay block making machines were purchased factory reconditioned in 2002. Although now 32 years old they proved very reliable and enabled the company to build a substantial concrete block business. As a result of the success of the block division and to meet increasing demand, two new Finlay F24 machines are due for delivery in November. These are modern semi automatic machines with high production output. It is expected to add a further two machines in twelve months.



Block yard

They have an agreement with Finlay to provide a service engineer every six months to keep the machines in first class condition.

Moustafa Saadi, Managing Director reflected on the choice of Finlay equipment – Finlay equipment has proved very successful, they are high output machines, simple to operate and because of the vibration system produce a block which is very competitive. In addition Finlay is very helpful and good people to deal with. The fact that our two original Finlay machines are 32 years old also proves their longevity.

## Aggregates

Scirocco Enterprises supplies all sizes of aggregate for the building and construction industry.

Three Crushing Plants have a combined output in excess of 4000 metric tonnes per day. The range covers quarry sand, chippings, concrete stones as well as all types of crusher run for base course.

## Concrete

Scirocco is the biggest supplier of concrete in Zambia. Ready mixed concrete is delivered into the Lusaka market and many major construction projects have been supplied in the last few years. A concrete pumping service is now available to complement the concrete supply.

## Cement

Scirocco began production of the 'AMAKA' Brand Ordinary Portland

Cement in December 2005. Initial production was 100 metric tonnes per day and has increased to 300. Production is used to meet Scirocco's requirements with the surplus being sold on the local market. Cement is sold in 50kg bags or delivered in bulk.

## Building & Construction

The construction division specializes in industrial and commercial buildings. Scirocco Enterprises is registered with the National Council for Construction with a grade 1 in the General Civil Works Category (C) and Building Category (B). The company is developing its construction capacity by increasing staffing and equipment to handle larger and more diversified projects.

## Precast Concrete

Investment in a new system for precast concrete panels and structures is proving very successful. The Wafflecrete system is an innovative product that is used for the construction of a variety of structures ranging from low cost simple dwellings to multi storey structures including apartments, hotels, parking structures and other commercial and industrial buildings. The system relies on waffle like ribs to give the tensile strengths required whilst saving on the concrete and steel requirements.

Ease of installation and the speed at which projects can be accomplished coupled to the savings in material and manpower required is a proving a big advantage.

## Transport

A large fleet of trucks are tracked by satellite in real time and are monitored around the clock. This feature gives assurances that cargo can be traced and security is enhanced especially with valuable or sensitive cargo. All trucks are designed for on highway and off road haulage for bulk materials.

## Real Estate & Property Development

The company has acquired prime land in the Lusaka area for the development of a shopping centre, office blocks and other amenities. Construction will commence as soon as plans are finalised and approval obtained from the local authorities. With the new Wafflecrete building system, construction will be quick and a distinctive building style will be introduced in Zambia.

## Mining

The company is involved in contract mining operations throughout Zambia. These services include the hire of equipment such as drilling rigs, excavators, articulated dump trucks, loaders, dozers, graders and heavy duty road haulage trucks for specific long term operations as well contract drilling, blasting, loading and hauling of ores and overburden.

## NAMIBIA - City embarks on N\$110 Million housing project

The City of Windhoek is embarking on a project to develop about 1130 erven for Otjomuise.

According to Steven Hochobeb, Project Manager of Land Delivery at the City of Windhoek, the city is currently awaiting the submission of applications from interested developers and construction companies. This will be followed by an adjudication process, awarding of the tender, designs and then construction.

A Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) initiative, the project is funded by government and has been allocated about N\$110 million provided to the City.

Apart from the development and economic benefit that the project will bring, "Windhoek residents and community can possibly benefit through

employment creation. At this stage, I can't say how many people will be employed," Hochobeb said. In the meantime, "our estimates are that the project will take about 11 to 12 months. It will start as soon as the tender is awarded," he added. Procedures regarding the awarding of the tender are expected to be finalised within this month.

The 1130 erven at Otjomuise Extension Ten are targeted for low income earners.

TIPEEG is a three-year programme that was launched as part of government's efforts to arrest the escalating and persistent unemployment rate, especially among the young unskilled segment.

Source: Namibia Economist - 21/10/2011



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## SUDOKU

	6		5		1			
		8		6				2
			2				7	
4						8		3
	1			4			9	
2		5						6
	4				3			
7				9		5		
			4		8		1	

This is the world's most addictive numbers game. The aim is to fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 - 9.

You need to reason out where to place the missing numbers by using the numbers given in the grid and a process of elimination.

The answers will appear in next month's publication.

Good luck!!

Please see last month's solution on the right. →

3	9	6	4	2	5	7	8	1
8	1	5	3	7	6	9	2	4
7	2	4	1	9	8	6	3	5
9	3	1	6	5	4	8	7	2
2	6	8	9	1	7	4	5	3
4	5	7	2	8	3	1	6	9
1	7	9	8	3	2	5	4	6
5	4	3	7	6	1	2	9	8
6	8	2	5	4	9	3	1	7

## Africa News Round-up



### ANGOLA - Defence Minister Hails FAA Commitment to Reconstruction

The Defence Minister, Cândido Pereira Van-Dãnem, in northern Bengo Province highlighted the commitment of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) to the process of demining and rehabilitation of railways and roads, construction of bridges and communication systems, including other basic infrastructure. According to him, this effort is an evidence of FAA's loyalty to the motherland and institutions of the State.

The Minister was speaking to Angop, while addressing the main event of the celebrations of the 20th FAA anniversary on 9 October. "We are aware of the work we have to carry out to place Angola in the group of countries marked by prosperity and well-being of their people," said the Minister. The event was attended by the General Chief of Staff of FAA, General Geraldo Sachipengo Nunda, Governor of Bengo Province, João Bernardo de Miranda and Attorney General, João Maria de Sousa, MPs, chieftains, clerics, officers, sergeants, and soldiers, among other figures. The event went under the slogan FAA-20 years in the defence of the national sovereignty and independence. The Angolan Armed Forces were created on October 9, 1991, following the Bicesse Accord signed between the Government and the then Unita rebel forces.

Source: Angola Press - 10/10/2011



### ZAMBIA - Contractors warned

Government has warned contractors working on township roads in Lusaka of having their contracts terminated if they continued with substandard road works by compromising on the agreed specifications. The Government has also overruled the excuses that some road works have delayed as a result of a shortage of bitumen from South Africa where it is sourced.

Works, Transport and Communications Minister Yamfwa Mukanga said after touring some township roads in Lusaka that he was not impressed with the quality of some roads done in Lusaka by some contractors. The minister was, however, impressed with the roads worked on by Teichmann Contractors mostly in Chelstone, Munali and Kaunda Square. He said attributing their failure to complete their projects to shortage of bitumen from South Africa exposed the contractors' lack of planning.

Source: Times of Zambia - 22/10/2011



### NIGERIA - World Bank Earmarks N4.7 Billion for Construction of Rural Roads

The World Bank has approved N4.7 billion grant for the construction of rural roads in four states to fast track development and encourage agricultural activities in the country. Nicolas Pertiera, the Bank's Team Leader for Rural Access Roads Monitoring Projects, disclosed in Minna, during a courtesy call on Niger Acting Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Ibeto.

"The World Bank is embarking on the construction and rehabilitation of selected rural roads in four states of the federation as part of its comprehensive efforts at opening up rural areas and enhancing agricultural activities." Pertiera who did not mention the three states that would benefit with Niger under the pilot scheme, said that the four states would benefit from the 315 million dollars grant.

"The World Bank has set aside the sum for the construction of 200 kilometres rural access roads in each of the four states within a period of six months."

He said that out of the amount, the World Bank was contributing N2.9 billion (\$195m) while the French Pertiera said that care would be taken in selecting the projects to ensure that only communities with high agricultural potentials benefit in order to encourage farmers access to the market.

"The project is another way of alleviating poverty because we discovered that most people in the rural areas don't have access to sell their farm produce due to bad roads," he said. He urged the benefiting states to collaborate with the World Bank, saying that any state that completes its 200 km rural feeder road network within six months deadline would enjoy additional incentives.

Pertiera said that the World Bank would maintain the roads for five years after construction before handing them over to their respective states as part of confidence building mechanism.

Responding, Ibeto assured the World Bank team of government's determination to partner with development agencies to fast track its vision 20:2020 development agenda using agriculture.

"This government intends to use agriculture to develop the state and we are ready to partner the World Bank on all conditions needed for this project," he said.

He commended the World Bank for including Niger in the programme, adding that the state road rehabilitation agency would maintain the road once it is handed over to the government.

Source: www.vanguardngr.com - 7/10/2011



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