



Charlotte Maxeke Academic  
Hospital receives escalators

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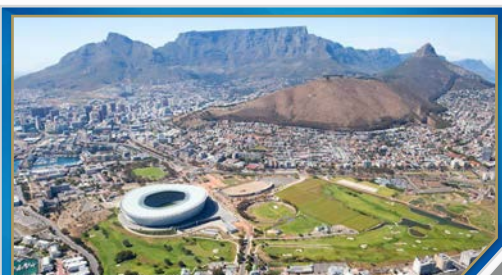
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## MEC Mamabolo engages with Project Managers during imbizo





## MEC Mamabolo engages with Project Managers during imbizo

By Tiisetso Ngoedi

**M**EC Jacob Mamabolo was in a lively mood when he met with Project Managers for the first time this year during an imbizo held at Westhoven Regional Hub on Thursday, 8 February 2018. Initially, the meeting was held to recognise certain project managers for their excellent usage of the Primavera System in the delivery of Infrastructure Projects. However, after the engagement with projects managers MEC proposed the need to reschedule the meeting for an inclusive awarding certificate ceremony for all deserving project managers.

MEC Mamabolo urged professionals to be consistent in the implementation of project plans using the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) as well as the Primavera System saying, "I want us to be clear. Whether in health or education branch, we should all align to one project plan. Anyone who deviates is not complying. As long as we are consistent, then we are okay".

The Primavera System is a smart technology usage system that the Department uses to evaluate the development of projects and assists in project visibility. It monitors the budget and the service delivery of different branches within DID. Through the data presented on Primavera, the Department is able to assess where improvements can be made to successfully deliver sustainable services to clients.

The MEC was joined by HoD: Bethuel Netshiswinzhe as well as Chief Director of Infrastructure Research, Planning and Systems: Amanda Moletsane, who also engaged professionals on the overview of the Department's IDMS journey where this framework was developed to regulate infrastructure delivery.

The productive meeting concluded with an optimistic agreement of the standardisation and integrated approach towards the delivery of Infrastructure Projects.



Photos by: Tshisikhawe Thangavhuelelo

## Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital receives new escalators

By Sthabile Cele

**T**he CEO of Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital Gladys Bogoshi opened a brand new set of escalators on 07 February 2018 and declared it ready for use. DID's Project Manager Tawanda Taruvinga, together with service provider IFE South Africa's CEO Clive Northman handed over a completed R4,212,017.28 project that began on 22 November 2016.

Hospital staff, particularly nurses and doctors, had raised complaints to their management about having to climb the steep staircase between the main hospital building and the residences after long hours of shift work, and these concerns were subsequently raised with DID to assist. DID's Engineering Services Section agreed that the installation of escalators would assist hospital staff in addressing their concerns. The escalators replacement project was initiated for the replacement of the old escalators which had not been working for more than 5 years. The new escalators, with a covered and ventilated dome, not only provides easy access to the hospital residential area but also allows for a more safer route as hospital staff work shifts which sometimes finish late at night.

### Escalators with energy saving features

The construction of the escalators was not an easy one according to the service provider as the area is on a mountainous area, full of rocks and is very steep. Normally escalators are 52

steps, but because of the specified travel length of 23.8m over a rise of 9.7m and an incline of 30°, the number of steps had to be increased to 114, which required a unique design different from the normal units at shopping malls. The escalators have also been installed with energy saving features in line with the shift towards greener installations. The units have a rated speed of 0.5m per second, but will decelerate down to a no load speed of a third of the rated speed when unit is not in use; and will accelerate to rated speeds when it detects motion on the steps.

### Challenges during implementation

According to Tawanda, some of the challenges experienced included implementation delays due to offshore factors as escalators are not locally manufactured and the equipment was manufactured in China. The equipment manufacturer in China was delayed due to the 3 week holiday break for that country's year-end festivals held in February 2017, which in turn affected the project schedule. The importation of equipment from overseas also exposed DID to the Rand / Dollar forex variations which resulted in additional costs to the project.

CEO Bogoshi was very happy with the work that DID has delivered and said that they now have to make sure that they keep the escalator at the same level they received it. "Staff need to look after the infrastructure that we provide for them," she said. The contractor has signed



Project Manager: Tawanda Taruvinga

a 3-year maintenance contract with stipulated terms and conditions for maintenance.

It was a great day for hospital staff. Some hospital staff came and joined the CEO during the handover of the completed escalators and they ended the ceremony by singing joyful songs of appreciation.


Photos by: Tshisikhawe Thangavhuelelo



## Do you feel safe and secure in DID buildings?

By Tiisetso Ngoedi and Zubenathi Ngqikiza

The month of February focuses on a safety theme and as such, *InTouch* asked colleagues if they feel safe and secure in DID buildings. This is what they had to say...




**Ntswaki Moremi**  
Intern: Logistics Management

Yes, because there is security and the building is secure.




**Sibongile Radebe**  
Operator: Logistics Management

Yes, I do feel safe because we have security personnel and it's not easy for strangers to get inside our building.




**Busisiwe Mqinyana**  
Receptionist: Zivuseni (EPWP)

Yes, I feel safe and secure. There are security guards outside and everything is intact.




**Sipho Mbatha**  
Administration Clerk: Health Branch

No, I don't feel safe. Someone once stole my phone and colleagues' laptops. At times the electricity trips, lifts do not work and we run out of water in this building.




**Samuel Nthita**  
Operator: Logistics Management

No, I don't feel safe. Anyone can just walk in and there is little done to secure the safety of employees. I think that there should be precautions put in place and security should undergo training.



**Thabiso More**  
Database Administrator: ICT

No, I have seen the way people get inside. A person can easily get inside the building under a false pretence.




**Anton Beukes**  
Building Inspector: Maintenance

Yes, we have security and that is enough.




**Fred Marshall**  
Control Inspector: Maintenance

Yes, because I look after myself.



**Tebogo Mokobane**  
ICT: Corner House

I think that only a few floors are safe. I don't feel safe, our computer equipment get stolen because of the lack of control from security personnel. In an open plan office, it's even worse because other employees steal from each other.




**Mbali Vertrand**  
Intern: Corporate Services

I feel moderately safe. Our building has the biometric system put in place and there has not been any safety issues since I started working here.




**Johanna Ngwana**  
Personnel Practitioner: Human Resources

Yes, because we have security guards. They inform me before anyone can come into my office. No one can just come into my office without being informed by the security guards.



**Salma Mariace**  
Administration Clerk: Procurement

Yes, our security is very tight and they just don't allow anyone to come in.




**Baleseng Mekgwe**  
Intern: Office of the HoD

Yes, I feel safe but partially secure. Security staff should be mobile, where they come and check if everything is okay in the offices.



**Bonginkosi Hadebe**  
Handyman: Maintenance

No, I was once stuck in a lift for 2 hours and there was no one to assist me. Security guards don't have access to the building, so they can't get inside our offices.



**Gabriel Nzitshe**  
Admin Clerk: Maintenance

Yes, I feel safe, it's a safe building. There is nothing wrong.



## HRM hosts first onboarding for 2018

By Ayanda Ntshangase



Chief Directorate: Human Resources Management (HRM) welcomed 15 new employees at the first onboarding of 2018 held on at 18 Rissik's 5th floor Auditorium on 01 February 2018. The purpose of onboarding is to welcome as well as assist new employees to be familiarised to their workplace.

Director: Human Resource Administration (HRA) Thembi Nkonyane warmly welcomed the new employees. Following her was Deputy Director: Selection and Recruitment Kanukane Tshindane who gave an overview of the Department's vision, mission, values and strategic goals, "We will not throw you at the deep end, we will work together," said Kanukane. Senior Administrator: Human Resource Development (HRD) Owen Ngxukumesha, informed employees about

key responsibilities of HRD which includes inducting new appointees. Employees were also informed about the opportunities within the Department as well as the Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) organisational structure.

### Our new employees

Romeo Mthimkhulu was previously appointed as a Brick Layer Instructor and Training Officer, has now been appointed as a Brick Layer Artisan. "It's been 8 years working in the Department. I am glad that I will be working 'hands on' in my new position," Romeo said. "My goal is to study Safety Management," he added.

Zubenathi Ngqikiza has been appointed as an Administration Clerk Officer within the Internal Communications sub-directorate. He previously

worked at Ntabankulu Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape also as an Administration Clerk Officer. "I feel great. I want to develop in my career and I would like to add value to the Department," he said.

Another new appointee, Phumlani Phungula has been appointed as a Mechanical Fitter at Thelle Mogoerane Hospital. Since receiving the news, he said he felt overwhelmed.

Office Manager in the Health Branch, Dimakatso 'Maki' Daku highlighted a few critical issues regarding the health branch. She also informed new employees about DID's corporate image and mentioned opportunities and resources which are available to DID employees.



Photos by Tshisikhawe Thangavhuelelo

## Tips to help you get through university

By Ayanda Ntshangase

Universities are large and complex institutions and starting a new phase in your life can be a little intimidating. Starting out in a new environment is a big change and sometimes one may find it hard to cope. How your time is structured and the amount of direction you are given can be quite different from your previous educational experience.

Students will be challenged, frustrated, disappointed, tired, homesick, impatient, anxious, lonely, emotional, scared and annoyed a lot more than you think, it's all part of the process. When these moments happen, stop, take a deep breath, and remind yourself that this is just the beginning of your journey. Take it all at your own pace and be especially kind to yourself on those down days.

**InTouch compiled a list of ways to help you cope with the stress of university:**

- 1. Spend time planning and organising:** Plan a regular study routine for yourself, this will help you with time management. Remove all things that serve as distractions.
- 2. Set goals:** Think about what you want to achieve, then plan steps on how you intend to achieve them. Create a picture of where you want to be in life 10 years from now. Make a note of what you need to do each month in order to achieve your goals.
- 3. Prioritise:** If you want to be more productive or feel overwhelmed, make a "to do list" and itemise it from the most important to the least important tasks.
- 4. Be flexible:** Show a willingness to learn new methods, procedures, or techniques and take on new tasks. Show initiative and self-confidence, look for new ways of doing things to achieve objectives. Make suggestions for increasing the effectiveness of changes. Be resourceful with a positive, 'can do' attitude to change.
- 5. Get involved:** Involve yourself in extra mural activities, you can participate in sports on or off campus or even volunteering.

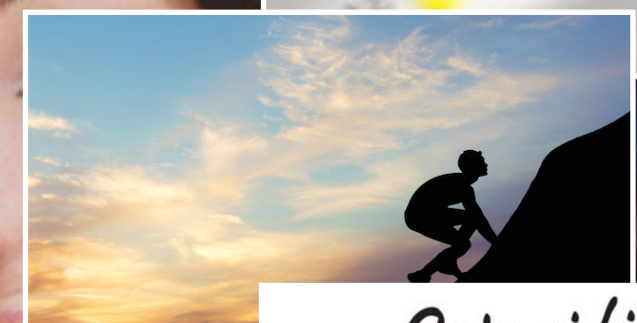
Don't feel pressured to have it all figured out in a short span of time. Trust in yourself and have faith that all will work out the way it's meant to.

Sources: <https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/7-time-management-tips-students>

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/sk/time.htm>



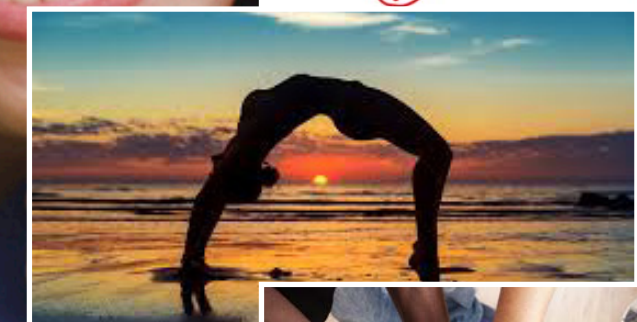
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## Dr Chimusoro shares journey towards achieving his PhD



By Tiisetso Ngoedi

Employees were treated to an afternoon of an inspiring personal motivational talk session with Chief Engineer: Research and Green Technology Oliver Chimusoro on 2 February 2018 at 18 Rissik's Infrastructure Knowledge Hub. The session was aimed at sharing the journey that Chimusoro has gone through in the pursuit of his remarkable achievements.

Opening and welcoming the attendees Green Technology Research Analyst, Lucas Phora spoke briefly about the privilege and pleasure of having a person of Dr Chimusoro's calibre in our Department. This academic holds a number of qualifications which includes, a degree in Industrial Engineering, Masters in Science (MSc) and a PhD (Industrial Engineering) under the theme, "How to syn-THESIS-ize?". He has also bagged a Master's in Business Administration (MBA). Currently, he is studying for a degree in Theology and hopes to do an Honours in Theology after completing the degree. His motivational talk was divided into three parts, namely "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". Dr Chimusoro took the audience,

largely engineering professionals, through an overview of the key principles of his accomplishments. He further reflected on how he grew up in Zimbabwe and the circumstances that shaped his perspective on life. It was evident that indeed nothing can stand in the way when one is driven, passionate and determined to succeed.

Quoting a number of philosophers within the academic field, he said, "When a man has put a limit on what he will do, he has put a limit on what he can do. Life is too short to think small, everything is possible. Never used the word [never]". Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of association, education, training, mentorship, attitude, vision, talent and spiritual consciousness.

Among the many obstacles he experienced, he mentioned his spirituality as the source of his strength, "I had success and obstacles. I will be lying if I tell you that things were easy. Wherever there is a will, there is a way. At one time I did not have money to study, I went and registered by faith for my MSc. I later received funding and

I passed with merit. I never looked back. Take note of God's blessings because God blesses the work of your hands," he emotionally said.

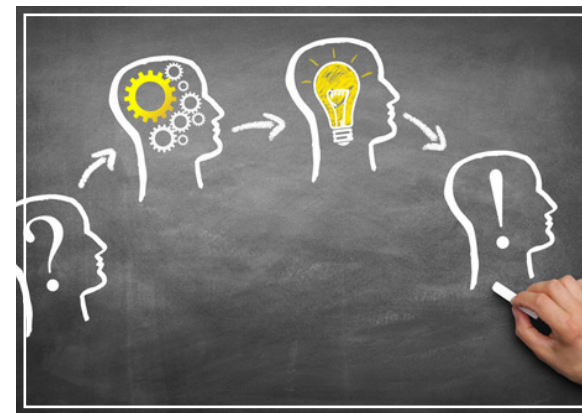
Dr Chimusoro is responsible for Green Projects in all Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) buildings. His work includes, but is not limited to, rolling out renewable energy projects in Solar PV roof tops, natural gas reticulation and biomass and landfill gas programmes.

His presentation included the flow of research, the proposal and the framework model (integrated logistics model) which is the thesis he based his PhD on. He read for this PhD through Stellenbosch University.

Employees were afforded an opportunity for a Question and Answer Session while they interacted directly with Chimusoro. "I am still learning. Anyone who keeps learning stays mentally young, because your brain is kept alive", he said.

Opinion Piece

## The Academy, ontological?



By Lucas Phora

The Infrastructure Knowledge Hub (IKH) hosted Dr Oliver Chimusoro, the Chief Engineer: Green Technology, on 2nd February 2018 at Impophoma House, 18 Rissik Street. This session hovered under the general theme of 'Journey to a PhD'. This journey is essentially an academic journey. But what is the academy? Why would individuals in society embark on a journey to a PhD qualification?

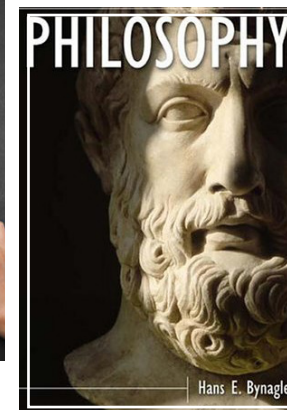
Dr Chimusoro's talk was dissected into three parts, the motivational aspect on his personal life, the PhD thesis as a contribution to knowledge and a question and answer part. This dissection is in tandem with the three worlds approaches in research in the social sciences. World 1 is the world of everyday life and lay knowledge; World 2 is the world of science and World 3 is the world of metascience. The key idea in World 1 is that every day practically as we lead life, we need knowledge to cope with our daily tasks. This pragmatic interest to acquire lay knowledge could also be referred to as existential interest.

One needs to know customs, practices and expectations of 'folks' around. The distinctive feature of World 2 is the epistemic interest. Here scientists consider phenomena in World 1 (world of politics, economics, animal world etc.) as 'objects' of scientific inquiry and

investigation. There is systematic and rigorous inquiry carried out in pursuit of 'the search for truth as the overriding goal of science'. The World of metascience (World 3) is the world of the philosophy of science wherein reflection and self-criticism on 'the business of science' happens. It is about the nature and dynamics of sciences. These reflections include conceptual clarity on scientific terms such as 'truth', 'objectivity', 'validity', 'progress' etc. This world also includes historical perspectives on the rise and demise of science disciplines, ethical guidelines on the appropriate moral behavior in the scientific sphere and the methodology of scientific research. That is academic.

In his main argument on multiple worlds, Johann Mouton (Understanding Social Research, 1996) writes that "One of the distinctive features of being human is that we live many different kinds of lives and constantly assume different roles. Most of us have a professional life – an academic life if you are a student – and also a religious, moral, family, political and economic life. We are simultaneously father or mother, brother or sister, child, worker, believer, voter and athlete. It is useful to think of these different roles that we assume as constituting worlds that we inhabit".

In the practice of sharing knowledge, IKH hopes to host a series of subject matter



experts to divulge knowledge to the DID family across various relevant disciplines ranging from the arts and humanities, engineering, project management, accounting and finance, monitoring and evaluation, governance, development, strategy and leadership, law, so on and so forth. Why? In The Age of Reason: Thomas Paine (a British pamphleteer, revolutionary, radical, inventor, intellectual) who authored Common Sense (1776), a man who attended 'church in his own mind' (I wonder if he is the doubting Thomas infamously referred to in the Christian Religious Teachings or he was just maimed by the name) wrote, "I believe the equality of man, and I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow creatures happy". "It is impossible to calculate the moral mischief, if I may so express it, that mental lying has produced in society. When a man has so far corrupted and prostituted the chastity of his mind, as to subscribe his professional belief to things he does not believe, he has prepared himself for the commission of every other crime."

Ontology is the study of being or reality, thus when individuals in society embark on academic studies, we hope for the betterment of society at large.

When a man has put a limit on what he will do, he has put a limit on what he can do.

Charles M. Schwab





“Can’t  
stop,  
me  
now!”



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**PLACE:**

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## Things to do if you are single on Valentine's Day

By Zoleka Ntloko

Valentine's Day or Saint Valentine's Day has come to be known as the day where love is celebrated. Leading to this day we are bombarded with adverts, spam mail, snooty voices over the radio telling us where to find the perfect gift to spoil your 'bae' and social media posts on #RelationshipGoals.

As mentioned above, Valentine's Day is about celebrating love, this does not necessarily mean one has to be in a romantic relationship. Whether one is willingly or unwillingly single, there are plenty of ways to enjoy yourself on this day. **Here are some ideas:**



### Pamper yourself

Take advantage of those V-Day specials, get yourself a box of chocolates and a drink of your choice, run yourself a hot bubble bath, play soothing music and indulge. If that is not your cup of tea, order yourself some take away and have a movie marathon or binge-watch your favourite series. You can also get yourself a tub of ice cream and lose yourself in a good book.



### Throw a party

If you love to party, gather together your single friends (or those who aren't Valentine's Day enthusiasts) and throw a party. Have good food, good music and spread good vibes.

### Random acts of kindness

Keeping up with the theme of love, why not spread some of this love with random acts of kindness. Pay a stranger's bill, buy someone groceries, give a homeless person some money or volunteer at a shelter.



### Spend a night out

Spend a night out at the movies followed by dinner at your favourite restaurant. Do some window shopping or even spoil yourself by buying that special item you've had your eyes on.

### Spend time with a loved one

Surprise a loved one who is also alone on V-Day with dinner or plan activities that you will enjoy doing together.



### Be productive

If you are just not feeling in the mood, use this time to be productive. Catch up on all the work you have been putting off, start that project you have been meaning too, get a head start on your assignments or do anything that makes you feel like you are productive.

### Buy yourself flowers

Treat yourself to a bouquet of your favourite flowers.



### Love yourself

Above all else love yourself, as stated that Valentine's is a not only about being in a relationship. Be sure to do things that increase the love you have for yourself after all, no one can love you like you can.

Sources: <https://www.yourtango.com/201167542/7-single-gals-valentines-day-ideas>





## 2018 Construction Industry Economic Outlook

By Kendall Jones

**A**s we head into the final month of 2017, we're going to take a look at how the construction industry has fared this year and what we can expect for 2018. These forecasts were presented in the 2018 Construction and Design Outlook: Cheery or Dreary? webcast presented by ConstructConnect, the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

In addition to looking at what economists Alex Carrick, ConstructConnect; Kermit Baker, AIA; and Ken Simonson, AGC have to say about the outlook for 2018, we'll also take a look at some of the obstacles and opportunities the construction industry will face next year in the form of possible tax reforms and labor shortages.

**2017 Construction Starts & Spending Forecast**  
While 2017 is shaping up to be a great year for construction, we aren't going to be seeing they type of year-over-year growth in starts and spending we've had over the past couple of years.

In 2016, total construction spending increased 6.5% from the previous year according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2014 construction spending was up nearly 11% and in 2015 it increased 10.7%.



Ken Simonson with the AGC is forecasting a moderate increase of 3% to 5% for construction spending in 2017. This is being led by a 7% to 9% increase in private residential construction spending. Construction spending is being hurt by public spending which Simonson expects to decrease by 4% to 6% in 2017.

The AIA's Consensus Construction Forecast Panel has construction spending on nonresidential buildings increasing 3.8%.

Commercial construction spending is expected to see an 8.8% increase for the year while Industrial construction spending is going to see a year-over-year decrease of 6.6%.

Construction spending through the first nine months of 2017 totaled \$917.0 billion, a 4.3% increase over the same period in 2016. Unless something crazy happens during this last quarter, the forecast from the experts should be right on target.

ConstructConnect's construction starts increased 13.2% from 2015 to 2016. Construction starts saw a 13.6% increase in 2015. ConstructConnect's forecast for construction starts in 2017 is a 7.9% growth over 2016 to \$737.8 billion.

### 2018 Construction Starts & Spending Forecast

Construction spending and starts are expected to remain strong in 2018, but again the amount of growth is forecast to be a bit more subdued.

ConstructConnect's construction starts forecast for 2018 is a 4.8% increase to \$773.1 billion. Commercial construction (offices, parking garages and transportation terminals) is expected to have a 12.4% increase in starts next year with conservative growth out through 2021.

Industrial, which includes manufacturing facilities and warehouses, is expected to see a 5.6% decrease in starts in 2018 after seeing a 22.8% increase in 2017. Retail construction starts are expected to decline another 2.8% in 2018 after experiencing a 16.5% drop in 2017.

Ken Simonson has forecast a 2% to 7% increase in construction spending for 2018. Private residential will again see the most growth at

6% to 9% with private nonresidential coming in at an increase between 1% and 5%. The biggest uncertainty, according to Simonson, will be with public construction spending which he has forecast as declining by as much as 3% to growing up to 3% in 2018.

The AIA's Consensus Construction Forecast Panel for nonresidential buildings construction spending growing 3.6% in 2018. Commercial construction spending should expect about a 4.0% increase, less than half the growth forecast for this year. Institutional construction should see about a 5.8% increase next year with Institutional only increasing by 1.1% in 2018.

### Winners & Losers

Residential construction, especially single-family construction, should remain strong in 2018. Part of this will be contingent on whether millennials decide to start making the move from living in downtown metropolitan areas to becoming homeowners.

"If millennials decide they want to have single-family housing like their parents and grandparents, it will help to drive residential starts," said Alex Carrick.

We've had 10 years when housing starts have been less than the 1.4 million benchmark that represents equilibrium," added Carrick. "So, if housing ever really gets going, it's going to drive the economy for years to come."

Other areas where we are expected to expect to see growth include stadiums and arenas with new NFL stadiums planned in Los Angeles and Las Vegas as well as expansion of Major League Soccer in Miami and other cities in the coming years.

Lodging construction, including hotels and motels, is expected to be down in 2018 after experiencing growth in 2017.

Public construction has declined in 2017, but could get back into positive territory with airport construction, which should experience a lot of expansion in terminals and runways, as well as public education construction spending. Spending on highway construction is a big question mark as federal spending remains flat but states are continuing to pursue increases in gas taxes and public-private partnerships (P3s) to fund local road construction.

Retail construction will continue to decline in 2018 as "the bricks and mortar section of retail has really been suffering of late," according to Carrick. Because of e-commerce, warehouse construction should continue to remain strong and grow in the coming years.

The outlook for the construction industry in 2018 is positive if we look at how architecture firms have been performing this year. "Design firms are seeing healthy conditions [which] certainly points to continued growth in construction as we move into 2018," stated Kermit Baker.

### Obstacles & Opportunities

"Construction labor looks to be a stubborn problem to resolve," noted Kermit Baker.

Labour shortages will continue to plague the construction industry in 2018 and the years to come. "Construction employment is still more than 10% below its previous peak," according to Ken Simonson. "Seventy percent of firms said they were having trouble filling hourly craft positions."

Tax reform is another issue that could impact the construction industry in 2018. On the nonresidential side, the proposed tax reforms could create favorable business conditions that would encourage investments in construction.

"Lowering of the corporate tax rate from 35% to 20% in the hope that it would stimulate more manufacturing, more manufacturing activity," would be a positive according to Carrick.

For housing, the proposed tax reforms could reduce the value of mortgage interest and local property tax deductions, which would be bad for the single-family residential market.

Recent natural disasters, such as the wildfires in California and Hurricanes Irma and Maris, could play a positive role on the construction industry in the coming years. Rebuilding efforts in areas affected by these natural disasters should have a positive impact on the construction industry in the years to come.

Along with labor constraints, commodities and materials pricing will continue to have an impact on the construction industry in 2018 and the years to come. As materials and commodities prices continue to rise, it will be interesting to see if construction firms continue to make do with lower profit margins or if they attempt to increase building costs to meet demand.

Source: <https://www.constructconnect.com/blog/construction-news/2018-construction-industry-economic-outlook/>



## Fast facts on infrastructure in SA

Compiled by Melanie Govindasamy

Since we are in the built environment industry, *InTouch* thought it was apt to share some interesting facts collated by South Africa – The Good News, a website highlighting the positive developments in SA.



Two South African cities were voted amongst the world's top 100 Most Liveable Cities in the 2010 study conducted by Mercer Human Resource Consulting. Cape Town was ranked in 86th place and Johannesburg 90th.



Johannesburg is ranked as the 34th largest city in the world with a population of 9.4 million. Tokyo is the largest with a population of 38 million (Economist 2016).



SA ranked 34 out of 192 countries in terms of infrastructure with 6th largest rail network and 10th largest road network, with airports ranked 22nd out of 138 countries.



South African media ranks 38th out of 178 countries in the Worldwide Press Freedom Index 2010, higher than France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and all of the other BRICS countries.



SA has the 19th largest prisoner to population ratio (USA is number 1).



South Africa is the 19th largest producer of energy. (Economist)



SA's has the 10th longest road network in the world, but is not ranked in the top 50 most crowded networks. (Economist 2016)..



SA's has the 6th longest rail network in the world and 9th in terms of rail freight tons per annum. (Economist 2016)



Out of 230 cities surveyed around the world, Johannesburg ranks the 151st and Cape Town the 171st most expensive city for expatriates to live in according to the 2010 Cost of Living Standards Survey from Mercer Human Resource Consulting, ahead of Tokyo (2), Moscow (4), Hong Kong (8), London (=17), Paris (=17), Tel Aviv (19), Sao Paulo (21), Sydney (24), Rome (26), New York (27), Dubai (55) and Auckland (149).

\*Please note some of the stats may have changed since the time of publishing on the website.

Source: <https://www.sagoodnews.co.za/sa-fast-facts/>

## The week that was...

Compiled by Zubenathi Ngqikiza



**Coal opponents prepare for yet another court battle over Thabametsi power project**  
By Terrence Creamer

Civil society organisations opposing the development of new coal-fired power generation capacity in South Africa say they will again approach the courts to challenge the latest environmental authorisation granted for the 557 MW Thabametsi coal-fired power station project, proposed for development near Lephalale, in the Limpopo province.

Please read the full article here: <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/coal-opponents-prepare-for-yet-another-court-battle-over-thabametsi-power-project-2018-02-06>



**Students arrested at UNISA Durban protest**  
By Khumbuzile Mbuqe

Three people were arrested during another surge of unrest at UNISA's Durban campus. A group of about 300 enraged students took to the streets on Monday. This, The Mercury understands, was after the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) failed to proffer some of their funding, leaving students in the lurch ahead of their first assignment deadline on Friday.

Please read the full article here: [https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/news/students-arrested-at-unisa-durban-protest-13115805hp\\_ref=za-homepage](https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/news/students-arrested-at-unisa-durban-protest-13115805hp_ref=za-homepage)



**Ekurhuleni to brace for water supply interruptions**  
Thembele Mkhonza

Wednesday said there will be water supply interruptions in Kempton Park and Isando on Friday and Saturday. Municipality spokesperson Themba Gadebe said the interruptions were expected to be between 10pm and 11pm on Friday and at the same time on Saturday.

Please read the full article here: <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/ekurhuleni-to-brace-for-water-supply-interruptions-13152599>

LOCAL



**DRC orders former coloniser Belgium to close consulate and cut flights from Brussels**  
By Chris Baynes

The Democratic Republic of Congo has ordered Belgium to close a consulate and cut flights by Brussels Airlines in a further deterioration of relations between the European nation and its former Central African colony.

Please read the full article here: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/democratic-republic-of-congo-orders-belgium-to-close-consulate-and-cut-flights-as-relations-a8197291.html>

AFRICA



**Rebel areas pounded by Syrian forces despite cease-fire call**  
By Sarah El Deeb

Russian and Syrian government forces launched a new wave of airstrikes and shelling on Tuesday, plunging the besieged area just outside of Syria's capital of Damascus into a spiral of violence and despair.

Please read the full article here: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/rebel-areas-pounded-by-syrian-forces-despite-cease-fire-call/ar-BBILcRD?OCID=ansmsnews11>

INTERNATIONAL



**Billiat set to leave Sundowns for free**  
By Sport24

Mamelodi Sundowns attacking midfielder Khama Billiat will reportedly depart the club at the end of the season. The Zimbabwean international will see out his current deal which expires at the end of June 2018 and will be free agent.

Please read the full article here: <http://www.sport24.co.za/Cricket/Proteas/sparkling-de-villiers-threatens-sa-record-in-paarl-20171018>

SPORT

News sourced from: Engineering News, IOL, Sport24, UK Independent, and MSN.





## Have your say!

This section of the newsletter allows employees to raise issues and concerns in the workplace. The purpose of this section is to allow employees to interact with senior management and other colleagues. Please note that no anonymous letters will be entertained. We promise prompt responses, at editorial discretion.

**SUCCESS IN  
LIFE COMES  
WHEN YOU  
SIMPLY REFUSE  
TO GIVE UP, WITH  
GOALS SO STRONG  
THAT OBSTACLES,  
FAILURE, AND  
LOSS ONLY ACT  
AS MOTIVATION.**

Countdown To Valentines Day... 5 Days

**BE  
mine**

**WEDNESDAY  
14 FEBRUARY**

Email: [DIDinTOUCH@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:DIDinTOUCH@gauteng.gov.za)



**InTouch Disclaimer:** The views expressed in opinion articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development or the Directorate: Internal Communications. Any staff contributions are welcome and will be published without prejudice.



**If you have any questions / complaints / or need more information on our lifts, please contact:**

Mr Lloyd Dube  
Director: Facilities Management  
(011) 891-4735 / 082 719 6130  
Email: [lloyd.dube@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:lloyd.dube@gauteng.gov.za)

### You can now log a maintenance defect via the eMaintenance website

Do you know a colleague / member of the public wanting to **log a maintenance call**? Well, you can help them. Simply direct them to **DID's eMaintenance website**: <http://www.emaintenance.gpg.gov.za/>

The **eMaintenance website** is also accessible via our [intranet](#).



## InTouch Team

<b>Editor:</b>	Ramona Baijnath <a href="mailto:ramona.Baijnath@gauteng.gov.za">ramona.Baijnath@gauteng.gov.za</a>
<b>Managing Editor:</b>	Thabisile Moyo <a href="mailto:thabisile.Shelembe@gauteng.gov.za">thabisile.Shelembe@gauteng.gov.za</a>
<b>News Editor:</b>	Melanie Govindasamy <a href="mailto:melanie.govindasamy@gauteng.gov.za">melanie.govindasamy@gauteng.gov.za</a>
<b>Layout Editor:</b>	Silindokuhle Mnguni <a href="mailto:silindokuhle.Mnguni@gauteng.gov.za">silindokuhle.Mnguni@gauteng.gov.za</a>
<b>Contributors:</b>	Sthabile Cele <a href="mailto:sthabile.Cele@gauteng.gov.za">sthabile.Cele@gauteng.gov.za</a> Zoleka Ntloko <a href="mailto:mjikelisozoleka@gmail.com">mjikelisozoleka@gmail.com</a> Phumelele Tshabalala Ayanda Ntshangase Lucas Phora
<b>Design and Layout:</b>	Zothile Dhlamini <a href="mailto:zothile.dhlamini@gmail.com">zothile.dhlamini@gmail.com</a> Jovan Lutchman <a href="mailto:jovan.lutchman@gauteng.gov.za">jovan.lutchman@gauteng.gov.za</a> Mboweni Bhengu Kayombo Magadla
<b>Photographers:</b>	Tshisikhawe Thangavhuelelo <a href="mailto:tshisikhawe.Thangavhuelelo@gauteng.gov.za">tshisikhawe.Thangavhuelelo@gauteng.gov.za</a>

Contact the **GPG Employee Health and Wellness Programme "Zinakekele"** on:  
Toll-free: 080 061 1169 or send a 'Please call me' to 071 119 2463

