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### 1. Important Notice.

This is special and short edition of the newsletter to pass on some sad news.

My friend, mentor and engineering buddie and regular contributor to our newsletter Tom S Cooper recently passed on to a better world. As a keen Radio amateur he now joins the world of silent keys.

Please see the item 3 below.

I have included some news from ECSA (item 2) as this would have been in line with Tom's passion about the engineering profession.

Viv Nel, Editor.

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### 2. News received from ECSA.

#### Dear ECSA Registered Persons

Please note that **CBE HAS A CALL FOR APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED REGISTERED BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROFESSIONALS ON CBE'S DATABASE TO SERVE AS MENTORS/ASSESSORS**  
The closing date for submission of applications is the **8 August 2016**.

For more information, kindly view the links below:

[Final Advert Appointment on Database.](#)

Contact details **Ms R Nanthlall** at [renusha@cbe.org.za](mailto:renusha@cbe.org.za).

#### Kind Regards

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## INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FROM SUITABLE CANDIDATES TO BE PLACED ON THE DATABASE TO SERVE AS ASSESSORS, REVIEWERS, AND INTERVIEWERS.

Dear ECSA Registered Person,

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) is a statutory body charged with the mandate to regulate the Engineering Profession in accordance with the Engineering Profession Act 46 of 2000. Engineering Council of South Africa hereby invites applications from ECSA registered persons to be included in the pool/ database for

possible appointment to do assessment, reviews and to conduct interviews, within the ambit of the Engineering Profession Act.

## **Requirements**

Potential candidates must be actively registered persons under the following categories and disciplines:

- § Professional Engineers – Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical, Metallurgy, Agriculture, Aeronautical, Industrial and Mining.
- § Professional Engineering Technologist – Civil (Water, Structural, Roads and Transportation, Geotechnical), Electrical (Heavy Current and Light Current), Fire, Mechanical, Chemical, Industrial, Metallurgy, Mining.
- § Professional Engineering Technicians – Civil (Water, Structural, Roads and Transportation, Geotechnical, Electrical (Heavy current & light current, Clinical), Mechanical, Chemical Industrial, Metallurgy, Mining.
- § Professional Certificated Engineers with valid Government Certificate of Competence (GCC) in Mechanical, Electrical, Metallurgy, Coal (working in factories and or mines and or works).
- § Lifting Machinery Inspectors – Bench saw, Block and tackle, Calendar rolls, Capstan – type hoist, hand powered lifting device, Lifting Machine, Lifting Tackle, Load Path, Man Cage, Transportation Plant, Shears, Guillotines and Presses, Slitting Machines, Air Compressors.
- § Lifting inspectors.
- § Medical Equipment Maintainers.
- § Fire Protection Systems Inspectors, who have an interest in assisting ECSA with assessing, reviewing and interviewing our applications for registrations in all our categories of registration.

## **Key Responsibilities**

- § Assess applications for registration in all the above mentioned categories of registration,
- § Conduct Professional Review / Interviews for applicants applying for registration as Professional Engineers in all abovementioned disciplines of this specific category of registration,
- § Conduct Professional Interviews for applicants applying for registration as Professional Engineering Technologists, Professional Engineering Technicians, Lifting Machinery Inspectors, Lifting inspectors and Professional Certificated Engineers in all abovementioned disciplines of this specific category of registration,

## **Qualifications and other requirements:**

- § Interested Registered Persons should be in good standing with the Council (annual fees up to date, and in a consistence upholding status of the Code of Conduct for Professionals in the engineering field).

§ Interested persons can forward their brief CV's, educational qualifications and copy of the ECSA registration letter/ certificate to [registration@ecsa.co.za](mailto:registration@ecsa.co.za).

Kind Regards

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3.



### **Tom Sheamus Cooper – Huge loss of an Icon.**

It is with great sadness and regret that we record the death of Tom Sheamus Cooper on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016. Tom was born on 26 August 1935. He will be remembered as the driving force in getting technicians recognized as an essential skills-group within the engineering profession. This culminated in the amendment of the Professional Engineers Act, 1968 during 1979, which then provided for the establishment of statutory autonomous Boards of Control for Technicians, Technologists and Certificated Engineers. He actively served on the early committees that resulted in the formation of the first Board of Control, known as the Board of Control for Engineering Technicians (BOCET) on 14 November 1983. He was elected as the first Chairperson of the Board of Control. He was honoured by being registered as very first registered engineering technician with the very first registration number 8340001.

Given the close cooperation between the SA Council of Professional Engineers (SACPE) and the Boards of Control, the Professional Engineers Act, 1968 was replaced by the Engineering Profession of SA Act, 1990. In terms of the latter Act, BOCET as well as the Boards of Control for Engineering Technologists and Certificated Engineers were integrated into the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), a single statutory body regulating the professional affairs of the entire engineering profession. Although Tom was also registered as a Professional Engineering Technologist he was appointed by the Minister of Public Works as a principal member of ECSA to represent the interests of engineering technicians. He continued to be very active in ECSA committees for many years.

In addition to his ECSA obligations, Tom continued his intimate association with the voluntary leg of the profession through the Chamber of Engineering Technology (COET). As Tom devoted a substantial amount of his time to the promotion of the voluntary interests of engineering technicians in parallel with ECSA, and because of his intimate knowledge and leadership, he became the first CEO of the Chamber of Engineering Technology late in 1994.



### **Tom Cooper and Zach Joubert, both past chairmen of COET and active in ECSA. (1997).**

“ This is an historic occasion for registered engineering technicians”. These were the opening words of Tom Cooper when proposing a champagne toast to members of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), on their decision to introduce the new grade of registration, namely Professional Technician (Engineering) (Pr Technic

(Eng)). He was speaking at the ECSA council meeting held at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg on Tuesday 23rd September 1997.

Until well into his 70s, Tom gradually reduced his active participation in the day-to-day activities of ECSA's committees and COET but was regularly consulted on a variety of issues of strategic importance and remained a stalwart for his fellow colleagues.

He distinguished himself as a visionary and heeded the new South African Government's vision to recognise the many strata of competent practitioners in engineering related occupations, but who do not qualify for registration in terms of the ECSA legislation. Tom initiated, and pushed for, the recognition of allied occupations in engineering, and conceived of a category of potentially registrable persons which could be registered in their own right and within their own category of registration under the Engineering Profession Act. He liaised with the then CEO of ECSA, Mr Paul Roux and President Mr Bob Pullen, to provide for the establishment of Specified Categories in new legislation for the professions in the Built Environment, which the Government was in the process of developing between 1994 and 1998. The concept of "specified categories" was accepted by both ECSA and the Government and was incorporated in the Engineering Profession Act, 2000 (Act 46 of 2000). Working closely with Tom, the Chief Inspector of Factories published Regulations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act which provided for the registration of Lift Inspectors. ECSA responded very quickly by publishing its own Rules for the establishment and registration of Lift Inspectors, and setting up the committee to deal with the registration of the practitioners. A number of other categories soon followed and are already operational or in the process of development.

Acknowledgement of Tom's principal role in the establishment of Specified Categories under ECSA was given by Mr Paul Roux at his farewell luncheon in June 2006:

- *In his absence today, I recognise Mr Tom Cooper as the person who convinced me that Specified Categories was key to our (ECSA's) future expansion and growth potential;*
- *Mr Andre du Plessis, as chief inspector factories, who published enabling regulations under the OHS Act for ECSA to register lift inspectors.*
- *Together they should be recognised as the FATHERS of "Specified Categories".*

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2005 Tom as the ECSA representative together with Mladin Poluta presented a paper on "Clinical Engineering Practitioners in South Africa" at the International Medical And Biomedical Conference in Stuttgart. Mr. Poluta was the Director of the Healthcare Technology Management Programme at the University of Cape Town/ Groote Schuur Hospital & MRC/WHO Collaborating Centre for Essential Technologies in Health. This was also part of Tom's efforts in creating a specified registration category for Clinical Engineering Technicians, in collaboration with the Department of Health.

He was an advisory member of the Chamber of Engineering Technology (COET) and also active in the False Bay Radio Club until the time of his death. Tom was a licensed Radio Amateur with the call sign ZSIPS.

He worked for Armscor for many years and represented them overseas on some of his projects.

We shall all miss the energetic, passionate about engineering, friendly and smiling man, always ready with a suggestion, wise advice or a joke from his sharp wit and he will be especially sadly missed by his wife Cynthia, son, daughter and many, many friends and colleagues.

From all your family, friends, engineering buddies and colleagues and Radio Hams- rest in peace.

*Sadly compiled by Viv Nel.*

#### **No 4. Unsubscribe.**

**As a member of CET you should want to receive the E News. If however you do not want to receive the CET E News as an E Mail then you have the option to unsubscribe.**

To unsubscribe send an email with ""CET unsubscribe"" in the text to [engineer@netactive.co.za](mailto:engineer@netactive.co.za)

#### **Number 5. E. & O. E.**

The Chamber of Engineering Technology (CET), its agents, volunteers, workers and members cannot be held responsible for errors in, amendments to, or any damages whatsoever arising from information published in good faith. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by CET.

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