STAYING IN TOUCH WITH MEMBERS

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ACEB

July - September
2026

1 ACEB MEMBERSHIP

1.1 **Membership Subscriptions**

To date only **47** member firms have fully paid up the annual subscriptions.

2 UPCOMING EVENTS

2.1 The 3rd ACEB Engineering Excellence Awards will be held on Saturday 14th November 2026 in Gaborone.

2.2 The ACEB Directors Forum (South) will be held on Friday 4th December 2026 in Gaborone.

3 MEETINGS/EVENTS ATTENDED

3.1 **Directors Forum North**

The 2nd meeting of Directors Forum North was held virtually on 3rd July 2026 at 10a.m through Zoom platform. There are currently two ACEB member firms which are based in the North (Francistown). These are JJ Design and Group Consult.

Only JJ Design was represented at the meeting - by Eng. Bokamoso Mokolwanyane.
The update from ACEB President covered three strategic initiatives:
- An upcoming engagement with Business Botswana
- The Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) Secretariat meeting planned
- An ongoing Ukraine reconstruction collaboration through the signed MOU.

The update from J.J. Design included the following:
- Firm comprises 4 engineers including the M.D.
- Their active work includes a supermarket construction project, private housing design, and structural reports.

3.2 **Women in Engineering Round Table Talk and Gala Dinner**

The event was held on 31st July 2026 hosted by New Era College under the theme "Engineering the Future, Together". ACEB was represented by Engineer Samantha Magang.

The panel discussion brought together professionals from government, academia, industry and regulatory institutions, each offering a different perspective on the future of engineering. Although the discussions covered a range of topics, there were a few key messages that stood out.

One recurring theme was the importance of collaboration. The panellists emphasised that the challenges facing the engineering profession—from sustainable infrastructure and quality assurance to technological advancement—cannot be addressed in isolation. Strong partnerships between industry, academia, regulators and professional bodies will be essential in preparing the next generation of engineers and strengthening the profession.

The discussions also highlighted the increasing importance of sustainability and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. While AI presents significant opportunities to improve efficiency and solve complex challenges, there was equal emphasis on ensuring that solutions are developed with the African context in mind and that engineers continue to apply sound professional judgement and ethical responsibility.

Ms Magang reflected, "As expected, a significant focus was placed on women in engineering. What I appreciated most was that the conversation went beyond encouraging women to enter the profession. The emphasis was on creating environments where women can build long-term careers, contribute technically, and progress into leadership positions. Mentorship, representation, confidence and inclusive workplace cultures were all identified as important enablers.

The Guest of Honour's keynote address reinforced this message by encouraging women to claim their place at the decision-making table, embrace leadership opportunities and play an active role in shaping the future of engineering and technology. It was a timely reminder that diversity in engineering is not simply about representation, but about ensuring that different perspectives contribute to better decisions and more innovative solutions."

3.3 **Corruption Audit Stakeholder Workshop**

The Immediate Past President of ACEB, Engineer Goodwill Madibela, attended a workshop on 2nd September 2026, organised by Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) who is currently conducting a Corruption Audit on the Procurement of Construction Services in Local Authorities under the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs.
The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to:
- √ Provide additional information and insights to enhance the data collected during the audit.
- √ Assist the audit team in validating identified corruption risks and vulnerabilities.
- √ Contribute to the formulation of practical and effective recommendations.
- √ Promote stakeholder ownership and commitment towards the implementation of agreed mitigation measures.

3.4 **Engineering Sector Consultation on SADC Trade in Services Online Meeting**

The meeting was held on 16th September 2026, attended by around 31 people including the following from ACEB member firms:
Kenne Botshologile, Gao Kwakwa, Julius Nshoya, Kganetso Otsweleng, Tawanda Baliki, Kgololo Nnolwane, K.P. Muraleedharan, Simon Mmopi, Shadrack Kobole, Mosalagae Motshwane, Same Makuku, Obusitswe B. Keitheile, Leonard Kgathola, and Kobamelo Kgoboko.

The Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship requested the Business Botswana Engineering Sector to review the initial trade requests received from Mauritius, South Africa and Eswatini, given their potential implications for engineering businesses in Botswana. The meeting aimed to present these requests directly to the engineering sector and obtain essential feedback from the private sector to inform the negotiation process.

Please find the minutes appended on the left side for further information.

3.5 **ACEB Courtesy Call to Business Botswana**

On 18th September 2026, ACEB President accompanied by CEO had a meeting with Business Botswana CEO, Ms Tumi Mbaakanyi who was accompanied by Heads of Business Development, Policy & Research, and Public Relations.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues affecting the consulting engineering industry, with particular emphasis on public procurement, private sector participation, Government engagement and the competitiveness of local consulting engineering firms.

The engagement also provided an opportunity for ACEB to follow up on matters previously raised with Business Botswana and to identify areas where Business Botswana could facilitate further engagement with Government.

The following key issues were discussed:

- **Private Sector Inclusion in Government Procurement**
  ACEB emphasised that its members support Government's development agenda but remain concerned about whether existing procurement approaches provide meaningful opportunities for locally established consulting engineering firms.
  The Association noted that procurement methods can have a significant impact on the ability of local firms to participate in projects, particularly where requirements create financial or technical thresholds that smaller local firms struggle to meet. ACEB's concern was therefore not necessarily that alternative procurement methods should not be used, but that their application should take account of competition, local participation and the practical ability of local firms to compete.

- **Financial Capacity as a Barrier to Local Participation**
  ACEB highlighted access to finance and financial capacity as major constraints affecting the competitiveness of local consulting engineering firms.
  The Association noted that local firms may possess the necessary technical expertise to undertake projects but may not have the financial capacity required to compete with larger international or regional firms.

ACEB suggested that Government and other stakeholders should explore mechanisms that could strengthen the financial capacity of local firms, including appropriate financing arrangements and partnerships with financial institutions.

- **Local Firms and Large Infrastructure Projects**
  ACEB expressed concern that local firms are sometimes excluded from major projects despite possessing the technical capacity to undertake significant portions of the work.
  The Association clarified that it is not opposed to international or regional companies participating in Botswana's projects. Rather, where external firms are engaged because they possess expertise that is not readily available locally, ACEB would like arrangements that facilitate skills transfer, capacity building and the development of local capabilities.
  ACEB stressed that infrastructure development should generate benefits beyond the physical asset itself, including development of local technical skills, transfer of knowledge, development of local enterprises, employment creation and broader economic benefits.

- **Government Consultation and Private Sector Engagement**
  A recurring concern raised by ACEB was the effectiveness of consultation between Government and the private sector.
  While ACEB acknowledged that Government has established various consultation platforms, members questioned whether consultation always results in their concerns being adequately considered and translated into policy or implementation.

- **Government Payment Delays**
  ACEB raised concerns regarding delays in payment to businesses undertaking Government work.
  The Association noted that delayed payments create significant cash-flow challenges for firms, affecting their ability to meet payroll obligations, service loans and continue operations.

- **Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP)**
  ACEB raised the importance of ensuring that local businesses are able to participate meaningfully in opportunities arising from the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).
  The discussion highlighted the need for businesses to better understand the projects and opportunities under BETP, as well as the procurement and participation mechanisms associated with them.

- **Regional Trade in Services**
  ACEB raised concerns regarding the opening up of regional markets for professional services and the potential implications for Botswana's consulting engineering firms.
  The Association noted that local firms need to be adequately prepared to compete in regional markets, particularly where firms from countries with greater financial capacity and established regional operations may enter Botswana or compete with Botswana firms in other markets.
  ACEB emphasised that Botswana has technical expertise within its consulting engineering sector, but financial capacity, scale and access to finance remain important constraints to regional competitiveness.
  ACEB therefore requested stronger engagement and information-sharing on developments affecting professional services and the implications for Botswana's consulting engineering sector.

- **Engineers Registration and Regulatory Framework**
  ACEB highlighted the importance of progressing the regulatory framework governing the engineering profession.
  The Association indicated that the Engineers Registration Act and related regulatory arrangements are important to ensuring that engineering services are appropriately regulated, particularly as Botswana becomes more integrated with regional markets.
  ACEB expressed concern about the pace of progress on matters affecting the regulatory framework and requested continued engagement to ensure that the interests of the local engineering profession are adequately considered.

- **Construction Sector Regulatory Reforms**
  ACEB noted that regulatory reforms should be developed with meaningful participation from the relevant professional bodies and industry associations to ensure that the resulting framework is practical and responsive to industry realities.

Business Botswana acknowledged the concerns raised by ACEB and reiterated the importance of continuous engagement with sector associations.

It was noted that ACEB should not wait for formal consultation meetings before raising emerging issues. Where matters affecting the consulting engineering sector arise, ACEB was encouraged to engage Business Botswana directly so that issues can be assessed and, where appropriate, escalated through the relevant Government engagement platforms.

ACEB was encouraged to continue documenting specific concerns raised by its members so that Business Botswana can better consolidate and represent the industry's position in relevant Government engagements.



ACEB President and CEO with Business Botswana CEO and management

4 FROM FIDIC GLOBAL



ACEB congratulates Engineer Goodwill Madibela, ACEB Immediate Past President (IPP), on his recent appointment by the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) as **Chairman of the FIDIC Membership Committee**.

Engineer Madibela has made a significant contribution to the growth and development of ACEB through his leadership, commitment and dedicated service to the Association, including his tenure as President. His continued involvement in advancing the interests of consulting engineers, both locally and internationally, is highly valued.

ACEB is proud to see his leadership and experience recognised at the international level and wishes him every success in his new role.





*Engineer Goodwill Madibela participated in a panel discussion on the topic "**Upskilling Teams to Pioneer Change in Emerging Markets**" at the FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference, held in New Delhi, India, from 13 to 16 September 2026.*

Upcoming events from FIDIC

FFIDIC | FIDIC News | International Federation of Consulting Engineers

5 ACEB TRAINING – COURSE SCHEDULE 2026

Online FIDIC Contracts courses scheduled for the remainder of the year

26th – 27th October 2026	Practical use of FIDIC Conditions of Contract (Module 1) **Online – *Did not happen, not enough participants***
28th-29th October 2026	FIDIC Contracts Management and Administration (Module 4) **Online - *Did not happen, not enough participants***
30th October 2026	Implementation and Management of FIDIC Professional Services Agreement (Module 0) **Online - *Did not happen, not enough participants***
23rd-24th November 2026	Management of claims and resolution of Disputes (Module 2) **Online**
25th-26th November 2026	Disputes Adjudication Boards (Module 3) **Online**
27th November 2026	FIDIC Short Form of Contract (Green Book) **Online**