

Call for Abstracts or Topics – 14th CESA Young Professionals Sustainability Imbizo

The 2026 YP Imbizo Local Organising Committee (LOC) is excited to invite you to the 14th CESA Young Professionals Sustainability Imbizo, taking place 19–20 August 2026 at Premier Hotel Midrand.

Building on the insights from previous YP Imbizos, the bold advocacy of Young Professionals, and CESA's continued call for sustainable, accountable, and technically sound infrastructure delivery, this year's Imbizo places engineers and built environment young professionals at the heart of South Africa's infrastructure renewal.

We invite Young Professionals from both the public and private sectors to submit a one-page abstract or propose a discussion topic that contributes to real, actionable solutions for the sector and the country.

Themes for Submission (including but not limited to):

1. Sustaining the Future of Engineering

Rebuilding state capacity, strengthening public-sector engineering, and securing the role of engineers in national development.

2. Creating a Conducive Environment for Practitioners

Enabling engineers and built environment professionals to deliver **reliable, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure** that serves communities.

3. Engineering Leadership, Mentoring & Human Capital

Professional growth, intergenerational collaboration, and building a pipeline of ethical, competent engineering leaders.

4. Ethics & Professionalism in the Future of Engineering

Restoring public trust, elevating professional accountability, and safeguarding engineering autonomy.

5. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Transformation & Capacity Building

Shaping an inclusive profession that represents South Africa's demographics and meets its developmental needs.

6. Procurement Strategies & Delivery Models

Exploring engineering-led procurement approaches that promote service delivery, job creation, and economic growth.

7. Engineering, Innovation & Technology in Society

Positioning engineering expertise in national discourse, governance, accountability and multi-disciplinary collaboration.

If your passion lies in solving real problems... we want to hear from you.

Whether you respond to the themes above or propose a topic born from your own experience, research, or project work, your contribution can shape the future of the profession and the country.

Important Dates

- **Abstract submission deadline:** *Wednesday, 27 May 2026*
- **Presenter notifications:** *Wednesday, 10 June 2026*
- **Attendance confirmation for accepted presenters:** *Wednesday, 8 July 2026*

“No country or society today would succeed without the adoption of engineering at some level. Engineering and engineers have had an enormous impact on every aspect of our modern lives.”

— *Christopher McFadden*

We encourage all Young Professionals—and mentors—to circulate this opportunity within your networks.

Word Limit

- Abstracts should be **150–300 words**.
- Content must be concise while clearly communicating the proposed topic.

Relevance to Young Professionals

- Submissions should clearly show how they benefit engineering and built environment young professionals, including:
 - Career progression insights
 - Workplace experiences and lessons
 - Industry and professional challenges and solutions
 - Opportunities in the engineering and infrastructure sector

Originality and Thought Leadership

- Abstracts must be **original** and reflect fresh thinking or unique perspectives.
- Submissions that challenge conventional thinking and promote innovation are encouraged.

Suggested Structure

Abstracts should typically include:

- **Title** (clear and engaging)
- **Context/Background**
- **Key discussion points or themes**
- **Intended outcomes or takeaways**

Author Details

Submissions must include:

- Full name
- Organisation / affiliation
- Contact details

Submission Process

- No specific template is required for abstract submissions.
- Abstracts must be submitted via email to **godfreyr@cesa.co.za**.
- Authors of accepted abstracts will be provided with a presentation template.

💡 Positioning Guidance (Optional but Strategic)

Strong abstracts will typically:

- Speak to **“why this matters now”** in South Africa
- Link personal experience to **broader industry challenges**
- Inspire **action, leadership, accountability and good governance**

Participation is open to both speakers and delegates.

Delegate Registration: R2 600 per person (excl. VAT)

Registration Link: <https://www.cesa.co.za/eventreg/?id=498>

Submit abstracts and enquiries to:

✉ **Godfrey Ramalisa** — godfreyr@cesa.co.za

Past conferences: <https://www.cesa.co.za/imbizo/>