

28 May 2025

Notice of Passing: Mr Robert Alexander Pullen (02 December 1939 - 27 May 2025)

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

It is with profound sadness that the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) announces the passing of Mr Robert Alexander Pullen, a highly respected figure in the engineering fraternity and a cornerstone of the Council's history.

Mr Pullen, affectionately known as Bob, was professionally registered with ECSA as a Professional Engineer (Pr Eng). He dedicated his life to advancing engineering in South Africa, both through technical excellence and steadfast leadership.

Bob Pullen served as Vice President of ECSA from 1991 to 1993 and went on to become the longest-serving President of the Council, serving three consecutive terms from 1993 to 2005, each term secured by unanimous election. He returned as Vice President until 2009, further demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the profession.

During the span of his career, Mr Pullen served on a number of high impact committees providing oversight and leading with commitment and diligence. These committees include the Fees Committee, the Identification of Engineering Work Committee, the Legal Matters Committee, Voluntary Associations Committee and was seconded by ECSA to be on the DAMS Committee.

In 2001, Mr Pullen was awarded the prestigious ECSA Merit Medal in recognition of his exceptional contributions. He also served on the Council of the South African Institution of Civil Engineers (SAICE) from 1972 to 1997 and held the presidency in 1989. In 1996, SAICE honoured him with an Honorary Fellowship.

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| *Mr TC Madikane | Dr VT Hashe | Mr P Sekhoto | Mr ML Meder | Mr T Selebogo | Ms PF Sibiya | Ms P Mazibuko | Ms KC Maelane |
| **Ms M Maidi | Prof PM Mashinini | Mr DL Cawdry | Ms S Sulliman | Prof D Lokhat | Mr J George | Dr PC Msomi | Dr S Kabane |
| Mr E Oswald | Ms SN Chamane | Ms ST Sishi | Prof K Ramdass | Ms S Mona | Mr BJ Motladiile | Mr MV Lupuwana | Ms K Majola |
| Ms V Mudau | Mr IS McKechnie | Prof E Kearsley | Mr L Monyatsi | Mr B Maluleka | Ms NS Gumede | Dr ME Makgae | Ms N Koranteng |
| Ms SP Moketla | Ms SN Shoji | Dr N Gareeb | Ms ML Damane | Mr SJ Xawuka | Mr S Palackal | Mr GS Gcaba | Ms VN Ndlovu |
| Dr M Heyns | Mr Havenga | Mr S Mbadamana | Mr SC Khoza | Ms VP Nene | Mr MP Khathide | Dr PT Govender | |

In 2009, Mr Pullen received the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Award in Category C from then Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor.

This national honour acknowledged his significant impact on the regulation of the engineering profession, as well as his influential contributions to civil engineering and environmental practice.

In recognition of his remarkable contributions to water resources engineering and the broader engineering community, Wits University awarded him its esteemed Gold Medal.

Mr Robert Pullen's legacy is one of leadership, service, and excellence. He leaves behind an indelible mark on the engineering profession in South Africa. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. He will be remembered with great respect and gratitude.

May he rest in peace.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Bridget Ssamula Pr. Eng
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)