

University of the Witwatersrand
Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
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Braamfontein
Johannesburg
2000

Dear Participant,

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SURVEY: Engineering Skills Development through Mega Construction Projects (MCPs)

I, Tshepo Jeremia Lephoto, hereby invite you to participate in a research survey: *Engineering Skills Development through Mega Construction Projects (MCPs)*. Responses from this survey will be submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Master of Science in Building (Project Management in Construction) at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

BACKGROUND OF THIS STUDY

There is a notable engineering skills deficit (ESD) in South Africa. Among other interventions, the proliferation of skills development policies, engineering skills development programmes (ESDPs), and the use of expatriate engineering professionals in Mega Construction Projects (MCPs) such as Gautrain Rapid Link Project and Eskom Capacity Expansion Programme, have been the main interventions promulgated by the government.

AIM OF THIS STUDY

The aim of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of utilizing expatriate professionals in transferring engineering skills to candidate engineers in South Africa.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

Key objectives for this study are to:

- 1) Investigate policies which inform the use of expatriate professionals in South African MCPs;
- 2) Assess the structure of the ESDPs in South African MCPs;
- 3) Assess the sentiments of the beneficiaries; and
- 4) Investigate the throughput of engineering skills since the inception of the ESDPs in South African MCPs.

IMPORTANCE OF THIS STUDY:

This study is of particular significance to the construction industry in South Africa, and can contribute towards addressing the current ESD.

To achieve objective results, the survey is geared towards Candidates and Professionals in the Build Environment. The survey seeks to uncover their disposition towards their respective engineering discipline, what influenced them to train in these disciplines and views on the use of expatriate professionals with an aim to transfer engineering skills through MCPs.

Participation is voluntary and the survey will run until **23 December 2018**. The expected duration to complete the survey should be no more than 10 minutes and the survey is compatible to be completed on a mobile device. Your response is entirely confidential and anonymous. Results are only used on an aggregated level and can never be traced back to an individual. The survey can be accessed on this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWAqPELPo5Q6Lps197Qoore-i5A_PbXtpo-vDr8J4te7f5Lg/viewform

If you have any pertinent questions and require further information, please feel free to contact me on 084 8617 349 or 0600726r@students.wits.ac.za.

My supervisor, (Dr. Nthatsi Khatleli) may also be contacted on 011 717 7658 or nthatsi.khatleli@wits.ac.za.

Regards,

Tshepo Jeremia Lephoto, Pr. Eng (Mechanical).

