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PRESS RELEASE

Karl-Heinz Schulz – Construction Industry Mourns Loss of a Legend

On 14 May 2016, president of the Construction Industries Federation of Namibia (CIF) and co-owner of Namibia Construction, Karl-Heinz Schulz, died unexpectedly at the age of 55. The funeral service took place on 21 May 2016.

Since prior independence Karl-Heinz Schulz was associated with the previously called Master Building Association, which after 1993 changed to the Construction Industries Federation of Namibia. For many years, he was also an active executive committee member of the federation and since 2010 he was the president of the CIF.

With great tenacity and selflessly, Karl-Heinz Schulz fought for what he believed was right for the Namibian construction industry. Leading the federation of our 480 member companies, he very strongly raised the voice of Namibia's construction industry and in particular emphasised the need for supporting and empowering Namibian companies.

He called for greater transparency in public procurement practices. He felt that the Namibian industry needed to be supported to ensure continuity, to further develop skills and capacity, and for continued decent employment in the Namibian construction sector.

Mr Schulz always advocated and stood for quality and standards. He wanted to see the establishment of a Namibian construction council for greater regulation and monitoring of the industry.

Bärbel Kirchner, consulting general manager of the CIF says: "Leading our industry, Karl-Heinz Schulz always called for greater support for real Namibian companies. Although he welcomed competition, he did argue for a level playing field in the conduct of business and was weary of growing number of foreign companies most likely sponsored by their

governments being allowed to operate in Namibia, which he felt undermines the development of our industry.

“He also watched the current trend of tenderpreneurism with trepidation, as he felt it would compromise the empowerment and quality of our industry”.

Despite being the co-owner of the largest company in the Namibian construction industry, he was extremely generous with his time. His commitment to the CIF and its members were on a voluntary basis. He was always accessible, and stood for empowerment and training of his teams and the industry. Over the years, he guided many young entrepreneurs.

Karl-Heinz Schulz is deeply respected and admired for having represented the interests of Namibia’s construction industry with such a wealth of knowledge, tenacity, forthrightness and selfless dedication. His death is a tragic loss for his family, for the Namibian construction industry and Namibia.

“As industry icon, Karl-Heinz Schulz was known for speaking his mind. His strength and presence without any doubt were due to the values he lived and his strong belief in what he was doing was right. If his loss were to change anything within us, then I hope that the industry at large and its stakeholders aspire to uphold the values this great man has lived - honesty, decency, humility, compassion, commitment,” says Bärbel Kirchner.

“Karl-Heinz’ passing leaves a huge gap in our industry, in our lives. We feel with his family. Our thoughts are constantly with his wife, mother and children and his entire family and friends”.

“Being the committed and proactive man he was, I am convinced that he would have wanted us to continue representing the interests of the Namibia’s construction industry with the same conviction and I am grateful to be able to inform you that Mr Nico Badenhorst, vice-president of the CIF, has stepped graciously into the role of acting president with the full support of our executive committee.”

A book of condolence for Karl-Heinz Schulz remains open at the CIF offices in Klein Windhoek (corner of Stein and Schwabe Street) until Friday afternoon, 27 May 2016. CIF has also set up an e-mail address rememberingkarlheinz@cifnamibia.com for anyone that would like to say something about Karl-Heinz. The CIF will include the messages in the condolence book once handed over to the family.

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