

CIF Networks

The Construction Industries Federation of Namibia (CIF) therefore held its second structured small-to-medium sized enterprises (SME) networking event, on 17 November 2016 at the federation's offices in Klein Windhoek. In current difficult economic times it is particularly relevant that the Namibian construction industry is working closely together and support each other.

The second in a series of business-to-business networking events, was a great successes a total of 25 meetings took place between five established contractors and five SME contractors, who participated in the two-hour speed meeting programme, where the members received the opportunity to introduce themselves and get to know one another.

Keeping the CIF members' time restrictions in mind, the networking events are kept small but will be held more frequently, providing swift opportunities for information sharing which may lead to ongoing business relationships, or connections that provide mentoring, encouragement and support.

Participating SME's at the event were: Becky Construction cc, DND Earthmoving & Construction cc, Rosebank Investment cc, Swartkoppies Investment cc, VSO Plus Investments cc, Brumar Construction, C V Welding (Pty) Ltd., MPP Civils Namibia, Namibia Construction (Pty) Ltd., NMC Construction (Pty) Ltd.

Comments from Participants at the Event

- Mr Gordon Goeieman, owner of Becky Construction cc said: "As a starting business, we can learn from big companies (about) the systems they use to make them succeed".
- Ms Katrina Elifas, owner of DND Earthmoving & Construction cc, emphasised that is an important networking event that allows participants to acquire contacts with the industry leaders.

- Owner of Rosebank Investments cc, Mr Mondi Tjonzongoro mentioned that through this event he is able to work and cooperate with the bigger companies in the industry and would be able to learn more from them in order to grow his business.
- Mr. Ambrosius Swartbooi, owner of Swartkoppies Investment cc commented: “I can grow my company through continued exchange of possible job opportunities.”
- Mr. Elvin Hochobeb, owner of VSO Plus Investment mentioned that in essence they received positive advice from the bigger companies, “This will help us to grow bigger and work harder to achieve our dreams.”
- The large-size contractors also enjoyed being introduced to SME’s whom they may not have met otherwise. It would provide access to companies that could be considered for subcontracting or possible joint venture opportunities in the future.
- Owner of Brumar Construction cc, Mr Bruno Mareka expressed that the meetings opened an opportunity to learn from others in the industry.
- Mrs Sonja Martens, part director of C V Welding (Pty) Ltd said: “This event helps to support other Namibian businesses.”
- Mr Nadeem Husselmann and Mr. Wouter Venter, employees from Namibia Construction (Pty) Ltd., said: “It allows contractors to see which SME companies are in the industry and to form new working relations.”
- Mr. Garth Robb, managing director of NMC Construction (Pty) Ltd. expressed that it is very important to meet SMEs, as it will increase resource base and supply chain within Namibia.

End