



Dr. Bridgette Gasas

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1 Professional Qualifications:

GASA holds a Bachelor of Building Arts in Architecture (University of Port Elizabeth), a cum-laude Post-graduate Diploma in Project Management from the Training for Management College (Newport University), a Certificate in Project Management for the Public Sector (University of Stellenbosch), a Masters Degree in Project Management (University of Natal), a Construction Management Programme qualification (University of Stellenbosch) and a Global Executive Development Programme Certificate through the Gordon's Institute of Business Science (GIBS). She has a PhD in Construction Management with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

2 Education Qualifications Timeline:

Bachelor of Building Arts in Architecture (University of Port Elizabeth), 1998

Post-graduate Diploma in Project Management (cum laude) [TfMC (Newport University)], 1999

Certificate in Project Management in the Public Sector (University of Stellenbosch), 2001

Master of Commerce Degree in Project Management (University of Natal), 2003

Construction Management Programme qualification (University of Stellenbosch) , 2003

Global Executive Development Programme Certificate through (GIBS), 2006

PhD in Construction Management, 2012

3 Leadership Involvement:

Bridgette is an Architectural practitioner registered with the South African Council for Architectural Professions. She is affiliated with many well-known professional associations, which include Project Management South Africa (PMSA) and is a member of the Institute of Directors (IOD). Bridgette is both a Fellow member of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB Africa) as well as its **Past-President for the African continent**. She serves on the CIOB's International Board of Trustees in the United Kingdom. Bridgette is also affiliated with the American Academy of Project Management as a Fellow member and recognized Master in Project Management. She holds the following board memberships:

- Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA): Chairperson of the Finance, Capital Investment and Procurement (FCP) Committee of the same Board;
- Independent Non-Executive Director of Umso Construction;
- Non-Executive Director of Arup SA Pty Ltd;
- Non-Executive Director of NMC Construction;
- Chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Business School;
- Chairperson of the Dube Tradeport; and
- Visiting Fellow of the Nottingham Trent University in the United Kingdom (UK).

Bridgette previously served in EXCO of the Project Management South Africa and held board membership with the Project Management Chamber of the Services SETA. She also sat on the Construction Industry Stakeholder Forum and advisory committees of Road Infrastructure Research with the then Transportek Division of the CSIR and the Building Science Department of Tshwane University of Technology. In 2008, she was appointed by CIOB International as a think-tank panel member to contribute to a strategy which led to the drafting of the 2020 Vision on

EcoBuildings, Infrastructure Planning and Development in Africa. In May 2010, Gasa was appointed by the President of South Africa: J.G. Zuma to serve as a National Planning Commissioner.

4 Work Experience:

GASA started off her career as an architectural designer for practices in KwaZulu Natal and Port Elizabeth respectively. She was then recruited by the National Department of Public Works where she was responsible for the provision of accommodation solutions for state departments and effecting infrastructure development, maintenance and upgrading of built facilities. Bridgette was then seconded to the private sector to work with Fluor Daniel Engineers as a Project Controls Specialist/ Cost Engineer on the US\$1 billion Secunda Natural Gas project. Her most phenomenal contributions have been with the Construction Industry Development Board and the Coega Development Corporation. With both these institutions she held executive management posts responsible for leading research and innovation for the development and implementation of a variety of initiatives ranging from investment attraction, process engineering, improving public sector delivery capacity and infrastructure planning and development. Bridgette has partnered with National Treasury, built environment contractors and consultants in spearheading the design of strategic and innovative programmes that are to-date successfully implemented throughout government departments in South Africa. One programme that particularly stands out is the Infrastructure Delivery Improvement Programme (IDIP) which she helped develop from concept stage and was ultimately established nation-wide in 2004. Together with the National Treasury she trained senior management of both national and provincial departments on IDIP's benefits and applications. Bridgette has managed the implementation of large infrastructure projects, a portfolio of roads, culverts and bridges construction, water & sanitation projects, property development, commercial and industrial facilities, all totaling R 4 billion in value. Bridgette was also instrumental in negotiations with foreign investors in the automotive, agro-processing, petrochemical and metallurgical sectors looking to invest in mega projects in South Africa. Work which she is still engaged with to date.

5 Current Occupation:

Bridgette is widely traveled and has covered Africa, South East Asia, the Far and Middle Easts and Europe extensively. Her previous portfolio with the Coega Development Corporation (other than effecting infrastructure development on the 11500 hectares of Industrial Development Zone land) was centered around socio-economic development through construction contracts using

relevant procurement methodologies and as a result advancing the participation of SMME's within various levels of built environment skills. In December of 2008 she established her company The Elilox Trading Pty Ltd. The Elilox Group holding company amongst other things has its focus on: **Programme and Project Management Consulting, Infrastructure Planning & Development and Agricultural Enterprises**. Gasa's PhD research work looks at the utilization of a tool that would measure the competitiveness of small businesses participating within the built environment sectors.

6 Publications and Presentations:

Bridgette has published three scientific research works related to Infrastructure Development:

- *Financial Project Management Systems in the Public Sector* 2003
- *Measuring the Competitiveness of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise contractors through the use of the Register of Contractors* 2012
- *Entrepreneurship as an enabler for the competitiveness of SMMEs* 2012

She has authored a few papers which have been published covering the themes of: project management, construction industry development and the impact of growth in the built environment (inclusive of partnering and alliancing methodologies). These papers have been included in conference proceeding whenever they were presented at both local and international platforms. The following technical papers were presented at industry Conferences and International Construction Summits in France, Russia, United Kingdom, Singapore, China, Denmark and Iraklion (Greece):

- Women participation in the construction industry: defining the challenge, refining the strategies, Pretoria 2002;
- Re-engineering Public Sector Processes to aid delivery on Infrastructure, Cape Town and Moscow, 2003;
- Public Sector Delivery Capability on Infrastructure Programmes, Singapore, 2003;
- Impact of the economic downturn on the African Construction Industry, Singapore 2008;
- Infrastructure Development in Africa and opportunities for Africa-China partnerships, China 2009 & 2010;

7 Societal Responsibilities:

GASA has spearheaded a number of social responsibility initiatives most of which involve training of Project Managers from professions including: Information Technology, Construction and Services. During the period of 2003 – 2005 and as the Vice-President for Technical and Education of the PMSA, she arranged and delivered technical seminars to the registered members whose desire it was to enhance their on-the-job knowledge and skills in Project Management. *Pro bono*, Bridgette also taught modules on Construction Procurement and Project Management to the University of Pretoria – (Vista Campus) between the years of 2002 – 2005. In 2008 she was appointed as a mentor to the 2008 fellows of the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation, Eastern Cape – a role she still continues to this day. Bridgette is a patron of the Dr. Enoch Gasa Scholarship funding girl-children from disadvantaged communities pursuing a career in the built environment. This year, The Elilox Group Pty Ltd has 20 (twenty) children that it puts through University. The Elilox financially supports a school of children living with disabilities in East London called Isaiah 58. We have expressed this support through purchasing much needed clothing, shoes and blankets. Lastly, Bridgette currently lectures MSc: Built Environment at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University on Project Management and Construction, on a part-time basis.

Bridgette GASA is the 2008 recipient of the Department of Science & Technology Award for a Leading Woman Scientist in Industry. She was also unanimously nominated as the first-ever female and first-ever African President of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) during the year 2008. The CIOB is a 177-year old institution.