

RACECA plays key role in regional infrastructure conference



The Roads and Civil Engineering Contractors Association was proud to be a major sponsor of the Ministry of Roads Regional Infrastructure Conference held in the Kenyatta International Conference Centre between the 15th and 17th November, 2011. This is the second year in which the association has supported and participated in Ministry of Roads Organized Conferences at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre.

The Roads and Civil Engineering Contractors Association was formed in 2008 on the suggestion of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Roads and with both his support and that of the Minister for Roads.

The purpose of the association is to provide a voice to the contractors working in the Roads and Civil Engineering Construction Industry in Kenya, since its official launch in December 2009, the association has achieved numerous benefits for its members.

The Minister for Roads is the patron of the association and it is with his support that RACECA has been able to hold many constructive meetings with the Ministry of Roads and the Authorities on behalf of its members.

RACECA operates as an autonomous body that liaises with the government in formulating and developing criteria for classification of road and civil engineering contractors and as a body charged with the keeping and updating of an appropriate register of contractors, developing a code of conduct, enforcing the same amongst its members and generally upholding professionalism in the field of roads and civil engineering construction to:-

- Liaise with the government, financiers and other regulatory agencies on all matters affecting the industry and in the formulation of terms and conditions of contract relating to roads and civil engineering construction.
- Ensure fair representation as stakeholders in all bodies involved in the civil engineering and road construction sector.
- Foster national, regional and international cooperation with similar bodies on matters affecting road construction, civil engineering and all other matters related thereto.
- Enhance competitiveness through local and international joint ventures, partnerships and encouragement of smaller local entrants to the industry by way of support such as lending equipment and providing finance.
- Develop local construction capacity by promoting and encouraging training of persons engaged in the work of roads and civil engineering construction by use of appropriate modern technology; engage in research and development, establish suitable bodies for further education and generally encourage the universal adoption of tried and efficient standards conducive to orderly development.
- Publish documents and magazines for the benefit of members of the association and the general public on matters of road construction and civil engineering.
- Encourage the initiation and promoting of such legislation and other measures as may safeguard the free and unencumbered expansion of the construction industry.
- Participate in the social and economic development of the *country*.

RACECA also offers other benefits and services to its members ranging from standards of Conduct to educational conferences and networking opportunities.



RACECA Chairman Kishan Gehlot and James Chacha, Chairman Parklands Sports Club unveil a plaque for RACECA sponsored hokey pavilion at the Club

It consults with the Government of Kenya in carrying out its operations and in laying down policies for the construction industry. RACECA acts as a regulatory body for all its registered members. This is to promote professionalism and high standard of ethics. The association's members are mainly employed by the ministry of roads, the roads authorities, and ministry of public works, local government, and Nairobi metropolitan, ministry of water and irrigation, ministry of energy, Parastatals and the private sector.

Members of RACECA provide the following services in roads and civil engineering construction:-

- Construction and rehabilitation of national highways, rural and urban roads.
- Repair and rehabilitation of international and regional airports.
- Construction of airstrips
- Major structural works such as bridges and overpasses.
- Development of industrial parks.
- Development of commercial complexes and residential estates.
- Construction and rehabilitation of gravel roads.
- Trunk sewers, oxidation ponds and treatment works.
- Milling and recycling of asphalt roads.
- Marine works.

- Intake works, water treatment, water supply distribution and associated works
- Dam construction.
- Operating large-scale quarry plants to produce road stone and concrete aggregates.

The association has developed a code of conduct for its members. The code of conduct calls for the members to uphold and enhance the honor, integrity and dignity of the construction engineering profession. They shall not engage in business or professional practices of a fraudulent, dishonest or unethical nature. The code also calls for transparency in procurement and execution of projects.

The membership of the association is open to any corporation or partnership engaged in roads and/or civil engineering construction. At present the association has over 40 members five of which have joined in the last two months. They are collectively providing continuous employment to more than personnel directly and through subcontractors.

RACECA has persuaded construction industry employers to reduce VAT deductions at source while maintaining the contribution by the construction industry to the exchequer at the same level as everyone else. The major advantage being an improvement of cash flow in

the industry

Also improving cash flow and efficiency in the industry have been agreements by the Employers to pay certificates within the time periods defined in the contracts, authorities to share budgetary information with contractors, standardize bidding and contract documents, reduce preliminary and general items to less than fifteen percent of contract sums, reduce performance guarantee requirements, release retention money against bank bonds, standardize claims evaluation and release advance payment bonds in stages as repayments are made during the performance of the contracts. RACECA is to nominate a member of the Board of the National Construction Authority and is already represented by Eng. Colin Scott on the Technical and Development Committee of the Kenya Roads Board.

The association continues to assist both its Members and their Employers to resolve issues which could disrupt projects and to promote the efficient regulation and organization of the roads and civil engineering construction industry in Kenya©

Contractors wishing to join the Association should apply to the Secretariat at:
mdsurtech@swiftkenya.com, at P.O. Box 15130, 00509, Nairobi or Tel: 2082.