

SAWiC Association Registration no 2004/019152/08
DBSA Lever Road
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BACKGROUND

There is sufficient evidence in history proving that, alongside the men folk, women have been building homes for many years. For a variety of reasons this traditional partnership between man and woman in building homes was not transplanted into commercial/modern construction industry, thereby leaving women behind. New approaches are therefore required to deal with some of the stereotypes of the past. One can hardly find a profession nowadays in which women are not represented – there is no more room for stereotypical beliefs.

The South African Constitution and Equity Act require that women be employed in all sectors of the economy. The South African President, Mr Thabo Mbeki again reflected on the importance of incorporating women in all sectors of the economy in his State of the Nation address this year. At present, however, women lack the capacity to compete in the market and yet have to clearly define what capacity building needs they have to effectively take part in business deals. Programmes from government like the Accelerated Growth Initiative of SA (Asgi-SA) are aimed at building the capacity of women and youth. SAWiC is aligning with government programmes such as Asgi-SA and JIPSA.

The South African Women in Construction (SAWiC) initiative was founded in 1997 to empower women to gain access to contracts, training, finance and networks in the construction industry. It originated from the DBSA Specialist Unit programme for Small Contractor Development at the time. The construction Industry role players, stakeholders and associations were gathered for a national workshop at the University of Pretoria on 11 June 1997 where the mandate was given for this initiative to go ahead with the main objective of empowering women in construction. Ever since women has had monthly information and training workshops at the Development Bank of Southern Africa to fulfill this objective.

The SAWiC Business Trust was launched on 23 August 1999 as a result of deliberations at the monthly workshops. The Late Minister of the South African Department of Public Works, Stella Sigcau, demonstrating government support to this initiative, delivered the keynote address. Six trustees were elected to administer the Business Trust to empower women to access contracts, training, finance and to expand their networks. The affiliation of SAWiC with NAWiC furthermore ensures access of these women to international literature, training programs, networks and best practice.

SAWiC in 2004 changed to become a Voluntary Association, acting on changes in the business environment and to better serve our members. SAWiC is not a stagnant entity but grows and is responsive to the changing environment in which it operates.

WHO ARE WE?

Yesterday, SAWiC as a section 21, was both a membership and donor contributed organisation;

Board Members 2005-2008:

Phumelele Siphayi, Julia Chiloane, Nomsa Skweyiya, Xandra Vermaak, Dr Thandi Ndlovu, Adv. Fay Mukaddam, Mary Motshweneng, Pat Masiase, Thambi Matabela, Tankiso Morule; Zandile Garane, Maureen Khathi and Jessey Chakane.

Provincial Co-ordinators 2005-2008

Maggie Netshilindi, Hilda Dabula, Disebo Soka, Evelyn Mogoera, Mandisa Makiwane, Mmanape Mathapo, Elmarie Deetlefs and Sharon Isaacs

National Co-ordinator: Ntombi Mbatha Glenwood Office Park, IDT, Oberon Street Faerie Glenn Pretoria
Tel: 012 368 2830/27 Fax: 086 520 9450 Cell 082 213 5269

National Programme Director: Dr Ingrid Verwey PO Box 1234, Midrand, Halfway House, 1685, South Africa
Tel:(011) 313 3255 (W) Fax: (011) 206 3255 Cell 082 909 6072
E-mail: ingridv@dbsa.org Web <http://www.dbsa.org.Sawic>

Today, SAWIC is serious player in the building industry

Tomorrow SAWIC will be a design force to be reckoned with in the shaping of Africa's development

"Perhaps one day, someone will commission a South African-style complex – instead of a another Tuscan one..." Phumelele Siphayi SAWiC National Chairperson

Did you know?

Women have been commercially oppressed for many years

Women have been building comfort zones for many years - physically and functionally

Our government has made women emancipation a priority

SAWIC is directly aligned with Government programmes such as ASGI-SA

The South African Constitution and Equity Act requires that women be employed in all sectors of the economy

A fresh approach was required to deal with some of the stereotypes of the past.

The South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) initiative was founded on the 11 June 1997

The affiliation of SAWIC with NAWIC ensures access of our members to international literature, training programs, networks and best practice

SAWIC currently services more than 2000 women contractors country-wide

In 2007 SAWiC has started the process of commercializing its offering.

What we do

Members are invited to quarterly national workshops at the Development Bank of Southern Africa. Provincial quarterly workshops are held in the capital cities as well

SAWIC administers, intervenes, facilitates and negotiates to empower its members to gain access to:

- Opportunities
- Contracts and related legal aspects
- Training
- Finance
- Business networks
- Marketing

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Why us

SAWIC is strongly positioned, to act as a conduit to support South Africa's broad-based black economic empowerment initiatives. Black women constitute 90% of our membership and they directly benefit from the workings of the organization. By our commitment to women in construction we ably assist in uplifting the communities in which they live and work

SAWIC has strategic primary partnerships with the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and engages as a partner and member with various other entities

SAWIC is a key member spearheading the Construction Charter Council and is a founding member of Construction South Africa.

The individuals representing SAWIC bring a wealth of expertise and experience to business. SAWIC has been involved at a management level in its partnerships with the IDT and DBSA. The majority of SAWIC's members are leaders within their communities and industry and play executive roles within their own businesses and in projects in which they are involved.

Our culture

We strive to ensure honesty, integrity, trust, security and respect for all people

SAWIC, in all its interactions, promotes a positive image of the industry

SAWIC supports the role of all women in the design, architecture and construction sector

SAWIC undertakes sectoral business accountability, credibility and transparency

SAWIC in essence promotes the awareness of gender issues in all aspects of our culture

We are a non-racial non-sexist association promoting freedom of religion and supporting the value of family consciousness in the industry

The result of this provides a pursuit of unity and excellence within the organisation and permeates through to our members and investment partners

The SAWIC brand and culture is being driven into all areas of South Africa

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Our vision mission and ethos

Vision

SAWIC is an association of excellence with global networks enhancing the role of women in the construction industry through members running profitable business enterprises

Mission

SAWIC is an association that promotes and supports the advancement of women in the construction industry

Ethos

SAWIC commits itself to professionalism, compliance with the external legislative and regulatory frameworks. This includes compliance with internally drafted policies, procedures and operating principles

Objectives

Strengthening SAWIC as an organisation

Enhancing the SAWIC membership base

Capacity building of members, technical and entrepreneurial

Creating networks and partnerships for SAWIC

Effective participation of women in the construction market

The re-alignment of procurement procedures to facilitate access to construction opportunities for women

Contribution to industry development

Monitoring and evaluation of relationships, projects and growth of business

SAWIC sustainability through income generation

We support the spirit of entrepreneurialism with an active, focused and sustainable 'second economy'

How to get involved

Membership forms are available from the national office in a brochure format and on our webpage. We are currently on a road show country-wide to promote a new corporate identity and as soon as we launch the website will be interactive.

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The road ahead

Acquisition of 30 % of market share of the industry within five years by SAWIC members

In order to be sustainable, it is essential for SAWIC to take the program into the rural areas.

In terms of members' enterprise sustainability, a research project, which will feed into the above mentioned empowerment model is another important project for SAWIC for 2007

This will be enhanced and incubated in pilot projects.

This research and support programme will bring about poverty alleviation

It will raise the standard of living of rural women and families.

SAWIC's 2007 Annual Convention will be hosted this year by the Limpopo Province

The objective of the convention is to ensure best practice for women enterprises in construction.

The goal is to share knowledge and to expand global networks

We combine this event with our Annual General Meeting

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