

30TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING
OF THE NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

**NAVIGATING EXCELLENCE: INSIGHTS
INTO THE REGISTRATION AND PRACTICE
OF QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION
IN ZAMBIA**

PRESENTER:

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Introduction

- ▶ Regional integration is seen as a **rational response to the difficulties** faced by a continent with **many small national markets** and landlocked countries.
- ▶ As a result, African governments have concluded a very large number of regional integration arrangements, several of which have significant membership overlap.

Introduction (cont'd)

- ▶ Zambia belongs to the **21-member Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**, which allows for preferential tariff duties among member states.
- ▶ Zambia also belongs to the **16-member Southern African Development Community (SADC)**, which established an FTA in 2008.

Introduction (cont'd)

- ▶ The SADC protocol for **Trade in Services** sets out **general obligations** for all State Parties with regard to the treatment of services and service suppliers from other State Parties.
- ▶ It does not contain **liberalization obligations** but provides for within the mandate to **progressively negotiate removal of barriers to the free movement of services** between member states. It also clearly sets the **rules of origin for services** provided by member states outside the region.

Introduction (cont'd)

- ▶ Zambia being a member state of the SADC is expected to abide by these guidelines and regulations.
- ▶ So far **architectural and engineering services are at a very advanced stage of integration** while Quantity Surveying services are still at proposal stage.

Introduction (cont'd)

- ▶ This presentation aims to provide valuable insights into the **registration process of Quantity Surveyors** and the nuances of practicing this essential discipline which the author believes will not be at a huge variance with eventual guidelines of the SADC protocol.

The Regulatory Framework

- ▶ The regulatory framework for quantity surveying in Zambia is structured to uphold professional standards, ethics, and competence.
- ▶ The **Quantity Surveyors Regulation Board** oversees the registration and licensing of quantity surveyors, setting guidelines for education, training, and continuous professional development and operates under **The Quantity Surveyors Act CHAPTER 438** of the Laws of Zambia.

The Regulatory Framework (cont'd)

- ▶ This act provides for the following as a minimum pre-requisite and procedure for registration to practice as a quantity surveyor in Zambia:
- ▶ 18. (1) A person shall not be registered as a quantity surveyor unless he-
- ▶ (a) is at the date of his application for registration, resident in Zambia;
- ▶ (b) has attained the age of twenty-one years; and

The Regulatory Framework (cont'd)

- ▶ (c) holds a **Bachelor of Science Degree** in quantity surveying, building economics and measurement or **other equivalent qualifications approved by the Board**; or
- ▶ (d) has completed at least five years of a professional course from a university **recognized by the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE)**.

The Regulatory Framework (cont'd)

- ▶ In addition to the qualifications referred to in subsection (1), a person shall-
- ▶ (a) have completed **two years of post graduate practical experience** in full-time employment **under the supervision of a registered quantity surveyor**, one year of which shall be in private practice or Government employment and has been keeping a diary on a day-to-day basis on the person's work which diary shall be signed by the supervising registered quantity surveyor; or

The Regulatory Framework (cont'd)

- ▶ (b) hold qualifications equivalent to those in paragraph (c) of subsection (1), have had not less than three years' working experience as a quantity surveyor outside Zambia, and have worked for a period of not less than twelve months in Zambia under the supervision of a registered quantity surveyor in private practice or Government

EFFECTS OF QSRB ACT ON THE PROFESSION

- ▶ Exodus of thousands of graduates into the diaspora
- ▶ Registration with allied professional bodies particularly the Engineering Association of Zambia which has recognized the cost engineer category
- ▶ Illegal practicing of Quantity Surveying
- ▶ Change of career

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▶ Proposed Amendments

- ▶ 12.(1) There are **classes of membership** as provided for in the governing document.
- ▶ (2) Each class of membership shall have rights, privileges and obligations that may be prescribed in the governing document.
- ▶ (3) A person may apply to the Institute for registration as a member in accordance with the governing document.

Prohibition of person practicing without registration

- ▶ 13. (1) A person shall not practice as a quantity surveying professional unless that person is registered as a member under the governing document, and as a quantity surveying professional, in accordance with this Act.
- ▶ (2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or to both.

Application for registration

- ▶ 14. (1) A person shall apply to the Board for registration as a quantity surveying professional in the prescribed manner and form on payment of the prescribed fee.
- ▶ (2) The Board may determine **different fees for different classes of quantity surveying professionals.**
- ▶ (3) The Board may, **within thirty days of receipt of an application under subsection (1), grant or reject the application.**
- ▶ (4) The Board shall, where it rejects an application under subsection (3), inform the applicant and give reasons for the rejection.

Registration of quantity surveying professional

- ▶ 15. (1) The Board shall, on receipt of an application under section 14, issue the applicant with a certificate of registration if the applicant-
- ▶ (a) is registered as a member in accordance with the governing document;
- ▶ (b) possesses knowledge, training and experience that may be prescribed;

Registration of quantity surveying professional (cont'd)

- ▶ (c) holds a qualification from a training institution recognised by the Institute;
- ▶ (d) is resident in the Republic, or has an established office;
- ▶ (e) is of good character and good professional standing; and
- ▶ (f) meets other requirements that the Institute may determine.

Registration of quantity surveying professional (cont'd)

- ▶ (2) The Board shall register a quantity surveying professional as -
 - ▶ (a) a practising quantity surveyor;
 - ▶ (b) a construction quantity surveyor; or
 - ▶ (c) any other quantity surveying professional as the Institute may determine.

Registration of quantity surveying professional (cont'd)

- ▶ (3) A person registered as a construction quantity surveyor may **apply to the Board** for registration as a **practicing quantity surveyor** in the prescribed manner and form.
- ▶ (4) The Minister may, by statutory instrument, on the recommendation of the Institute, prescribe the qualifications for registration of a person as a quantity surveying professional.

Practicing as Quantity Surveying unit and registration procedure

- ▶ 16.(1) A quantity surveying organisation or quantity surveying unit **shall not** provide quantity surveying services if the quantity surveying organisation or quantity surveying unit **is not registered in accordance with this Act.**
- ▶ (2) A quantity surveying organisation or quantity surveying unit that contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not **exceeding nine million penalty units.**

Practicing as Quantity Surveying unit and registration procedure(cont'd)

- ▶ 17. (1) A quantity surveying organisation or quantity surveying unit that intends to provide quantity surveying services shall **apply to the Board for registration** in the prescribed manner and form on payment of a prescribed fee.
- ▶ (2) The Board shall, **within thirty days** of receipt of an application made under subsection (1), grant or reject the application.
- ▶ (3) The Board shall, where it rejects an application in accordance with subsection (2), inform the applicant and give the reasons for the rejection.

Practicing as Quantity Surveying unit and registration procedure(cont'd)

- ▶ 18. (1) The Board shall, where the quantity surveying organization or quantity surveying unit meets the requirements of this Act, **issue the applicant with a certificate of registration.**
- ▶ (2) A **foreign quantity surveying organization** may provide quantity surveyors services in the Republic where that foreign quantity surveyor organisation has entered into a **joint venture with** a quantity surveying organisation or quantity surveying unit for a project registered with the Board.

Prohibition of practicing Quantity Surveying without practising certificate

- ▶ 24. (1) A person shall not practice as a quantity surveying professional if that person **does not hold a practising certificate** issued by the Board in accordance with this Act.
- ▶ (2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine **not exceeding seven hundred thousand penalty units** or to imprisonment for a term **not exceeding seven years**, or to both.

Registration Process

- ▶ As you can see, becoming a registered quantity surveyor in Zambia involves a **structured process**. Aspiring professionals typically undertake a **recognized educational program**, followed by a **period of practical training under the guidance of experienced practitioners**. The registration board evaluates applicants based on academic qualifications, practical experience, and adherence to ethical standards.

Importance of Registration

- ▶ Registration with the Quantity surveyors Registration Board is not merely a bureaucratic formality; **it is a testament to an individual's commitment to professionalism and adherence to industry standards in Zambia.** Clients, employers, and the public at large trust registered quantity surveyors to deliver services of the highest quality.

Conclusion

- ▶ In conclusion, the quantity surveying profession in Zambia is a dynamic and essential component of the construction industry. Through a rigorous registration process, aspiring professionals not only gain recognition but also commit to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and ethics. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities in this field, let us strive for excellence and contribute to the sustainable development of Zambia.

