

PRESS RELEASE: Institution of Engineers Rwanda holds its General Assembly

Institution of Engineers Rwanda (IER) will on **Thursday 31st March 2022**, starting from **09:00am at Nobleza Hotel in Kicukiro District** convene its General Assembly, the supreme organ of the institution, to take stock of the activities in the past two years and set targets for the coming year.

According to the law establishing the Institution, the General Assembly brings together all compliant members of the institution and sets the quorum of at least two-thirds of the number of members for the meeting to proceed.

During the meeting The, members will discuss the different milestones by the Institution with focus on how they managed to sail through the pandemic and strategies for post-Covid, and how to maintain the trajectory.

According to **Eng. Gentil Kangaho, the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Institution**, a lot was achieved during the past two years, despite the fact that the world, Rwanda inclusive, was faced with the pandemic.

Among the key achievements include the exponential growth of members subscribing to the Institution and making their regular contributions, where they grew from 1,051 in 2019 to 2,493 members as of March 2022.

“We can attribute this achievement to the robust secretariat that worked relentlessly to ensure the Institution fulfilled its constituted mandate, against all odds, including the pandemic that paralyzed business on all fronts,” Kangaho said, adding; “On behalf of the Council, I want to commend the secretariat and promise them continued support in fulfilling the mandate of EIR.”

The most outstanding achievement for the institution in the last two years is the transformation from a loss-making entity to a profitable institution in just two years, something the governing council attributes to the secretariat that stepped-up measures to ensure compliance by members, and other resource mobilization mechanisms.

Financial sustainability

At the end of 2019, the Institution had a loss of Rwf33,373,460 and by the end of 2021, they had a surplus, more so amidst a global pandemic.

According to **Steven Sabiti, the Executive Secretary of the Institution**; “Just before Covid-19 broke out, we had just activated our online payment system to make it easy for our members to remit their contributions with much convenience. This platform became even more critical during the pandemic, with movement restrictions that were in place.”

He however added that the platform was complemented by other measures, including enforcement mechanisms to ensure members pay their contributions and on time.

“We engaged all institutions in the country that employ engineers asking them to ensure they fulfill their statutory obligations by paying contributions. We also regularly issue timely invoices to individual members whenever they are due on payment. Collectively, these measures led to the good financial performance of the Institution,” Sabiti said.

Advocacy

Other milestones registered over the past two years include advocacy where we lobbied government to amend regulatory frameworks that were found to be not favorable to the engineering practice in the country.

“In the institution, we have a home where we take our grievances whenever there are regulations that we feel are affecting our practice and they have successfully lobbied government for a solution,” said Janvier Habyarimana, a member of the Institution in the field of technologists.

Professional conduct

Meanwhile, over the past two years, IER, through the Secretariat, has been keen on ensuring members strictly adhere to the code of conduct of the engineering practice in Rwanda.

Sabiti said: Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Conversely, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.”

He added that they regularly conduct inspection on major infrastructure projects of public interest to check on compliance.

Other activities

The restricted movement notwithstanding, the Institution over the last two years organized a number of activities including in the area of capacity building through Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes, creating and maintaining partnerships with international stakeholders and engaged in Corporate Social Responsibilities, among others.

For full details of the Institution’s activities in the past two years, click [here](#) to access our e-newsletter.