

Engineering Regulatory Policies for Engineering Professions in Africa

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Governance (market/employer disruption, communication within and outside the profession, mergers)

The technological revolution has disrupted the engineering environment, and created several new areas of focus and prioritise for the continent. It is of importance to also understand the policy environment for the regulation of engineering professions in this context. This paper examines the policy environment to regulate and recognise the profession and professionals within and between countries in Africa, as well as the flexibility to adapt to adapt to the technological revolution.

There is also a shortage of engineering professionals to meet the current demands of engineering projects, educational and research expectations. Hence recognition and mobility agreements for engineers in the region are required in areas of practice, as well as support networks need to be developed for the research and educational development.

In the practice environment, this requires a systematic approach to recognise engineering professionals and their related qualifications to enable practitioners to practice across boundaries. This paper examines the policies across five African countries to enable such practice. It also investigates best practice standards that have been used globally, that could be adopted for the continent, and specific regions.

As part of the methodology there are also focus group and interviews that are conducted with institutions and representatives from countries, at regional and continental level, and also with the Federation of African Engineering Organisations.

The systematic process for engineering capacity development in Africa is examined, as well as the area for continuous professional development, and its recognition thereof from a regulatory perspective. It is also an enabling structure for professionals to update their skills and competencies, given the pace of the technological changes.

This paper examines the aforementioned areas in engineering in the policy environment, and proposes recommendations to be incorporated to the policy framework to be proposed for adoption within the region.