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For Engineering Excellence

Engineers Registration Board,

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PUBLIC NOTICE

14th August, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BOARD (ERB) AND THE UGANDA INSTITUTION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS (UIPE)

The Board at its 376th Board meeting resolved to guide engineering professionals and the general public on the difference between the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) and the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers (UIPE).

A Professional association and a regulatory body are two separate organizations with different mandates, different objectives and different measures of success.

It is important to note that Professional associations exist to serve the interests of its members; takes on an oversight role of the profession and are accountable to the members. Regulators on the other hand, serve the interest of the public and are accountable to the government for living up to the deal defined by the enabling legislation. A regulatory body is governed (regulated) by law, primarily concerned with the public and has legislative authority to govern the profession.

CONFLICT BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

It is not that the interest of the public and that of the profession are always in conflict, but there are situations where those interests are different. Regulators set requirements for entry into the profession that limit the number of individuals who might qualify; may set limits on the behaviour of professionals, mechanisms to assure continued competence and have investigatory and disciplinary powers, which some members may find intrusive and burdensome.

Because of the conflict in making decisions in the interest of the public versus that of the profession, governments often require a separation between regulatory body and the professional association, but not always the case. This may occur when a profession is newly regulated, fairly small or the risk of harm to the public is relatively low, then government may allow both the professional association and regulatory body to co-exist as one organization.

However, in such circumstance, Government expects the public interest to take precedence in making decisions related to regulatory functions, failure to do so would leave the profession open to losing its self-regulatory status and will be regulated by government directly.

ERB and UIPE are two professional organisations that co-exist within the engineering profession, mechanisms need to be sustained to effectively manage potential conflicts of interest.

An overview of ERB and UIPE

Description	Engineers Registration Board (ERB)	Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers (UIPE)
PURPOSE	<p>ERB is a government agency that establishes and strengthens legal standards in the engineering sector.</p> <p>ERB registration means that an engineer has a legal license to practice under the Engineers Registration Act (ERA), Cap 271, of Uganda.</p>	<p>UIPE is an association (typically non-profit) whose purpose is advancing engineering and developing its professionals to provide engineering services that helps the community. It oversees the knowledge and resources that promote engineering while balancing the interests of its members and the general public.</p> <p>UIPE was formed to promote the general advancement of science and practice of engineering and its applications, and to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas amongst its members.</p>
VISION	Excellent engineering services offered to Society.	Engineering excellence transforming the nation.
MISSION	To regulate and control engineering professionals and their activities within Uganda and to advise the Government on engineering matters.	To nurture and promote excellence in the science and practice of engineering in Uganda.
ESTABLISHMENT	<p>The Engineers Registration Board (ERB) is established under the Engineers Registration Act (ERA) 1969, Cap 271, as a statutory body with a mission to regulate and control engineers and their profession within Uganda.</p> <p>The first Board was appointed in January 1970, and was chaired by the late Eng. James Mbuzy Nyonyintono Zikusooka. AT the time, all public works were mandated to the Ministry of Works.</p>	<p>The Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers (UIPE) was formed in 1972 as an association of professional engineers to bring together the engineering fraternity in Uganda to share ideas and to promote engineering.</p> <p>UIPE succeeded the defunct East Africa Association of Engineers, which was established on 19th January, 1945 and dissolved in 1972 into separate associations for the different East African countries, Uganda inclusive.</p>

		UIPE derives its legal mandate from the Engineers Registration Act Cap 271, Section 20 (iii) which provides that for a person to be registered, one should be a member of the Institution (i.e. the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers).
MEMBERSHIP	Registration with ERB is a legal requirement for one to practice Engineering in Uganda and UIPE Corporate membership is mandatory for ERB registration. Registration is open to Ugandan, East African Community (EAC) and Foreign Nationals.	All engineering professionals can join UIPE. The current categories of UIPE membership include: Student, Technician, Technologist, Graduate, and Corporate, Fellow, Honorary and Temporary membership.
CORE FUNCTIONS /SERVICES	The function of the Board is to: (i) Regulate and control engineers and their activities within Uganda. (ii) Advise Government in relation to engineering matters. (iii) Register, deregister, restore registration, suspend registration, hold inquiries, hear appeals and appear as respondents against a case brought against it in the High Court. (iv) Set requirements for individuals to enter the engineering profession and for the practice of the profession. (v) Set up and maintain disciplinary processes and processes to evaluate ongoing competence of members. (vi) Protect the public from incompetent or unethical practitioners who may abuse their professional position and not to advance the interests of the profession.	The functions of UIPE: (i) As a member of UIPE, you belong to the Engineers' "Club". Clubs serve and protect their members. (ii) Professional Development of members. (iii) Sharing information, knowledge and opportunities. (iv) Research for Innovation and Improvement. (v) Standard setting for engineering programs in collaboration with NCHE and ERB. (vi) Advocacy to Influence, Encourage and change standards, policies, and procedures in government & industry. (vii) Advice government and private sector on engineering matters.
LEADERSHIP / GOVERNANCE	(i) The Board comprises seven members appointed by the Minister of Works and Transport. The Chairman and three members must be in	(i) UIPE is governed by the Council which has the overall responsibility of overseeing the management of the property and affairs of the Institution

	<p>Government service while the other three are nominated from the private sector by the Ugandan Institution of Professional Engineers (UIPE) and forwarded to the Minister for appointment. The tenure of the Board is 2 years</p> <p>(ii) The Registrar serves as the 8th member of the Board and Head of Secretariat, also appointed by the Minister of Works and Transport.</p>	<p>in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of UIPE.</p> <p>(ii) Members through the Annual General Meeting (AGM) appoint a Council every two years to represent them and govern the Institution through its various structures.</p>
<p>RESOURCES (Human, Structural, and Financial)</p>	<p>(i) The Board operates through Committees and Panels. Decisions made by Board are implemented by the secretariat.</p> <p>(ii) All activities of the Board are run on contributions from registered engineers and subventions from the Ministry of Works and Transport.</p>	<p>(i) Council works through Council Committees, Branches and the Secretariat, all established in accordance with the constitution.</p> <p>(ii) The Secretariat is the permanent administration responsible for the day to day operations and execution of UIPE Strategy.</p> <p>(iii) Funds and assets of UIPE are controlled by the Council.</p>

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