

DR WILLEM J DE BEER

3 CHINA BERRY AVENUE, WAVECREST, JEFFREYS BAY 6330. EMAIL: WJ.DEBEER@YAHOO.COM.
MOBILE: +27 82 338 0854



11/9/2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

For the past 3 years I am involved with the programme initiated and driven by Me Bertha Dlamini to promote the engineering field as a career. As you will appreciate the engineering field was regarded for decades as "not for ladies" from a career perspective. The programme driven by Bertha yielded results beyond any realistic expectations. During the past 3 years we witnessed young people inclusive of ladies, many from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, pursuing engineering related studies as a direct result of the initiative driven by Bertha.

This programme is addressing the need to bring together potential students, mentors and coaches while it creates opportunities for young people to further their engineering knowledge through practical exposure. I also had the opportunity to witness the growth in confidence of the young group of to be engineers through presentation at events such as PowerGen and **Distributech** Africa. There is no doubt in my mind that this programme will be recognised in time to come as one of the most prestigious intervention in the development of young engineers in South Africa.

Programmes like this requires commitment from mentors, coaches, academia, private sector and engineering related businesses. With the support from the above this programme will assist South Africa in closing the gap in respect of engineering related resources. Furthermore, the programme will directly contribute in the preparation of young people to make a far greater contribution to the engineering world at a much earlier stage. My appeal is to all interesting parties to get actively involved in this programme through funding and or other resource contributions.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me should any further information regarding the programme be required.

Yours sincerely

Dr W J de Beer