**PRESS RELEASE**

Students gain insight into world of civil engineering

***20 July, 2015:*** *A joint effort between SMEC South Africa and Brace Holdings resulted in a highly successful job-shadowing day on 28 May 2015 for high school students from two schools in Mpumalanga Province. This involved a site visit to the new Mpumalanga Magistrates’ Court in Nelspruit.*

**June Zhang** and **Byron Bahnemann** from SMEC gave a presentation on the world of civil engineering to about 120 matric science and math students from Bushbuckridge Secondary School and Bakutswe High School. **Effort Mokoena**, a former student of Bushbuckridge, recounted how he became a professional engineer in SMEC’s Urban Development sector.

The students were given SMEC and Brace Holdings branded T-shirts. Thereafter 48 of the top achievers, accompanied by five teachers, travelled to the construction site of the new Mpumalanga Magistrates’ Court in Nelspruit.

The students went through an induction process, including an explanation of the roles of quantity surveyor, project manager, resident engineer and health and safety manager. This was followed by a guided tour of the extensive construction site.

Lunch was served at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Nelspruit campus, followed by a guided tour by the university’s facility manager. TUT is the leading university of technology in Africa. The students had the opportunity to learn about the requirements for acceptance into this prestigious tertiary institution.

SMEC distributed Sharp calculators to the students and also organised over 160 application forms for entry to other universities in South Africa, to be distributed by the teachers.

“SMEC is proud to have been a part of the job-shadowing day for the maths and science students from Mpumalanga. It is hoped that by introducing them to the job opportunities that exist in the engineering profession, SMEC has helped in a small way to create future business leaders in South Africa,” Mokoena concludes.

***Ends***

**Notes to the Editor**
To download high resolution images for this press release, please visit [http://media.ngage.co.za](http://media.ngage.co.za/) and click on the SMEC South Africa link to view the company’s press office.

**About SMEC South Africa**
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