

# BUILDING AFRICA  
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**NIGERIA**

**Port Harcourt  
30-year growth plan**

Experts at consulting engineering company, GIBB, discussed the topic "Planning Approach to Reinststate the City of Port Harcourt, Nigeria" under the theme "Spatial Trends and Sustainable Urbanisation" at the annual South African Planning Institute (SAPI) 2010 conference.

SAPI is a voluntary organisation that seeks to promote planning as a discipline and the interests of the planning profession. "The topic is a three year planning project," says Nico Kriek, director of urban and rural planning. "The planning includes long-term urban development which spreads over a 30-year timeframe."

The city of Port Harcourt is situated in the Niger Delta, Nigeria, where 2 million people inhabit the densely populated oil-rich city. Agriculture and oil are the primary drivers of the economy of this tropical city. The city has seen no planning for the last 35 years and has relied mostly on ad hoc growth. Engineering services of this city are in poor condition and service delivery is very poor.

"In 2007, winds of change marked the beginning of the transformation of Port Harcourt into a 21<sup>st</sup> century world-class city." The first call to action for this city was improved engineering services and this had to be done within an integrated planning process.

Nico and his team approached the planning of the Port Harcourt project very carefully and went in with a dual and a top down approach.

