



# The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia

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## MINUTES OF THE 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE AREBBUSCH TRAVEL LODGE RESTAURANT ON 30 OCTOBER 2008 AT 19:00

### EPA COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Present:</b>	B Cilliers	President
	G Seydack	Past President
	S Tekie	Honorary Treasurer
	A Al-Jaf	Co-opted
	E Albrecht	Technical discipline
	U C Wilson	Administration / Secretary
<b>Absent:</b>	J Hennes	Vice-President
	F Jeske	Honorary Secretary

### EPA MEMBERS

<b>Present:</b>	G Diehl	L Redecker	H Fritz	L Hiwilepo
	L van Heerden	A Helmich	E Angula	K Uudhila
	H Weinert	P Heyns	N Louw	R !Gonteb
	F Van Greunen	T Kadandara	F Haulofu	R Hulbert
	E Mwangosi	F Muketi	J Matsi	
<b>Apologies:</b>	G Brettschneider	W Schulte	H Oberprieler	

#### 1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The President, Mr. B Cilliers, opened the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting and welcomed all members, non- /prospective members and guests present.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mr. B Cilliers briefly read the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved as being a true reflection of the proceedings of the previous AGM on the proposal of Mr. G Diehl, seconded by Mr. E Albrecht.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

No matters arose from the previous AGM minutes.

#### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his President's report Mr. B Cilliers covered the functions and activities of the EPA over the last year, which included:

- Cooperation between the EPA and Engineering Council of Namibia (ECN) – EPA to play roll in the delivery of CPD and possible mentoring programmes for engineers-in-training.
- Young Engineers' Construction Project / Bridge Building Competition – this again was a successful event held in June 2008, culminated in the winning team from Etosha Secondary School Tsumeb partaking in SAICE's international bridge building competition in Pretoria at the end of August.

- EPA Fun Day: Bowls – this having been a first attempt turned out well-received and was greatly enjoyed by all participants.
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) – in cooperation with the South African Road Federation two training courses were facilitated, namely SADC Road Traffic Signs Manual (September 2008) and Road Pavement Rehabilitation (October 2008)
- RA Bursary Fund – under EPA’s administration the Roads Authority’s bursary scheme for civil engineering students catered for 19 students at universities in South Africa, UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia.
- National Adjudicator’s List (NAL) – having been established with the support of InWent, the City of Windhoek and the Roads Authority the EPA, now administering the NAL, aims to provide the Namibian construction industry with an affordable, yet efficient alternative dispute resolution system to the traditional systems of arbitration or litigation.
- EPA Scholarship Fund Trust – the awards of four bursaries of N\$25,000 each for 2009 is to be made shortly to four deserving students selected from a shortlist of 7 qualifying from the more than 60 applications received.
- Given the continuous downward trend in EPA membership numbers members were urged to assist in the promotion of the association and recruitment of new members.

## 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

With copies of the financial statements made available Mr. G Seydack only briefly highlighted the following:

The total expenditure of N\$139,492 against the total income of about N\$157,435 left a surplus of N\$17,943, which was an encouraging sign and the first surplus recorded in several years.

It was again evident that the administration of the Roads Authority bursary scheme proved most lucrative, but that income from functions, i.e. training seminars remained equally important to ensure sustainable income.

## 6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2008 / 2009

Mr. G Seydack announced the re-appointment of Grant Thornton Neuhaus as auditors for the coming year.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Following the resignation of Mr. G Seydack and Mr. E Albrecht and the receipts of several new nominations for the various positions without requiring a ballot in terms of the constitution Mr. B Cilliers announced the 32<sup>nd</sup> EPA council for 2008 / 2009 as follows:

President	Mr. Braam Cilliers
Vice-President	Mr. Jürgen Hennes
Honorary Secretary	Mr. Ako Al-Jaf
Honorary Treasurer	Mrs. Sophie Tekie
Civil Discipline	Mr. Andreas Helmich
Electrical Discipline	Mr. Fritz Jeske
Mechanical Discipline	Mr. Frederick Muketi
Incorporated	Mr. Günter Leicher

Mr. B Cilliers thanked council members for their support, in particular Mr. G Seydack for all his contributions.

## 8. MATTERS ARISING

- Referring to the EPA Scholarship Fund Trust Mr. G Seydack explained that the Trust was a totally separate entity to the EPA. The total funds of the Trust amounted to about N\$1,6 million and invested on the money market were earning good interest. Awarding the first 4 bursaries for 2009 from this Trust would be a learning exercise resulting in possibly more bursaries to be given in future.
- Mr. L Hiwilepo proposed that the EPA President visit Telecom Namibia in order to raise awareness amongst the engineering staff. Mr. B Cilliers welcomed this proposal.

- Concerns were raised regarding the apparent predominant promotion of civil engineering interests by the EPA to the detriment of the other engineering disciplines. Both Mr. B Cilliers and Mr. G Seydack explained this situation due to the lack of engagement of members representing other disciplines, but agreed that more could and should be done for the electrical and mechanical disciplines.
- Mr. F Muketi thanked the President and Council for looking after the interests of all engineers. He also expressed his support and encouragement for the NAL.

9. CLOSURE

In closing the meeting Mr. B Cilliers called upon Mrs. S Tekie to hand over a farewell gift to Mr. G Seydack, who was leaving Namibia shortly. He once again thanked Mr. Seydack for his very meaningful contributions and expressed that his input will be much missed by council.

There being nothing further to discuss Mr. B Cilliers thanked all members present for attending the meeting and invited them to a lecture by Dr. André Parker to be followed by dinner.

The meeting closed at 20h00.

Signed:

Date: .....

President: ..... Vice-President: .....