

Engineering Professions Association of Namibia



Annual Report

2006/07

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The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia (EPA) is a non-profit, voluntary membership association of qualified engineers, engineering technicians and others engaged in engineering related professions. The association strives to uphold excellence in the field of engineering by promoting the image, continuing education and common interest of its members. The EPA pursues its aims and promotes the engineering profession with modest means through its involvement in various activities, such as the management of engineering bursary funds and the annual "Young Engineers' Construction Project" and engineering careers exhibitions.

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President's Report

Off-the-Cuff

This Annual Report covers the period of office of the 30th Council of EPA, which took office subsequent to the AGM on 17 October 2006.

I have thought long and hard about what to write, and more so about what not to write, in my report on the past year of my service since having been elected as President of EPA in October 2006.

For a number of years, previous EPA Councils have sounded warning signals about the state of EPA. Responsibility demands that I do the same, even though everyone would rather hear good news than bad news.

Like, we loved being told how the world's stock and housing markets were booming. Then the bad news came of the US sub-prime housing market bubble bursting, and financial institutions around the world started shaking. The experts tell us that obscure "securitisation" transactions were to blame. For the rest of us, this means that speculators were selling risks to each other, and judging by what happened they weren't quite transparent about what they were doing. Seems to me like passing the Fool's card under the table. In the end, nobody knew who was holding the Fool's card, and everyone was looking suspiciously and nervously at everyone else. Such is the price of a lack of transparency. I hope those who are crying out for legislation to muzzle the press in Namibia take note.

Responsibility to me means – how do I respond? My response is – in a constructive way; not by sweeping the dirt under the carpet, but by showing what is wrong, so that we can fix it. Not to point fingers, seek culprits, or create a scare, but because fix it we need to. EPA carries weighty responsibilities, not only towards its members, but even more so towards the community and its partners. It has a role to fulfil, for which there is a demand.

EPA's mandate is entrenched in its constitution. This is not only a voluntary contract among members on how their common interests in EPA should be managed, but also a promise to the community and to EPA's partners about how they can expect EPA to interact with them. Unfortunately, for a number of years now, the Council of EPA has not been in a position to effectively manage the affairs of EPA in accordance with its constitution. An extreme example: the constitution requires all cheques issued by the EPA to be signed by its Honorary Treasurer. It is by now a well-known fact that no candidates have availed themselves for this post, for more years than I can remember. Strictly, EPA should on account of this have closed its doors years ago. With only the proverbial handful of the same members every year

willing to keep on carrying EPA, the Council has had to constantly reinvent itself, its procedures and how to manage EPA. To give credit where credit is due – it has managed to do so remarkably effectively. The ship is not only just afloat, but is still delivering valuable goods. These are probably no longer the kind of goods that a past majority of members, who have since then left EPA, had expected to be delivered: goods for members' own benefits. Instead, they have become goods delivered to the community and to EPA's partners in serving the engineering community. The Council of EPA assumes that the members, who are still on board and continue to support EPA, are those who are happy to have their membership fees serve the community instead of serving themselves.

Nevertheless, the contingencies of real life for those few who have through the years continued to carry EPA, have resulted in a significant gap between the constitution of EPA, and therefore its agreed and approved mandate, the management of the affairs of EPA, and indeed the affairs of EPA as such. I still recall that some amendments to the constitution had been approved many years ago, but these seem to never have been incorporated into the constitution. I say "seem", because there are now several versions of the constitution in circulation, and nobody knows which of these, if any, is the "official" version. On the whole, an undesirable situation has developed.

Another, though positive, development is that EPA has become increasingly more oriented towards covering its costs from sources other than the traditional membership fees. This is in line with its increasing focus on service to a broader community, and is the main reason for EPA having been able to stay afloat without any membership fee increases "since time immemorial". Therefore, it is not only Council, but indeed EPA, which has undergone a process of reinvention. The changes may not have been very apparent over time, but are definitely noticeable in retrospect.

EPA would do well to formalise the changes that have occurred and thereby commit itself to a new mandate. Even though its activities have hardly ever placed it into the limelight, it is noticeable that EPA has earned itself trust and respect where it counts. Building on this foundation is imperative to EPA's continued existence. And, its continued existence is a necessity for the good of the community it serves. I envisage a growing future for EPA, and the reasons will become apparent in this second annual report produced by EPA.

I hope that both the good and the bad of it will in combination be a catalyst for change and growth. Grow and live – or stagnate and die. In my coming

year of service on the EPA Council as Past President, I pledge to support your incoming President, Braam Cilliers, in keeping EPA alive and growing. I chose not to make myself available for re-election, because I have on a personal level experienced the imperative that I mentioned above. My 32-year career as an engineer is inexorably coming to an end, because there is no more growth left in it. If I am to live to the age of 100, as my physician advises me, I am now obliged to look for a new career. On the one hand, I feel burnt out, but on the other hand I feel like the seven-year old, as which I first started school. Torn apart by this personality split, I didn't get to attending to all the plans I had for the past year. In particular, these included organising a workshop for the engineering fraternity to contemplate its role in the achievement of Namibia's "Vision 2030", and reviving the EPA Environmental Management Award. However, I am happy to be able to transfer next year's reigns of EPA into capable young hands.

A Brief Overview of the Past Year

The 30th Annual General Meeting of EPA was held on 17 October 2006. The 30th Council of EPA assumed office subsequently.

On 1 March 2007, membership stood at 132 members, including only 2 female members.

EPA closed the financial year ending on 28 February 2007 with a deficit of N\$18 527, reducing its reserves from N\$201 449 in 2006 to N\$182 922. The deficit included a write-off of N \$5 585 in bad debts on membership fees; therefore the cash deficit amounts to N\$12 942. On a positive note, EPA has in the past year been able to collect administrative fees owed by the MWTC-Sida Bursary Fund of N\$79 433, and the RA Bursary Fund of N\$80 249. The past debt of EPA to the EPA Bursary Fund Trust, an amount of N\$23 569, has also been settled. At this stage, EPA can still continue operating based on its healthy cash reserves. However, a projection of the future situation indicates that EPA's funds could run out by February 2010, unless a better balance between income and expenditure can be achieved.

EPA's website went online on 3 March 2007, and can be found at <http://www.engineers-namibia.org>. It has already attracted interest in particularly the bursary schemes.

The Roads Authority Bursary Scheme expanded considerably in 2007, growing to a total of 21 students, making the Scheme one of the larger bursary schemes for engineering study in Namibia.

The EPA Bursary Fund Trust, established in 1997 mainly to provide bursaries to students of the MWTC-Sida Young Professionals Programme Bursary Scheme, was terminated in early 2007. The complex structure thereof, established to cater for past donor support, was no longer required. It was re-

placed by the EPA Scholarship Fund Trust, established in March 2007, with two trustees appointed by EPA. All funds of the previous Trust (N\$64 968) were transferred to the new Trust. Subsequently, the EPA Scholarship Fund Trust received a Swedish Government donation of N\$1 280 092. Including investment income, the Trust now holds about N\$1,4 million.

A Young Engineers' Construction Project Bridge Building competition was held on 16 June 2007. Due to the popularity of the event, the number of teams had to be limited to 33. The winning teams were: 1st – Walvis Bay High School; 2nd – DHPS; 3rd – St Paul's College. EPA thanks its generous sponsors, which enabled the winning team to participate in the SAICE International Bridge Building Competition on 31 August, where they achieved 9th place.

EPA thanks Mrs Chantel Kutz for representing EPA at the Coastal Career's Exhibition in Swakopmund from 13 – 15 June 2007.

The EPA annual Golf Day had to be cancelled this year, with only 4 entries having been received.

The Asphalt Academy, in collaboration with EPA, offered a three-day course on the "Design, Construction and Application of Surfacing Seals", from 31 July to 2 August 2007. It drew wide interest, with 38 participants enrolling for the course. The Past President, Mrs S Tekie, attended the course and her report is reprinted in this Annual Report.

EPA has conducted a survey among its members to determine the demand for further training courses. A good response was received, which will be used to arrange high priority courses in 2008.

EPA has been approached with a proposal to manage a National Adjudicators' List. Initial consultations have indicated that this may be a promising enterprise for EPA. At the time of publication of this Annual Report, the EPA Council was still evaluating the resource requirements and financial viability of EPA taking on this task. Further announcements will be made.

In 2007, EPA nominated the following representatives to the Engineering Council of Namibia:

- Mr. F Jeske; alternate Mr. E Albrecht
- Mrs. S Tekie; alternate H-W Matthaei
- Mr JC Lamprecht; alternate B Cilliers

EPA also advised the ECN that provision for mandatory Continuing Professional Education should be made in the new Engineering Act; however, this should only be implemented conditional on the required capacity for operating such a scheme.

Günter Seydack
President: EPA

The EPA Council for 2006/07

The management of the EPA's affairs is vested in a member-elected Council, which employs a part-time secretary for the general administration of the association.

President: Günter Seydack Pr. Eng.



Günter started his career as roads engineer with the SWA Administration Roads Branch, did a stint of research work with the CSIR in Pretoria, and eventually settled in Namibia as an independent consultant. He joined the Road Fund Administration in 2002 as Manager for Policy, Programme

Management and Advice. Opting for early retirement in 2005, he now splits his time between consulting work, philosophy and arts.

Vice-President: Jürgen Hennes I. Eng.



Jürgen started as a learner technician with the Department of Water Affairs, and after obtaining his diploma he specialized in water retaining structures. Having served as Superintendent of Water and Sewerage Reticulation of the City of Windhoek, he started his own business as a loss adjuster on

buildings, structures and construction sites.

Past President: Sophia Tekie Pr. Eng.



Sophia, a professional civil engineer, is the Road Management System Manager of the Roads Authority of Namibia. She has served on the EPA Council as Vice-President and President from 2002 to 2006.

Honorary Secretary: Fritz Jeske Pr. Eng.



Fritz is an electrical engineer and director of Bicon Namibia Consulting Engineers. He has been a stalwart of EPA since its early beginnings, and has served on Council in several positions, including several terms as President.

Civil Engineering Discipline Representative: Jan Abram Cilliers Pr. Eng.



Braam started his career with Spoornet in the Western Cape, and thereafter the construction unit of the Free State Provincial Government. Since 1997, he has been consulting mainly in geometric, road drainage and pavement design. He

holds a B. Com. (Law) degree with Business Accounting and Contract Law, and a Master's degree in Transportation and Pavement Engineering.

Incorporated Engineers and Technicians: Erich Albrecht Eng. Tech.



Erich began his career with the SWA Administration Roads Branch in 1968, obtained the National Diploma in Materials Testing in 1971, and has managed materials laboratories on numerous roads construction sites during his long

career dedicated to Namibia's roads. He is currently the manager of the Roads Authority's Central Laboratory.

Administrative Secretary: Ricki Wilson



Qualified as a draughtswoman, Ricki has worked in that field for altogether 22 years for several architectural firms in Windhoek, with an interruption of a few years to raise a family. She has been the Executive Secretary of the Construction Industries Federation (CIF) since July 1998,

and added to this the EPA office administration in January 2004.

The following permanent posts on Council were vacant during the year:

- Honorary Treasurer
- Electrical Engineering Discipline
- Mechanical Engineering Discipline

As EPA currently has no active Branches, Engineering Divisions and Student Chapters, none of the posts for representatives of these on the Council were filled.

Review of the Past Year

EPA Annual General Meeting 2006

The 30th Annual General Meeting of EPA was held on 17 October 2006, at the Bauernstube Restaurant in Windhoek. It was attended by 5 members of the EPA Council and EPA's administrative secretary, as well as 8 EPA members. Eighteen apologies were received. The President, Mrs S Tekie, presented an overview of the past year's activities in her President's report. The Honorary Secretary, Mr G Seydack, presented a brief report on the financial affairs of EPA, sounding a cautionary note on the declining reserves of EPA, with income not having matched expenses for a number of years.

The incoming 30th Council of EPA was introduced to consist of the following members: Mr. G Seydack (President), Mr. J Hennes (Vice-President), Mrs. S Tekie (Past President), Mr. F Jeske (Honorary Secretary), Mr J Cilliers (Civil Discipline), Messrs. E Albrecht and V du Preez (Technical), and Mr O'B Ekanjjo as a co-opted member. (Messrs Du Preez and Ekanjjo withdrew shortly afterwards).

Membership

For some years, it has been difficult to obtain a true picture of EPA's membership, due to EPA having continued to carry "phantom members" on its books. These had not paid their membership fees for a number of years, without EPA having received notice of their resignation as members. Early in 2007, the EPA Council decided to discontinue this practice, and "cleaned out" the membership roll. At the same time, the accounting system was upgraded to better reflect the membership roll and the status of membership fee payments and arrears. On account thereof, some members will have noticed receiving a credit on membership fees, which subsequently would have been taken into account on issuing the membership fee invoices for the year commencing on 1 March 2007. Invoices were issued to 132 members, which we trust reflected the true number of EPA members as on 1 March 2007. It is disconcerting that this number includes only 2 female members.

EPA Finances

EPA closed the financial year ending on 28 February 2007 with a deficit of N\$18 527, reducing its reserves from N\$201 449 in 2006 to N\$182 922. The deficit included a write-off of N \$5 585 in bad debts on membership fees; therefore the cash deficit amounts to N\$12 942. A copy of the audited financial statements is included at the end of this Annual Report. Please refer to this, when reading the explanations given hereafter.

A weakness of the accounting system, which has been rectified with the upgrade as mentioned above, was that the system could not provide a breakdown of

the income and expenses in sufficient detail to identify the profit and loss leaders in EPA's activities. Nevertheless, the table hereafter represents an attempt to bring the financial figures for February 2007 into a better perspective, using a combination of actual and estimated figures. In doing so, the expenditure of N\$8 018 under "Public Relations" was re-allocated to the item "Printing and stationary", where it actually belongs – being the cost of printing EPA's annual report for 2005/06. Please note that this breakdown represents actual cash, excluding bad debt write-off.

EPA INCOME/EXPENSE BREAKDOWN 2006/07				
	Total	Admin	Functions	RA Bursary Scheme
INCOME	116 671	36 429	26 032	54 210
Administration fees	54 210	0	0	54 210
Functions & Donations	26 032	0	26 032	0
Interest Received	6 884	6 884	0	0
Membership Fees	29 545	29 545	0	0
EXPENDITURE	129 613	58 988	44 925	25 700
Audit Fees	6 831	6 831	0	0
Bank Charges	919	919	0	0
Functions Expenses	26 365	0	26 365	0
Postal	1 506	1 006	400	100
Printing and Stationery	10 478	10 018	160	300
Secretarial Services	79 200	38 100	17 600	23 500
Telephone	4 314	2 114	400	1 800
Profit / (Loss)	(12 942)	(22 559)	(18 893)	28 510

In the table, "Functions" refers to AGM, Career Guidance, Golf Day, and Young Engineers' Construction Project. Despite the generous donations received for some of these functions, collectively they were heavy loss-makers. However, since these constitute EPA's services to members and the engineering profession in general, they would naturally be loss-makers at least to some extent. More disconcerting is the discrepancy between membership and interest income, and the cost of operating the membership related services.

On a positive note, since for any organisation "Cash is King", EPA has in the past year been able to turn the "paper money" of the past into actual cash income. This is made up of the administrative fees owed by the MWTC-Sida Bursary Fund of N\$79 433, and the RA Bursary Fund of N\$80 249. Also, the past debt of EPA to the EPA Bursary Fund Trust, an amount of N\$23 569, has been settled since.

At this stage, EPA can still continue operating based on its healthy cash reserves. However, a projection of the future situation is not that rosy. At the beginning of the financial year 2007/08, Council prepared a three-year budget. According to the projection at that stage, EPA would for all practical purposes have used up its reserves by February 2010, and would thereafter be unable to continue operating as a "going concern". Clearly, this situation calls for timely intervention.

The EPA Council has considered this, and after some financial scenario modelling has concluded that an increase of membership fees would be unlikely to offer a “saving grace”. The most promising solution would be a combination of keeping a close tab on the costs of membership administration and functions (e.g. making non-core functions financially self-sustainable), and expanding activities more into functions, such as training courses and bursary scheme administration, which can subsidise loss-making functions.

Two developments have taken place since then, which call for, among others, a review of EPA’s vision, mission, constitution, functions and future budgets. These relate to EPA’s Scholarship Fund Trust and the prospect of taking on extended responsibilities in administrative and training functions related to the engineering profession. Both will be discussed further on in this report.

EPA Website

EPA’s website went online on 3 March 2007, and can be found at <http://www.engineers-namibia.org>. The name was chosen by EPA’s members through a popular vote among various proposals, and the EPA Council wishes to thank the members who participated in the voting, and also those members who kindly contributed information material to give substance to the website. There are still some blanks to be filled, and any further information towards filling these blanks would be most welcome.

EPA’s website can also be found on Google, but not under EPA – there are just too many instances of the abbreviation EPA. Typing in the full name and ‘Namibia’ will do the trick, however.

The statistics below show that our website is attracting attention. The Roads Authority Bursary Fund Scheme and EPA Scholarship Fund Trust have attracted particular interest, and several requests for further information have been directed to EPA via the request forms on our website.

Month	Monthly Totals					
	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Oct 2007	26	37055	34	130	631	782
Sep 2007	40	17526	40	138	670	833
Aug 2007	34	22142	32	139	710	904
Jul 2007	60	30057	68	150	569	739
Jun 2007	55	33175	48	196	982	1373
May 2007	35	17912	27	99	244	427
Apr 2007	14	25405	32	93	225	271
Mar 2007	44	22644	88	407	2195	2616
Feb 2007	3	934	12	44	229	249

Roads Authority Bursary Fund Scheme

The Roads Authority Bursary scheme expanded considerably in 2007, growing to a total of 21 students. This surely makes the Roads Authority Scheme one of the larger bursary schemes for engineering study in

Namibia, and EPA is honoured by having been entrusted with the management of this scheme. The Roads Authority sponsored 1 of their recently graduated students as an exchange student to Austria; 6 students were enrolled at the Polytechnic of Namibia (one of which was also sponsored as an exchange student to Austria), 13 students were enrolled at the University of Cape Town, and 1 student at the University of Stellenbosch.

EPA submitted an interim progress report and a budget estimate for bursaries for 20 students in 2008 to the Roads Authority on 9 October 2007.

EPA Bursary Fund Trust and EPA Scholarship Fund Trust

The EPA Bursary Fund Trust was established in January 1997. The establishment of this Trust was aided by the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication and the Swedish International Development cooperation Agency (Sida) awarding to EPA the administration of the MWTC-Sida Young Professionals Programme Bursary Scheme. At that time, EPA appointed the Standard Bank Namibia Trustee Branch as the Trustee of the EPA Bursary Fund Trust, through which the donor funds from Sida were channelled to the students receiving bursaries under the MWTC-Sida YPP Bursary Scheme. EPA further appointed Messrs Fitz Jeske and Günter Seydack as the managers of the Scheme on behalf of EPA (in some instance incorrectly referred to as the Trustees, whereas the registered Trustee was the Standard Bank Namibia Trustee Branch), with EPA performing the administrative work required for the operation of the Scheme. For this, EPA received an administrative fee from MWTC-Sida, part of which was reinvested in the EPA Bursary Scheme. The latter also received various donations from EPA members. The EPA Bursary Fund Trust was thus a receptacle for the funds of both the MWTC-Sida YPP Bursary Scheme and the EPA Bursary Scheme. The Standard Bank Namibia Trustee Branch administered the Trust in such a way that the funds of both schemes were separately accounted for, and were shown as such in the audited annual financial statements of the Trust, from February 1998 to February 2007 (the EPA Bursary Scheme had own funds only as from the financial year 2000/1). With the last payments to bursary holders of the MWTC-Sida YPP Bursary Scheme having been made in 2004, and the EPA Bursary Scheme not yet having sufficient funds to avail bursaries, the EPA Bursary Fund Trust under the Trusteeship of the Standard Bank Namibia Trustee Branch became essentially dormant. Consequently, the existing arrangement, which had been justified by several million Namibia Dollars in donor funds passing through the Trust, had become unnecessarily cumbersome. At its first meeting in November 2006, the 30th EPA Council resolved to terminate the existing EPA Bursary Fund Trust structure and to

establish a more appropriate Trust structure. In view of the differences between these two respective structures, a termination and new establishment were regarded as more desirable than merely amending the existing Trust Deed. The new Trust was named the "EPA Scholarship Fund Trust", to differentiate it from the previous Trust. All the funds of the EPA Bursary Fund Trust were to be transferred to the EPA Scholarship Fund Trust. In accordance with the development cooperation agreement between the Governments of Namibia and Sweden, the remaining funds in the MWTC-Sida Bursary Fund were to be paid into the EPA Bursary Fund managed under the EPA Bursary Fund Trust. In practice, this meant that all the remaining funds in the EPA Bursary Fund Trust were to be transferred into the new EPA Scholarship Fund Trust, with no differentiation between funds in being made in the new Trust at this stage.

The administrative fees of N\$79 433, which the EPA Bursary Fund Trust still owed to EPA, were still paid to EPA out of the remaining funds in the MWTC-Sida Bursary Fund, with the approval of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication. In the spirit of the previous agreement between the MWTC/Sida and EPA, the EPA Council at its meeting on 16 November 2006 resolved that EPA would retain only the amount of its actual costs of administering the MWTC-Sida Bursary Fund, being an amount of N\$54 738. The remainder of the administrative fees were to be re-deposited into the Trust account. The EPA Bursary Fund Trust furthermore received a generous donation of N\$15 000 from RG Steinbach Associates, for which EPA is very grateful. Consequently, the amount transferred from the EPA Bursary Fund Trust to the new EPA Scholarship Fund Trust was N\$64 968.

Instead of appointing a bank as Trustees, the new Trust Deed provides for EPA to appoint two Trustees to administer the Trust. The Council at that stage resolved to appoint Messrs Jeske and Seydack as the first Trustees, in recognition of their previous work in managing the MWTC-Sida YPP and EPA Bursary Schemes. Grant Thornton Neuhaus were appointed as the first auditors of the Trust. The Trust Deed was registered with the Master of the High Court on 27 April 2007, Trust No. T109.07.

In terms of the new Trust Deed, the Trustees are responsible for the administration of the Trust, and the Trust is to pay for the cost of such administrative work. The agreement between EPA and the Trustees provides for the latter to perform their duties on an honorary (non-remunerated) basis, whereas the EPA administrative secretary will perform the secretarial work involved in the administration of the Trust. The Trust will thus compensate EPA for the cost involved in performing such secretarial work.

Subsequent to the establishment of the EPA Scholarship Fund Trust, the latter received a tremendous

boost through funds allocated under the development cooperation agreement between the Governments of Namibia and Sweden. The agreement provided for unused funds remaining from the expired transport sector development agreement to be transferred to the EPA Scholarship Fund Trust. These funds amounted to N\$1 280 092. **EPA expresses its deepest gratitude to the Governments of Sweden and Namibia for this most generous donation.**

The EPA Scholarship Fund Trust is now strong enough to begin with the awarding of scholarships or bursaries. Some research is still required, however, to determine how to best deploy the available funds to the greatest benefit in developing engineering professionals for Namibia. It is anticipated that the rules for the new Scheme would be finalised in 2008 in time to financially assist students with studies as from the academic year 2009. Scholarship applications would thus be invited in the second half of 2008.

In the mean time, to further grow the funds of the Trust, the trustees have invested these in a call deposit account with Bank Windhoek (app. N\$5 000), a money market account with Breakpoint Wealth Management (app. N\$700 000) and in 6-month and one-year Treasury Bills (app. N\$700 000, all amounts as of October 2007).

The outcome of the MWTC-Sida YPP Bursary Scheme has already been reported upon in the EPA Annual Report of 2005/6. Thereafter, a request was received from Sida to provide an indication of where the ex-students of this Scheme are currently employed. EPA responded to the request with some research, and has submitted a report to Sida. It appears that most of the students have fulfilled their bursary obligations (employment with identified organisations for a number of years equal to the bursary years) at least in part, but only few did so in full. Although EPA did not manage to get in contact with all students, it appears nevertheless that with few exceptions they are still employed in Namibia.

The Young Engineers Construction Project

EPA annually hosts the Bridge Building Competition to promote engineering as a career, inviting Senior Secondary schools offering Mathematics and Physical Science throughout Namibia.

This year's bridge building competition was held on 16 June at the Windhoek Technical High School. With the previous year's record number of 50 teams having been found too difficult to handle efficiently, the number of entries in 2007 was limited to 33 teams, with three students per team, from schools all over Namibia. The first place was taken by the team "Mega Structures" of Walvis Bay High School, with a bridge weighing only 176g, but carrying a load of 122,7 kg! Having taken second place in 2006, this school has emerged as serious competition to the "Deutsche Höhere Privatschule" of Windhoek with

record winnings in previous years. The second place was taken by the team “dhps2nd” of the DHPS, with a bridge of 182g carrying a load of 111,7 kg. The team “Anti Matter” of St Paul’s College in Windhoek took the third prize, with a bridge carrying a load of 117,7 kg, but weighing 293g.

In 2007, EPA decided to discontinue the lavish catering expenses incurred at previous Bridge Building



Competitions. The resulting savings, together with the generous sponsorships received, allowed us to fly the winning team to Johannesburg for participation in SAICE’s international bridge building competition on 31 August 2007. The different task being set at this competition proved an unexpected challenge for the Namibian team, but “Mega Structures” nevertheless achieved 9th place among the 17 entries in the international competition.

EPA cordially thanks the sponsors for the Bridge Building Competition in 2007:

- PPS Namibia
- VKE Namibia Consulting Engineers
- WML Consulting Engineers
- Association of Consulting Engineers of Namibia
- Lund Consulting Engineers
- J S Hardware & Hobby

Coastal Careers Exhibition for the Erongo region

Chantel Kutz represented the EPA at the Erongo



Coastal Career Guidance Exhibition, held at Swakopmund from 13 – 15 June. She reported that the exhibition, featuring 42 exhibitors, was well received and well attended.

Annual Golf Day

The annual EPA Golf Day has in the past often been a popular and enjoyable event, at least for a small group of EPA members and numerous guests. However, in this year it became a non-event, with only 4 entries received by the closing date, and EPA having to cancel at a late stage.

Unfortunately, sponsorship has been steadily declining, competition from other organisations offering their own golf days has been increasing, and, being quite an expensive event to organise, the Golf Day has become a drain on EPA’s strained financial reserves. With the Golf Day not being one of EPA’s core functions, the EPA Council decided that this function would in future have to be self-sustaining; i.e. income from sponsorships and participants’ contributions would have to cover the cost of organising these events. Consequently, EPA in this year decided for the first time to charge a modest contribution from participants. We do not know, whether this affected the interest in this year’s planned Golf Day. Hopefully, the past interest in this event was not merely due to EPA having offered a free opportunity for playing golf, and we are looking forward to an improved social spirit in 2008.

EPA Seminars and Workshops

The Asphalt Academy, in collaboration with EPA, offered a three-day course on the “Design, Construction and Application of Surfacing Seals”. The course was presented in Windhoek from 31 July to 2 August 2007, by Mr G van Zyl, Director of PD Naidoo Associates. It drew wide interest, with 38 participants enrolling for the course, which included 4 EPA members. The course was offered as a profit-sharing venture between the Asphalt Association and EPA. Although the profit share had not yet been calculated by the time of printing, EPA expects its meagre financial resources to receive a healthy boost.

Survey: Demand for Training Courses

As members will have noticed, the EPA Council has made a concerted effort at boosting EPA’s engagement in offering engineering training courses in Namibia. A course survey questionnaire was distributed to members by email, to determine members’ priorities in training courses that EPA should arrange to be presented in Namibia.

Given EPA’s low membership number, the number of responses received to the EPA Course Survey exceeded expectations, especially when considering that many individuals responded on behalf of their whole organization. This showed an encouraging interest among EPA members in continuing professional de-

velopment, and hopefully the response received is indicative of the training needs within the larger engineering community.

The following gives a summary of the responses received:

- Total Respondents: 16
- Mechanical & Electrical Respondents: 5
- Structural Respondents: 1
- Civil Respondents: 10

Certain initial conclusions could be drawn from the analysis, with the understanding that the process is dynamic and can be expanded with time.

General Courses	Ave. Priority Rating
FIDIC Workshop	7.8
Fundamental FIDIC	7.1
Contract Law	6.9
Construction Adjudication	6.9
General Conditions of Contract 2004	5.9
Project Management	5.1
Delay Disruption & Extension of Time	5.1
New Engineering Contract	4.9
JBCC Series 2000 Edition 4.1	3.1
Civil Engineering Courses	
The Preparation of Contract Documentation and Administration of Civil Engineering Contracts	9.0
Road Pavement Rehabilitation (new)	7.4
Practical Road Pavement Engineering (new roads and rehabilitation)	7.3
Design, Construction & Application of Surfacing Seals	6.4
Bituminous Products in Practice: Introductory Course	5.9
Soil Stabilisation	5.3
Compaction of Road Building Materials	5.2
Manufacture, Application and Construction of Hot Mix Asphalt	4.8
Geometric Design of Urban and Rural Roads	4.8
Flood estimation and storm water drainage for roads	4.5
Urban Road Stormwater Drainage	4.4
Design of Hot Mix Asphalt	4.0
Traffic Calming Measures	4.0
SA Road Traffic Signs Manual	3.8
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	3.7
Integrated Environmental Management for the Roads Industry	3.6
Intersection Control and Traffic Signals	2.8

The following general comments were received:

- Requests from the electrical engineering disciplines to include relevant courses;
- Request to include Structural Design courses;

- Request to look at courses whereby post-graduate credits can be gained, e.g. post-graduate modules from the Universities of Stellenbosch, Pretoria and Cape Town.

The EPA Council wishes to thank all those who took the time to complete the survey questionnaire, and wishes to assure you that your feedback will be put to good use in arranging courses in the future.

National Adjudicators List

EPA has been approached with a proposal to manage a National Adjudicators' List. The use of adjudication in settling contract disputes in Namibia was initiated by the City of Windhoek, eventually joined by the Roads Authority.

Following consultations between EPA and stakeholders, the management of a National Adjudicators' List seems to hold beneficial prospects to EPA as well as the involved stakeholders. Among others, this would expand the scope of training courses that EPA could arrange which in turn should be beneficial to EPA's financial situation. The matter is still to be further investigated and considered by the EPA Council, particularly with regard to the resources that EPA would have to deploy and the financial viability thereof. Further announcements will likely have been made at the time of publication of this Annual Report.

Liaison with other Engineering Institutions

Engineering Council of Namibia

The following were nominated to represent EPA on ECN:

- Mr. F Jeske; alternate Mr. E Albrecht
- Mrs. S Tekie; alternate H-W Matthaei
- Mr JC Lamprecht; alternate B Cilliers

EPA was requested to comment on the possible introduction of a mandatory requirement for obtaining Continuing Professional Education credits to maintain professional registration. The EPA Council recommended that provision for this should be made in the re-drafting of the Engineering Act. However, it was recommended that the introduction of such a scheme be deferred pending the establishment of adequate capacity in Namibia to efficiently operate such a scheme.

Commonwealth Engineers' Council

Contact with the CEC, of which EPA is a member, was rekindled, and some useful information was distributed by the latter, which has been published on the EPA website.

Report on the Course “Design, Construction and Application of Surfacing Seals

Submitted by Mrs S Tekie, EPA Past President

A workshop on the design, construction & application of surfacing seals was held in Windhoek from 31 July to 2 August 2007. The course was organised by the Asphalt Academy through EPA. It was conducted by Mr. Gerrie van Zyl, an expert in the field of seal design, on behalf of the Asphalt Academy.

The Roads Authority was well represented by the relevant Engineering Divisions and Sections including the Roads Management Systems Section. Various professionals from interested parastatals, private consulting engineering firms, construction companies, and seal product suppliers attended the three day training course.

The Course programme included the following:

- Pavement deterioration and need for maintenance;
- Condition assessment;
- Project identification and prioritization;
- Binders and materials;
- Selection of appropriate measures;
- Seal design principles;
- Workshop using TRH3;
- Labour intensive seals;
- Geotextile seals;
- Basic site control;
- An overview of surfacing equipment;
- Planning and preparation for surface treatments;
- Operation and calibration of binder distributors;
- Performance of surfacing seals;
- Surfacing techniques;
- Weather limitations;
- Conversion factors, formulae and calculations;
- Basic site control.

Main Lessons Learnt

The idea behind designing the surfacing seals is to have an understanding why the seal has to be designed and the parameters that are in place or covered. The design parameters considered when designing seals are as follows:

- Traffic – Equivalent light vehicles per lane per day (1 heavy = 40 light)
- Average least dimension (ALD)
- Embedment potential (Ball penetration)

- Preferred texture depth and finally the needed adjustments
 - existing texture
 - gradients and accommodation of slow moving traffic
 - climate (both macro and micro climates)
 - aggregate matrix
 - cold to hot binder conversions

The course was definitely an eye opener with regard to the design, application and construction of surfacing seal. This course was not only suitable for young Engineers and Technicians but also for various role players in the roads industry (including experience of Consultants).

One of the reasons for the workshop was to discuss the main changes between the 1998 TRH3 (Technical Recommendations for Highways 3) and the latest one 2007 TRH3 and perhaps incorporate other experiences from this region. The TRH3 is merely a guideline and should be applied likewise. Personal judgment coupled with experience in every area needs to be used and not apply the guideline blindly. Learning never stops even the grey haired Engineers participated to share their experiences and to learn from the new guideline. This course is recommended to every technician and engineer dealing with roads both for engineers in training and for the more experienced engineers.



Mr G Seydack, EPA President, opening the session, and Mr G Van Zyl, Presenter of the Course

Appendix: Financial Statements ending February 2007

**THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS
ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
28 FEBRUARY 2007**

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

28 FEBRUARY 2007

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THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

GENERAL INFORMATION

28 FEBRUARY 2007

COUNCIL MEMBERS	G Seydack	- President
	J Hennes	- Vice-President
	S Tekie	- Past President
	F Jeske	- Honorary Secretary
	B Cilliers	- Civil Discipline
	F Albrecht	- Technical Discipline

REGISTERED AND BUSINESS ADDRESS	P O Box 21885 Windhoek Namibia
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COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation, integrity and objectivity of the financial statements and other information contained in this annual report. In order to discharge this responsibility, the association maintains internal accounting and administrative control systems designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and that transactions are executed and recorded in accordance with the association's policies and procedures.

The annual financial statements, which appear on pages 4 to 8, were approved by the Council Members on 25 June 2007 and are signed on their behalf by:



PRESIDENT



VICE-PRESIDENT

WINDHOEK

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Council Members of

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia, which comprise the balance sheet as at 28 February 2007, and the income statement and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. These standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the company as at 28 February 2007, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.



GRANT THORNTON NEUHAUS
Registered Accountants and Auditors
Chartered Accountants (Namibia)
Windhoek

25 June 2007

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THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

BALANCE SHEET

AT 28 FEBRUARY

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2007</u> N\$	<u>2006</u> N\$
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	1	1
Current assets			
Subscription fees in arrears	3	7 030	10 435
Trade receivables	4	54 210	105 472
• MWTC - Sida Bursary Trust Fund		-	79 433
• Roads Authority Bursary Fund		54 210	26 039
Cash resources		121 681	109 110
Total assets		<u>182 922</u>	<u>225 018</u>
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Funds and reserves			
Accumulated funds		182 922	201 449
Current liabilities			
Payables			
• E.P.A. Bursary Fund Trust	5	-	23 569
		<u>182 922</u>	<u>225 018</u>

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY

	2007 N\$	2006 N\$
INCOME	116 671	106 352
Administration fees - Roads Authority Bursary Fund	54 210	26 039
Courses and seminars	-	22 000
Donations	24 532	14 000
Functions	1 500	4 470
Interest received	6 884	8 718
Subscriptions and membership fees	29 545	31 125
EXPENDITURE	(135 198)	(129 709)
Advertising	-	990
Audit fees	6 831	5 957
Bank charges	919	1 019
Career guidance	-	2 150
Competition and prizes	-	10 029
Course and seminar expenses	-	7 240
Equipment rental	-	1 400
Functions	26 365	12 896
Membership fees written off	5 585	8 160
Postal expenses	1 506	1 021
Printing and stationery	2 460	1 281
Public relations	8 018	-
Secretarial services and salaries	79 200	73 200
Telephone expenses	4 314	4 366
(DEFICIT) for the year	(18 527)	(23 357)
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
- at beginning of the year	201 449	224 806
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
- at end of the year	182 922	201 449

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

CASH-FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY

	2007 N\$	2006 N\$
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Cash receipts from members and customers	164 454	112 892
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(158 767)</u>	<u>(129 709)</u>
Cash generated from/(utilised by) operations	5 687	(16 817)
Interest received	<u>6 884</u>	<u>8 718</u>
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	<u>12 571</u>	<u>(8 099)</u>
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>12 571</u></u>	<u><u>(8 099)</u></u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents		
Balance at beginning of the year	109 110	117 209
Net movement	<u>12 571</u>	<u>(8 099)</u>
Balance at end of the year	<u><u>121 681</u></u>	<u><u>109 110</u></u>
The balance comprises:		
Cash on hand and at bank	<u><u>121 681</u></u>	<u><u>109 110</u></u>

NOTE TO THE CASH-FLOW STATEMENT

A. RECONCILIATION OF (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR TO CASH GENERATED FROM/(UTILISED BY) OPERATIONS		
(Deficit) for the year	(18 527)	(23 357)
Adjusted for:		
• Interest received	<u>(6 884)</u>	<u>(8 718)</u>
Operating (deficit) before working capital changes	(25 411)	(32 075)
Working capital changes:		
• Decrease in receivables	54 667	15 258
• (Decrease) in payables	<u>(23 569)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash generated from/(utilised by) operations	<u><u>5 687</u></u>	<u><u>(16 817)</u></u>

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

28 FEBRUARY

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. The following are the principal accounting policies of the association, which are consistent in all material respects with those applied in the previous year. The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

1.1 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is depreciated on the straight-line basis at a rate considered appropriate to reduce the book value to estimated residual value over the anticipated useful life of the asset. The rate of depreciation is as follows:

- Furniture and fittings 10 years

1.2 Financial instruments

- Initial recognition and measurement

Financial instruments are recognised when the association becomes a party to the transaction. Initial measurement is at cost, which includes transaction cost. Subsequent to initial recognition, these instruments are measured as follows:

- Financial assets

The association's principal financial assets are receivables and cash resources.

Trade and other receivables originated by the association, are stated at fair value of consideration received less provision for doubtful debts.

Bank balances and cash are measured at fair value.

- Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

Significant financial liabilities consist of trade and other payables, which are stated at their nominal value.

	2007 N\$	2006 N\$
2. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and fittings		
At cost	6 982	6 982
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(6 981)</u>	<u>(6 981)</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Contd)

28 FEBRUARY

	2007 N\$	2006 N\$
3. SUBSCRIPTION FEES IN ARREARS		
Membership fees receivable		
• 1999/2000	-	160
• 2000/2001	-	470
• 2001/2002	-	1 080
• 2002/2003	-	710
• 2003/2004	180	1 870
• 2004/2005	720	3 600
• 2005/2006	480	2 545
• 2006/2007	5 650	-
	<u>7 030</u>	<u>10 435</u>
4. TRADE RECEIVABLES		
MWTC - Sida Bursary Trust Fund	-	79 433
Administration fees		
• 2002	-	42 446
• 2003	-	30 827
• 2004	-	6 160
Roads Authority Bursary Fund	54 210	26 039
Administration fees receivable from the Roads Authority Bursary Fund, calculated at 6,5% of bursary expenses:		
• 2006	-	26 039
• 2007	54 210	-
	<u>54 210</u>	<u>105 472</u>
5. PAYABLES		
EPA Bursary Fund Trust		
• 2003	-	20 814
• 2004	-	8 286
• 2005	-	(5 531)
	<u>-</u>	<u>23 569</u>

The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia

The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia is a non-profit, voluntary membership association of engineering and related professionals in Namibia. Since September 1992, EPA has been a member of the Commonwealth Engineering Council, and has since 1995 been associated with the Namibian Institute of Technology (NAMIT).

EPA was originally established by engineers and engineering technicians to ensure both a high degree of professional competence in the engineering profession and protection of the interests of the public. To this end, EPA was instrumental in the promulgation of the Engineering Professions Act of 1986. The Act provides for professional registration in the categories of professional engineer, engineer in training, incorporated engineer and engineering technician in the various disciplines.

The aims of EPA

The Association strives to uphold excellence in the field of engineering by promoting the image, continuing education and common interests of its members.

Engineers, engineering technologists and technicians have traditionally played a major role in Namibia. The excellent infrastructure relating to, among others, transport, power supply, telecommunications and water supply bears ample witness to this statement. With the independence of Namibia, a greater emphasis has been placed on the effective utilisation of scarce resources, the maintenance of existing infrastructure, and sustainable development with due regard to the protection of the environment. The engineering profession has a crucial role to play in this regard.

What has EPA to offer?

EPA promotes the engineering profession through its involvement in activities such as the following:

- promoting technical awareness at school level
- providing study loans/bursaries to engineering students
- maintaining an input into the tertiary education of engineers and technicians
- arranging continuing education courses
- promoting environmental awareness
- maintaining a positive image for the profession
- encouraging awareness of current events in the country
- promoting the common interests of its members through activities such as seminars, conferences, lectures, and others.

Circulars are issued throughout the year to inform members on matters of interest, such as luncheons, seminars, etc.

A highly popular project with a link to international competitions is the annual EPA Young Engineers' Construction Project. This competition is open to Grade 11 and 12 students of secondary schools throughout Namibia. Students are challenged to build simple but effective model engineering structures according to broad specifications, which allow students' to exercise their ingenuity in finding the best compliant engineering solution. Apart from sponsored prizes for the best teams and their schools, the winning team is sponsored to participate in the annual Bridge-building Competition of the South African Institution of Civil Engineering, where they compete internationally against winning teams from similar competitions in various countries in Southern Africa.

Membership of EPA

Any engineer, incorporated engineer or engineering technician, who is registered with the Engineering Council of Namibia, is eligible for corporate membership, for which the annual fee currently stands at N\$240. An associate membership grade exists for foreign members, graduate members and persons closely involved with the engineering professions who don't qualify for corporate membership.

