



# *The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia*

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## **Presidents Report 2013**

The EPA President herewith reports on the functions and activities of the EPA over the last year as follows:

The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia is a non-profit, voluntary membership association of the engineering and related professionals in Namibia, which aims to uphold excellence in the field of engineering and to promote the image of the engineering profession in Namibia. It enjoys statutory representation on the ECN through three members, and is a full member of the *Commonwealth Engineers' Council* and the *South African Road Federation (SARF)*.

### **1. Continuous Professional Development – CPD**

The EPA in cooperation with the South African Road Federation (SARF) facilitated several presentations / courses during this period.

- 26-28 February 2013 – Compaction of road materials
- 22-23 July 2013 – Road Pavement Rehabilitation
- 20-22 August 2013 – Hot Mix Asphalt – cancelled
- 4 September 2013 – Latest Development in Asphalt
- 14-16 November – Routine Road Maintenance

BCA also scheduled following courses during 2013:

- 16 April 2013 – Principal Agent Roles and Responsibilities
- 24-25 April 2013 – FIDIC
- 3 July 2013 – Professional Negligence and Risk

The courses could go ahead because just enough participants attended. The support of EPA members is essential if these courses are to continue in the coming year.

In these courses either the President or the Vice President was available to open the courses and welcome the participants. Certificates of attendance were awarded to all. The advantage of these courses is really to cut costs for employers without compromising any quality, by getting the best professionals in the respective fields.

The President was invited by University of Namibia Northern Computer Engineering and Information Technology Faculty to address the first engineering graduates. The presentation was well received, and the student body will be working with EPA to promote engineering studies on the campus. Thank you to Professor Kavishe, the founding dean, for his invitation.



Events: Luncheons or fun days were not successful during the year, as participation was too low.

## **2. EPA Young Engineers' Construction Project: Bridge Building Competition 2013**

The EPA strives to promote an interest in a career in the engineering profession already at school level. The annual Bridge Building Competition for secondary schools is a big hit and was hosted on 9 March 2013 for all secondary schools in Namibia. The winning team this year was from Walvis Bay Private School, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Tsumeb Gimnasium and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize to Otjiwarongo Secondary School.



The winning team took part in the SAICE International Bridge Building Competition in Pretoria.

## **3. EPA Engineering Forum**

The EPA has initiated a study on the engineering fraternity in Namibia. This project is spearheaded by EPA with assistance of the Engineering Council of Namibia, the University of Namibia, Polytechnic, and the Association of Consulting Engineers, with the donor being the German Development Cooperation (GIZ). The Minister of Works and Transport will officiate at the function to be held at the end of February 2014. The Ministry of Education through Science and Technology Directorate is also a supporter of this project because of the SADC initiative to have such a study. A workshop on this matter was held in July 2012 in Cape Town, where Namibia was represented through the Engineering Council of Namibia. Since the terms of reference is not yet completed by SADC, and there is an urgent need for

this forum and study, to make our parastatals, government and other stakeholders aware of the engineering needs, this project was called Phase I and it was decided to continue and not wait for SADC. If the SADC initiative continues, it will be added as Phase II, but most of the data collected already will be in the study. Mrs. Tekie gave a detailed presentation on the status of engineering in Namibia, which was well received at the conference in July 2012.

Element Consulting Engineers was awarded the project, Phase I, and it is envisaged it will take until the end of January 2014 to complete it if the data is readily available. The GIZ would be funding Phase I of the study, which will culminate with the forum envisaged to happen around February/March 2014. An inception meeting was held and a workshop on the study was also conducted. Questionnaires were sent to employers, including parastatals, government and the private sector as well as to engineers/ incorporated engineers and technicians and out of that an analyses was made to determine where the supply and the demand is. The draft report has been sent to stakeholders for comment before it is endorsed and finalised.

#### **4. SAFEQ Conference at Victoria Falls**

The Southern African Federation of Engineering Organisations (SAFEQ) is a network of multidisciplinary national engineering societies or institutions, which currently represent the majority of Southern African Development Community countries, as well as Ghana and some East African Development Community countries.

##### **SAFEQ Vision and Mission**

- Strives to ensure an appropriate level of efficient human resource capacity in the built environment professions, particularly engineering.
- To enable Africa to ultimately achieve sustainable development for all people in Africa.
- Its mission is to contribute resources and expertise in partnership with key stakeholders to accomplish the transfer and assimilation of the value of the best practice principles of sustainable development to identified communities at all levels.
- The South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE) provides the secretariat to the SAFEQ.

The EPA President, Mrs. S. Tekie, attended the SAFEQ Conference in Victoria Falls on 25 August 2013 on behalf of the Engineering Council of Namibia, who authorised the EPA to handle all SAFEQ matters in the future.

Accordingly, the SAFEQ Agreement was signed by Mrs. Tekie on behalf of Namibia. A country presentation was also given showing the opportunities and challenges faced in the Namibian engineering fraternity. It was observed that most of the challenges faced in Namibia are no different from the rest of Southern African countries when it comes to engineering matters.

The keynote address was by Tomas Sancho, President of the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE). The Zimbabwe Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, the Hon. Eng. W. Mzembe also attended the meeting to give moral support.

SAFEQ concluded the session by identifying key outcomes and set about drafting a set of "declarations".

Pictured from left to right:

- Ignasio Ngoma – SAFEQ, Vice President
- Ben Rafemoyo – CEO, Engineering Council Zimbabwe
- Tomas Sancho – President, World Council of Civil Engineers
- Martin Manuhwa – SAFEQ, President
- Sophie Tekie – President, Engineering Professions Association of Namibia

- Steven Kaplan – SAFEQ, Secretariat



#### SAFEQ Signatories

- Botswana Institution of Engineers
- Engineering Institution of Seychelles
- Engineering Institution of Zambia
- Engineering Professions Association of Namibia
- Ghana Institution of Engineers
- Institution of Engineers Tanzania
- Malawi Institution of Engineers
- Ordemo dos Engenheiros de Moçambique
- South African Institution of Civil Engineering
- The Institution of Engineers Mauritius
- The Institution of Engineers of Kenya
- Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers
- Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers
- DRC-CEPA
- Engineering Council of Namibia
- Royal Academy of Engineering

#### **5. EPA National Adjudicators List (NAL)**

With the NAL the EPA aims to provide the Namibian construction industry with a low-cost, but high quality, alternative dispute resolution system to the traditional systems of arbitration and litigation. The NAL has been established with the support of InWent – Capacity Building International, Germany, the Roads Authority and the City of Windhoek, which is registered as major employer. The NAL Committee has also advertised for foreign adjudicators and the evaluation and selection process will take place in January 2014.

At this stage the EPA through the NAL offers a procedural and impartial nomination service to assist employers in the construction industry with the appointment of adjudicators to the dispute adjudication boards. Mr. Andreas Helmich is currently appointed as NAL coordinator and 72 adjudicator nominations have been made to date. There is one (1) senior adjudicator, ten (10) adjudicators, five (5) junior adjudicators, two (2) new registrations of which four (4) is trainees. The EPA is committed to developing capacity for adjudication services in Namibia, and the support of employer organizations is crucial towards achieving this end.

#### **6. The Roads Authority Bursary Fund**

A very successful project in facilitating young people to take up a career in engineering has been the EPA's management of bursary schemes for university and Polytechnic students in

engineering, which have already made a significant contribution to alleviate the shortage of engineers and technicians in Namibia.

The Roads Authority Bursary Scheme, administered by the EPA, continued in 2013 with a total of 28 students, of which 22 students are at the Polytechnic of Namibia, 4 at UNAM, and 2 students at the University of Stellenbosch. 2 students were unfortunately disqualified in June 2013 as they failed their curriculum. A total expenditure of N\$1,535,597 has been paid in 2013 to date.

## **7. EPA Scholarship Fund**

The EPA's own scholarship scheme has been established with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, and other donors, notably EPA members.

In January 2013 the EPA awarded scholarships to the following:

Francois C. van Schalkwyk; Bernardt van Schalkwyk; John Brandt; Panduleni Angula; Silas lileka; Hanas Nenkavu; Monika Shapua; Fanuel Mathias; Emilia Amutenya; Evelina Amutenya; Lena Enkali; Sitali Lwendo.

Of the above, 3 have cancelled and have re-paid their funds.

## **8. EPA membership**

The EPA currently has 263 members (as at 1 November 2013) in the following disciplines:

Agricultural	2
Chemical	2
Civil	146
Electrical	56
Industrial	3
Mechanical	47
Geotechnical	1
Mining	1
Electronic	1
Marine	4
Total	263

The EPA has made a lot of strides to get more members, and will continue to do so. Once the Continuous Development Program (CPD) becomes obligatory by the Engineering Council Act the membership will increase.

It seems a lot of the engineers are very busy and overstressed with a lot of work, due to the shortage, and voluntary memberships and service to the engineering community is becoming a challenge by the day.

## **9. Who's Who of Engineering Publication**

The high quality publication *Who's Who of Engineering in Namibia*, showcasing the engineering industry and projects in Namibia, was published in September 2013. The publication was published in association with all the engineering bodies and associations, i.e. the Engineering Council of Namibia, ACEN and EPA, and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Works and Transport.

It provides a picture of the engineering industry in the country. As such, it will be the leading reference guide for the engineering and building industries. Many engineering projects

currently in progress in Namibia or recently completed were featured; as well as various interesting articles on engineering trends locally and worldwide, the new adjudicators' list, the EPA's successful Bridge Building competition, and interviews with engineering students, among others.

It is envisaged that *Who's Who of Engineering* will be published annually and a minimum of 3,000 copies will be printed and personally hand-delivered or distributed via Nampost to professionals, the business community and the rest of the target audience.

## **10. Financial Report 2012/2013**

*Refer to the Appended extracts of the Financial (Balance and Income) Statements. In summary:*

### **EPA**

- The **Surplus** for the year 2012/2013 decreased to N\$93,386 from N\$92,975 (2011/2012).
- The **Accumulated Funds** at the end of the year 2012/2013 decreased from N\$675,510 to N\$214,871 (2012/2013).

### **EPA Scholarship Fund Trust**

- The **Accumulated Funds** at the end of the year 2012/2013 increased to N\$1 884,931 from N\$1 779 438 (2011/2012).

## **11. Council Nominations for 2013/2014**

Nomination of EPA Council members for 2013/2014:

President:	Mr. G. Leicher
Vice-President:	Mr. F. Muketi
Immediate Past President:	Ms. S. Tekie
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. V. Fischer-Buder
Hon. Secretary	Mr. A. Al-Jaf
Member	Mr. F. Jacobs
New Member	Mr. R. Gonteb

## **12. Conclusion**

The year was fruitful but there are still some challenges ahead that the EPA needs to address and that is mainly the participation of its members in events, courses, etc. Until the Engineering Council of Namibia makes Continuous Professional Development (CPD) a must, it seems this challenge will not be overcome. I would like to thank all council members for all their hard work, and the secretariat as well. One of the lessons learned from SAFEO and the EPA study questionnaires was really to establish for the EPA a permanent office, to serve the Namibian engineering fraternity fully. That is one vision the EPA can work towards. The other is the visibility of EPA and becoming more proactive in society and not only we technocrats being buried in our work. Decision makers need to start to really give due recognition to engineers, and we engineers need to come out of our comfort zone, and be an association that will bring changes to Namibia.

I wish everyone a very happy new year and a very productive coming year for all EPA members.