



The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia

PO Box 21885 • Windhoek • Namibia • Tel: +264-61-223009
Website: www.engineers-namibia.org / E-mail: epa@africaonline.com.na

MINUTES OF THE 39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE THURINGERHOFF HOTEL, Room WARTBURG 1 ON 26 JANUARY 2017 @ 15h30

EPA COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present:

F. Muketi	President
S. Tekie	Vice President
V. Fischer-Buder	Honorary Treasurer
F. Jacobs	Honorary Secretary
G. Leicher	Immediate Past President
R. Gonteb	Civil Discipline
N. Kapofi	Co-Opted Member
R. Blaauw	Administration / Secretary

Apologies:

H. von Maltzahn	Industrial Discipline
P. Negonga	Electrical Discipline
A. Nashandi	Co-Opted Member
C. Loftie-Eaton	Co-Opted Member
U. Vermaak	Co-Opted Member

EPA MEMBERS

Present:

A. v/d Merwe
B. & T. Cilliers
B. Mketo
C. Lovewell
E. Hanyanya
G. Kuchling
G. Cloete
G. Paulus
J. Hennes
K. Langmaak
K. Thomas
L. Kayofa
M. Dominques
P. Saushini
P. Muleka
R. van Wyk
T. Tshivute
V. Zhou
W. Knouwds
W. Fischer
W. Uuyuni

Apologies:

J. Bierberg
L. Viljoen
H. Lerch
H. Seelenbinder
N. Theron
R. de Witt

Total number of EPA members present: 28 of which 17 are corporate members.

Quorum established NO / Outcome: Quorum of 20 Corporate members was not reached. The Chairman noted that the AGM will continue with the items voted on and adopted at the AGM to be circulated amongst members per email and input.

Meeting Commenced at: 15:45

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The Vice President, Ms S Tekie, opened the 39th Annual General Meeting @14:50 and welcomed all members and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of previous Annual General Meeting were taken as read and approved: Proposed by Mr V Fischer-Buder and seconded by Mr G Kuchling.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

No matters arose from the previous AGM minutes.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. F. Muketi read the President's Report and this is attached as Addendum A.

4.1 Questions and answers plus adoption from the Presidents Report:

- vii) EPA membership Fees: Mr Muketi noted that the EPA Membership Fees have remained unchanged for several years. To enable the EPA to fulfil its goals and for a sound administrative function EPA Council has deemed it necessary to increase the EPA Membership for the period 2017/2018. Mr. Muketi proposed the following increment of Corporate Membership to increase from N\$240 to N\$400 with option to N\$500 in year 2018. Mr Muketi further noted that the same % increment to apply to the other membership classes these being Associate, Retired and Student Membership.

Direct support on the proposal was received from Mr. Wolfgang Fischer and second by Mr. Gerd Kuchling.

- xi) Mr. Muketi posed to review the EPA Constitution with regard to *Section 3.3 Election and Terms of Office of President and Vice-President.*

Direct support on the proposal was received from Mr Gerd Kuchling and seconded by Mr. Hanyanya. Ms Tekie drew attention of Council to note that for the adoption of the proposal stipulated into the constitution the procedure should be followed as per the *Section 4.4 Amendments to Constitution.*

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Fischer-Buder Introduced Mrs. Rica Blaauw as the newly appointed EPA Administrator. Her appointment commenced on the 15th October 2016.

Mr. Fischer-Buder further noted that due to the poor state of the EPA Administration prior to Mrs. Blaauw's appointment the auditors have not been able to finalize the EPA Audit Report for the period from 1 March 2015 to end February 2016. Therefore no audited financial reports for EPA and the EPA Scholarship Fund Trust are available for the AGM. Mrs. Blaauw at present is assisting to rectify the financials to resubmit for them for the audit. As soon as this audit is completed all EPA members will be informed and copies of the Financial Statements 2015-2016 can be made available to members.

EPA Council decided to call for the 2015/16 AGM without an audit report, and will either call an Extraordinary Meeting to present the audit report and/or by email circulation for members to adopt.

Mr. V. Fischer-Buder only briefly highlighted the following:

Given the above, the only concrete figures available for this report are the bank statements. A comparison of the bank statements of October 2015, the date of the last AGM, and today shows the following:

Engineering Professions Association of Namibia

- **Increase** for the 14 months from October 2015 to January 2017: N\$ 71 913.84, and a current balance in the EPA account of N\$ 268 911.83.

EPA Scholarship Trust Fund

- The **Accumulated Funds** are currently N\$ 1 588 383.00 (January 2017)

Mr. Fischer-Buder noted that in both the academic years 2015 and 2016 EPA supported 6 students via the EPA Scholarship Trust Fund. However, two scholarships have been cancelled due to poor performance mid-year through the academic year 2016, resulting in the current number of bursary students being 4 for the 2017 academic year.

A further two students are supported via the Ohorongo Scholarship Trust Fund which is administered by the EPA on behalf of Ohorongo Cement, and have both been granted continuance support for the academic year 2017.

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2016/2017

Mr. Fischer-Buder noted that the EPA audit firm PKF Namibia has recently merged with another Namibian firm of auditors, Financial Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd (FCS).

Mr. Fischer-Buder stated that the EPA is satisfied with the current auditors and that FCS (previously PKF Namibia) will continue as auditors of the EPA and the EPA Scholarship Trust Fund. As soon as the audit reports for the financial year 2015-16 have been completed, the financial statements for 2016-17 will be sent to the auditors so that these books can be audited by June 2017, and the next AGM can then be scheduled.

8. NEW EPA COUNCIL FOR 2016-2017

The present Council members listed below have agreed to make themselves available to serve for a further year:

President:	Mr. F. Muketi
Vice-President:	Ms. S. Tekie
Immediate Past President:	Mr. G. Leicher
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr. V. Fischer-Buder
Honorary Secretary:	Mr. F. Jacobs
Civil Discipline:	Mr. R. Gonteb
Industrial Discipline:	Mr H. Von Maltzahn
Co-Opted:	Mr. A. Nashandi
Co-Opted:	Mr. N. Kapofi

Mr H. von Maltzan (representative Industrial), Mr. P Negonga (representative Electric) Mr. C. Lofftie-Eaton and Mrs. U. Vermaak both Co-Opted Members noted they are not available for re-election.

The following nominations were received for new Council members:

Nomination for Representative of Proposer Own Discipline:

- Tangeni Tshivute – Mechanical
- Wendell Uuyuni – Mechanical

Incorporated Engineers or Engineering Technicians:

- Patience Saushini - Mechanical
- Reedewann van Wyk - Mechanical
- Ettienne Hanstein – Electrical/Electronics

The nominees were welcomed by the President and thanked for their willingness to serve on the Council. They each gave a brief presentation of themselves to the meeting. An election of the new members was held by a show of hands, with the following results:

Mr. Tangeni Tshivute received a majority of votes in the discipline Mechanical and was appointed to EPA Council. Mr Wendell Uuyuni, Ms. Patience Saushini and Mr. Reedewann van Wyk were welcomed as Co-Opted Members. Mr. Etienne Hanstein's nomination was accepted in the discipline Electrical and welcomed to EPA Council.

The 40th EPA Council for 2017-2018 therefore consists of the following members:

President:	Mr. F. Muketi
Vice-President:	Ms. S. Tekie
Immediate Past President:	Mr. G. Leicher
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr. V. Fischer-Buder
Honorary Secretary:	Mr. F. Jacobs
Civil Discipline:	Mr. R. Gonteb
Mechanical Discipline:	Mr. T. Tshivute
Industrial Discipline:	Mr H. Von Maltzahn
Electrical Discipline:	Mr. E. Hanstein
Co-Opted:	Mr. A. Nashandi, Mr. N. Kapofi, Mr W Uuyuni, Ms P. Saushini, Mr R. Van Wyk

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Tekie presented that there should be more interactive workshops/meetings for women in engineering and would make a great effort to establish such events administered by the EPA here in Namibia. She and other female engineers have attended Woman in Engineering Seminars regionally in other SADC countries and since with the number of woman pursuing careers in Engineering, there is a need in Namibia for its own home grown platform. These symposia are to include also Motivational and Leadership seminars.

Mr. Leicher voiced concern from the Engineering Industry with regard to young and upcoming engineers who after obtaining their tertiary qualification with the intention to enter the workplace but noticeably lack practical experience. He noted that suggestions from players in industry are for the EPA to consider a Job Attachment Programme within the engineering sector. Such programmes, especially should be encouraged in this period, where at present there is a noticeable excess of Engineers in the market place instead to lose them to the profession to rather ready them with a buffer or GAP year programme which has a win-win effect for the Engineering profession as a whole.

Mr. Fischer suggested considering to approach the Universities and Technology Tertiary Institutions to relook and adopt more practical teaching within the engineering curriculum. He further noted perhaps the EPA and ECN with input and support of Government to establish such bridging programs.

Mr. Krouwds noted that perhaps Government should adopt Compulsory Year of Service, similar to what is in practice within the Medical Field.

Mr. Leicher noted that this will be considered and presented to the EPA Council and Sub Committees for possible inclusion in the EPA strategy plan.

Mr. Jacobs encouraged members to propose ideas and participate actively with Council and the Sub Committees and make use of this networking platform at the AGM. Such interactive networking will enable Council and Sub Committees to consider and adopt such within the EPA strategic plan. He further encouraged members to forward any such recommendations to the office of the Administrator for Council's attention.

Ms. Tekie noted with regards to training and the quality of training that substantial research and assessment was done while compiling the EPA Forum and would not only be relevant but the ideal platform to address to government on training of consultants, proposal for National funds for such training initiatives and many more well researched and practical applications for adoption. Ms. Tekie further noted that it is vital for the EPA to position itself for a stronger influence and advocacy roll with government and the industry as a whole.

The President's Award was presented to Mr Volker Fischer-Buder in recognition of his dedication, loyalty and support to Council and the EPA and its cause in general. The note of thanks and appreciation was delivered by Mr. Muketi.

10. CLOSURE

In closing @ 18:33 Mr. F. Muketi thanked all council members for their support and invited all present to a dinner which took place in the same venue.

Signed:

Date:

President:

Addendum A:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE 2015/2016 YEAR

Ladies and Gentlemen I wish to give you a brief of the EPA activities in the past year

A. FUNCTIONS

I) THE NEW NECKARTAL DAM AND TWO OLDER DAMS VISIT

Friday 16 September 2016

1. Departure from the MWT Head OFFICE – 07:00HRS
2. Arrival Keetmanshoop – 13:00hrs
3. Short Lunch Stopover at Service Station and depart for Neckartal Dam Arrival – 14:00hrs
4. Reception and Walk around Installation of Neckartal Dam under engineers of Project – max 3 hours – 17:00hrs
5. Travel to Naute Dam 17-18:00hrs
6. Return to Keetmanshoop – 19:00hrs
7. Settle in Overnight Accommodation – Contingency arrange for own accommodation and dinner

Saturday 17 September 2016

1. Wake up and breakfast at own accommodation areas and be ready for return trip – Departure 07:30hrs
2. Travel to Hardap Dam- Expected Arrival – 10:30hrs
3. View Dam and leave for Hardap Fish Farm – 11:30hrs
4. Fish Farm – Taken through Fish Ponds and Production facilities 11:40hrs- 13:00hrs
5. Lunch at Mariental Town – 13:30hrs
6. Depart for Windhoek – 14:15hrs

Arrival in Windhoek – 17:00hrs

II) DINNER TALK 01 DECEMBER 2016

Two elderly professional water/civil engineers Mr. Gerd Kuchling, Pr. Eng, B.Sc.CivEng, Consulting Civil Engineer, and Mr. Manfred Redecker of Manfred Consulting Engineer CC talked about the history of water security and future of water situation proposals to Government Planning and availability of different options. The President's presentation on a Code of Ethics concluded the evening of the Dinner Talk sponsored by EPA at River Crossing Lodge.

B. NEW EPA ADMINISTRATOR

EPA engaged a new Administrator Ms. Rica Blaauw in mid-October 2016 introduced to Council and manning of Office in the immediate future and in the longer term, operating from Hon. Treasurer Volker Fischer-Buder's offices at the junction of John Meinert Street and Beethoven Street.

C. EPA NATIONAL ADJUDICATORS LIST (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.

Thus, 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. 97 adjudicator nominations have been made to date. There is two senior adjudicators, ten adjudicators and five junior adjudicators. The EPA is committed to developing capacity for adjudication services in Namibia, and the support of employer organisations is crucial towards achieving this end.

D. EPA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Through EPA's scholarship scheme has been established and the following five people benefited, and one was dropped. EPA is in the process of sponsoring more to the tune of ten

students per year, and focus is turning to technicians through NUST and such other colleges as well in order to address this area of shortcoming in the nation.

E. WHO'S WHO ENGINEERING NAMIBIA PUBLICATION

The seventh edition of the high quality publication, the Who's Who Engineering Namibia, showcasing the engineering industry and projects in Namibia, has been published in November 2016. The publication is 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. The theme of this edition is specialised concrete.

F. MEMBERSHIP

We are still handling fewer categories than are handled by the ECN. Mainly the Corporate Category needs to be in almost similar relations with ECN, for ease of future projected professional support to efforts by ECN. Today we have about 330 members as opposed to 311 still on record as of mid-October 2015, during the last AGM. We are strictly following up on the existing list to confirm that the names existing are for real members. Arrears will be communicated duly for members to update their statuses.

Membership fees have been static for several years and it is my council's proposal that we move the membership to N\$ 400.00 this year (01 March 2017) and to N\$ 500.00(01 March 2018) next year. Our Financial year starts on 01 March and ends the following year on February 28/29. The associate and Student Categories and entry fees can be moved up proportionately to the one proposed for Corporate class.

G. NEW ELIGIBLE COUNCIL MEMBERS

According to the constitution we wish to existing positions and members representing the different disciplines, while those losing the elections can be co-opted into the different subcommittees on the Council. Presently disciplines of member interests lie in Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, and Industrial. We still have to reach out to Mining Engineers, University students, among others.

H. EPA SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

My Council intends to revamp EPA Website, EPA LinkedIn, EPA Facebook page or Twitter Page. Communications with major newsgroups and technical magazines will also be stepped, discussing issues of national concerns and important both proactive actions as well reactive to matters of Engineering concerns.

I. SUB-COMMITTEES

The following (Membership, CPD, Strategic Plan, Finance, Functions, Education and Training, etc.). Council members will hold different subcommittees and report monthly of the progress. Most results are required in the first quarter of the new Council year.

J. TERM OF OFFICE

The Financial year ends in February. It has been the desire of the Council to bring back the Council term closing in April/May. In order to do so I propose this year's term ends in August, then in June 2018, and then April 2019. The term of Office for the President spells two terms. It is silent on repeated elections for the same individual. I propose that General meeting changes that portion of the Constitution that the term office for a President is limited to a maximum of 3 calendar years, and that it is not recycled thereafter. This will ensure proper succession planning for all sitting councils.

K. EPA FORUM PRESENTATION

The EPA Forum findings presentation will be arranged by the incoming council along with the Project Leader Vice President Eng. Sophie Tekie to present to main Government organs, members and all major stakeholders.

L. CHALLENGES

- a) The Council faced a very difficult relationship with the previous Administrator, things going sourer and never better especially from 2014. So my debut year of office as President met with a resigning/not resigning administrator.
- b) As a result the Annual Bridge Building Competition was not carried out, as the invitation for schools came at the wrong time of the school calendar coupled with the school disturbances later in the year.
- c) Some NAL Adjudication cases were directed through ECN, which led to real delays in intended adjudications, a real disruption of the projects that would have had instant adjudication support.
- d) EPA lost the honour of administering RA Bursary Fund, which was also a source income, due to poor cooperation between our Administrator and the Fund Donors. So we lost the Administrative Privileges to date as RA have now employed their own personnel to carry out the process. We are only in the process of final parting and associated payments.

M. CPD POINTS

Through bilateral arrangements, ECN has empowered EPA to run the CPD Points System, and soon we will unveil a system that is already working in our sub-Saharan Africa region.

N. SUB COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

The Council started with a list of fellows volunteering to work on various subcommittees. This did not get enough punch. For today I announce that the Council invites members from various categories to offer themselves to work on these subcommittees in order to realize our goals soonest.

At this juncture, I thank the Council members who continued to work relentlessly until we came out of a very difficult situation, and still will be available should legal steps be necessary to nab any malpractices that could have occurred. I plead for every member's support to my Council.



A Corporate Engineer (Tangeni Tshivute of Burmeister & Partners Consulting Engineers) receives his New Certificate on 20 Jan 2017