

EPA NEWSLETTER

epa@africaonline.com.na



Friday, Dec 15, 2023



Reflecting on the year 2023

The Engineering Professions Association (EPA) has progressed significantly during the year 2023: the Strategic Plan, which has been developed over the past two years, was implemented in June 2023. A new Council has been elected. Two training courses were presented that were successful both in quality and quantity. During 2023, the former EPA President, Ms Sophie Belete-Tekie, has been elected as President of the Engineering Council (ECN) of Namibia. Close working relations will continue between these two institutions.

The strategic plan of the EPA has been finalized, and to implement it, more funding is needed and also the participation of its members. The EPA Council would want to do more courses based on pure technical engineering content but also the softer content with regards to Ethics and code of conduct that necessitates moral leadership. The participation of the EPA members is needed.

Top News

The EPA Council
Training courses planned for
2024

ECN registration guidelines
and mentorship



New Partnerships Formed

The new EPA Council

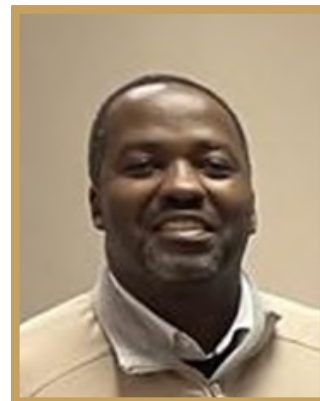
A new council for the EPA was elected in June 2023. The new council members and their engineering disciplines and areas of specialization are indicated below:

EPA Council

- President: Dr Gert Cloete – Civil Eng (Water), Top Left
- Deputy President: Mr Rianus Gonteb – Civil Eng (Roads), Bottom Left
- Immediate Past President: Ms Sophia Belete – Tekie Civil Eng, Bottom Middle Right
- Civil Member: Mr. Mervin Kambanda, Top Right
- Hon. Electrical: Miss. Virginia Pohamba, Bottom Middle Left
- Co-Opted Member-Civil Eng: Mr. Nehemia Kapofi, Bottom Right



Mrs. Martha Endjala
Mechanical Member



Mr. Oshoveli Hiveluah
Hon. Secretary- Civil Eng



Mr. Reedewann van Wyk
Hon. Treasurer

ECN registration guidelines and mentorship

- Technology has advanced to mathematical modelling and AI, and so the process of registration of in-training engineers and professional engineers needs to transition from hard-copy to online submissions. This step is a recommendation by the EPA, but may still take a while before it can be implemented by the ECN. Record keeping of the registration process needs to be maintained for the integrity of the profession and safety of the public.
- During our 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM), prominent stakeholders raised the question; what EPA is doing to assist young engineers and technicians to register as professional? The EPA has taken note and agrees that there is a lack of a structured road map or guideline to assist prospective engineers in registering as engineers-in-training and later as professionals.
- Such guidelines have been drafted for engineers in South Africa, registering with ECSA. These guidelines have been drafted by the South African Institute of Civil Engineering (SAICE), in association with Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA). The EPA plans to follow this model and compile a unique guideline to support members in the ECN registration process.

Continued professional development

- One of EPA's mandate is to ensure that professional's skill development is maintained in the Namibian Engineering sector through means of Continuous Professional Development (CPD's) through certified short courses and workshops. In many other countries, CPD points are required to maintain one's professional registration.
- During the EPA AGM a question related to CPD and professional registration was aired. The EPA supports CPD and is compiling a structured programme for implementation during 2024.
- Options considered for the programme are a two year cycle and it could morph into online content through video mediums such as on Udemy, Coursera and LinkedIn Learn. The EPA will provide a leading role in the organisational structure and development of relevant courses. Principals adopted by the EPA in this regard have been in operation in other countries for some time and have proved successful and effective. Course work will be tailored in such a way that it is in alignment of the Engineering Professions Act of 1986 and the current ECN registration processes.
- EPA is excited about the future of the CPD process and requests the support of all its members to participate in the courses, invite your friends from neighbouring countries to attend, and spread the word for the betterment of our society. Let's make this unique and applicable for the SADC region, designing industry to deal with regional problems.

Technical Tour 2024: Walvis Bay New Harbour and container terminal



The last time the EPA undertook a technical tour for its members was to the Neckartal Dam way before the Covid pandemic. It is time again to expose our engineers to great engineering marvels and create opportunity for networking.

The EPA has engaged with the Walvis Bay Executive Port Engineer, Mr Elzevir Gelderbloem, and during the first quarter of 2024, the Namibian Ports Authority (Namport), together with the EPA, plan to host a technical tour of the Port of Walvis Bay. The technical tour will consist of a physical tour of the port, both on land and on the water, as well as a technical board room discussion where presentations will be given by Namport as well as members of the consulting engineering fraternity on a wide range of topics that relate to the two Namibian seaports specifically. This tour has specifically been selected since the project was multidisciplinary, include specialists mechanical, electrical, industrial and civil engineering. The tour will include:

- Project Management applied in our seaports.
- Planning: Port master planning for the Port of Walvis Bay and Luderitz;
- Dredging and Land reclamation;
- Structural engineering: The design and construction of Large earth retaining structures such as quay walls and jetties;
- Civil Engineering: General civil engineering principles applied in our ports, roads, pavements, water supply etc.;
- Geotechnical engineering: The unique geology on which the two ports are built;
- Electrical engineering: The medium voltage distribution infrastructure in our ports;
- Mechanical Engineering and Materials handling: Cargo handling equipment used in the ports, both fixed and mobile, containerized and bulk cargo;
- Industrial and Process Engineering: The logistics of moving cargo, from pit to port etc;
- Mining Engineering: The crucial role our ports play in our mining sector;
- How our Ports are gearing up to serve new upcoming industries: Energy hubs for Oil and Gas, Green Hydrogen, etc.

Training courses planned for 2024

During 2024 there are several short courses planned for the year. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Gravel Road Design Construction and Maintenance: Engineering Contracts by the South African Road Federation (SARF)
- Concrete Technology for Site Engineers and Technicians on Road construction Projects: C de Jager Projects Engineering Contracts by the South African Road Federation (SARF)
- Gabion structure design and construction
- Workshop on Registration of Engineers and Employment Creation – Presented by Vice President of EPA Mr Rinaus Gonteb and EPA Council member Mr Mervin Kambanda
- Moral Leadership; Engineering Ethics and Code of Conduct – February / March 2024 Presented by Professor Shahin Azedah, EPA President Dr Cloete and ECN President Sophia Tekie.

Our council members are working on training topics related to mechanical and electrical engineering. These will be communicated to specialists in these fields during 2024.

The EPA President, the ECN President and Professor Shahin Azadeh will be presenting the topic on Moral Leadership, Ethics and Code of Conduct of Engineers – envisaged to be offered during the first quarter of 2024.



Professor Shahin Azadeh

Professor Shahin Azadeh is a naturalized Namibian who has served University of Namibia from its inception till her retirement in 2010. As a lecturer in the Faculty of Business Management which would include subjects such as Economics, Operations Management, Business Economist and Moral Leadership. She has been the Dean of the same Faculty from 1994-99 for five years.

She has been so dedicated to her students to stimulate their belief in themselves and go through a personal transformation to reach to their own personal potential which in her conviction every human being has been imbued with by the Creator.

In her last few years of service, she taught Moral Leadership course which according to the testimony of all her students was, what the world needs to emulate on the personal as well as social transformation initiative.

Ms Sophia Tekie Civil Eng (Roads): President of the Engineering Council of Namibia (ECN) and Immediate Past President of EPA



Sophia Belete-Tekie is a Professional Engineer with thirty two years' experience and currently head of Namibia Roads Authority's Road Management System (RMS).

Apart from a BSc Degree in Civil Engineering on honours level she has obtained various diplomas and certificates in project management, strategic management and leadership from Stellenbosch University and other renowned institutions.

She was and is actively involved in the industry including being:

- A member of the World road association committee (Piarc) on Asset Management and Financing for two terms
- Member of the Technical Committee of Performance of Road Administrators and Road Funds of Piarc
- Alternate member of the National Qualifications Authority Council.
- Member of the Engineering Professions Association (EPA) Council since 2000 and President two terms
- Member of the Engineering Council of Namibia since 2005; and from 2013 to 2018 Vice President of the Council, and from August 2022 the President of the Council
- Member of the International Road Federation

Specific accolades in the engineering environment are: “The first woman vice President of the Engineering Council of Namibia (2013 – 2018) and the first woman President of the Engineering Professions Association (EPA) Council”.

Her drive for proper Road Asset Management has led to the development of a “State of the Art” System in Namibia with team players from various levels; presentation of papers on related topics and invitation as special guest speaker at international, regional and National conferences, workshops and other forums.

Her passion lies in empowerment of women, in training young engineers, in promoting governance and ethics, and to be an agent of change in society for the betterment of the world. Her passion lies in community service at the grass roots.

Dr Gert Cloete, President of the Engineering Professions Association (EPA)



Dr Gert Cloete has 30 years of experience in the field of water engineering. After school he completed a diploma in civil engineering in 1987, and worked several years as a field technician before pursuing further education in water engineering; in 1997 he enrolled for a degree in civil engineering at the University of Stellenbosch where he completed his B.Eng and later his MSc. Eng and PhD degree

His experience ranges from field technician in hydrology, to the design and construction of water related infrastructure. In Namibia he worked for consultancy firms, and he was manager of the civil engineering design office at NamWater, Chief Engineer at the City of Windhoek Civil Design department, and was Head of Department of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the Namibia University of Science and Technology.
