



The Engineering Professions Association Of Namibia

Newsletter - April 2025

Welcome to the April 2025 edition of the Engineering Professions Association of Namibia newsletter. This issue highlights our recent successful workshop on Dispute Boards, shares feedback from participants and announces upcoming events including a FIDIC workshop and an exclusive visit to the Orano Desalination Plant. Stay informed about professional development opportunities and industry insights with EPA.



Positive feedback from our recent workshop. The event was a resounding success, leaving both attendees and organizers with beaming smiles. The presenters' engaging sessions truly resonated with everyone involved.

Dispute Boards Workshop: A Resounding Success

The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia (EPA) successfully hosted a two-day workshop on Dispute Boards on March 3-4, 2025, at Arebbusch Travel Lodge in Windhoek. The event attracted 60 delegates from various sectors, including engineers, contractors, and other stakeholders in the construction industry, all eager to enhance their understanding of dispute resolution mechanisms.

The workshop received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees. The impact was evident in several ways:

- Attendees actively participated and expressed enthusiasm throughout the sessions
- Organizers were thrilled with the smooth execution and positive atmosphere
- Presenters received commendations for their insightful contributions
- The venue, sound system, and refreshments were praised as top-class

Dr. Gert Cloete, President of the EPA, delivered the opening speech, during which he led attendees in observing a minute of silence to honor the memory of Dr. Sam Nujoma, Namibia's founding president, who passed away on February 8, 2025, at the age of 95.

Mrs. Sophie Teke also welcomed participants, emphasizing the importance of proactive dispute resolution in the engineering and construction industries. She highlighted how Dispute Boards contribute to fair, timely, and cost-effective project delivery, setting the tone for the educational sessions that followed.

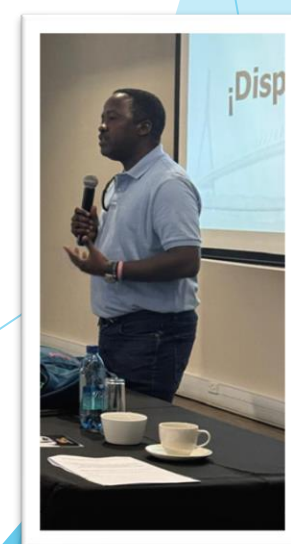
Mr. Oshoveli Hiveluah, Chairman of the NAL, welcomed the attendees and explained the purpose of the workshop.



Dr. Gert Cloete, President of EPA



Mrs. Sophie Teke



Mr. Oshoveli Hiveluah, Chairman of the NAL

Expert Facilitation and Interactive Learning

The two-day Dispute Boards workshop was led by esteemed professionals who brought extensive expertise to the sessions. The primary facilitator, Anton van Langelaar, provided in-depth insights into the establishment and operation of Dispute Boards, drawing from his wealth of experience in the field. Complementing these sessions was co-facilitator Riaan de Witt, who enriched the learning experience with practical examples and interactive discussions that resonated with all attendees.

Participants from across Namibia, representing both the public and private sectors, engaged in interactive learning, panel discussions, and knowledge-sharing on dispute resolution practices specific to the engineering and construction industries. The workshop's format encouraged active participation, allowing delegates to ask questions, share experiences, and network with peers facing similar challenges in their professional environments.

The practical approach to learning was particularly appreciated by attendees, who noted that the real-world applications discussed would be immediately useful in their respective roles. Facilitators employed a variety of teaching methods, including case studies, group exercises, and simulations, to ensure comprehensive understanding of Dispute Board mechanisms and their implementation in various project contexts.



Workshop attendees engaging in the Dispute Boards training session, held in Windhoek.

Panel Session: Multiple Perspectives on Dispute Boards



A highlight of the workshop was the comprehensive panel session, which featured diverse perspectives on Dispute Boards from key stakeholders in the construction and engineering sectors. This multi-faceted approach provided attendees with a holistic understanding of how Dispute Boards function within the industry ecosystem and how different parties experience and utilize these mechanisms.

Employer Perspective

Martin van der Merwe shared valuable insights from the employer's viewpoint, discussing challenges and successes in implementing Dispute Boards. He highlighted how employers can benefit from early dispute resolution, the cost implications of various approaches, and strategies for selecting appropriate board members. His presentation included case studies of successful implementations that resulted in significant time and cost savings for major projects.

Contractor Perspective

Cobus Postma provided the contractor's perspective, emphasizing practical considerations and lessons learned from the field. He addressed common concerns contractors face when working with Dispute Boards, including documentation requirements, timing of submissions, and relationship management. Postma's practical advice on navigating the dispute resolution process resonated particularly well with contractors in attendance.

Engineer Perspective

Hanli Bothma offered the engineer's angle, discussing technical aspects and the crucial role engineers play in dispute resolution processes. She explained how engineers can contribute to preventing disputes through clear specifications and documentation, as well as their role in providing technical expertise during dispute resolution. Bothma's insights on balancing technical accuracy with practical solutions were especially valuable.

The panel session fostered robust discussion among delegates, with many participants asking detailed questions about specific scenarios they had encountered in their professional practice. This interactive exchange promoted a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of Dispute Boards and how they can be effectively utilized to address various types of conflicts that arise during construction projects.

Moderators skillfully guided the conversation to ensure all perspectives were thoroughly explored, creating a balanced and informative dialogue that attendees found particularly valuable. The diversity of viewpoints presented helped participants appreciate the importance of understanding all stakeholders' positions when engaging with Dispute Boards.

Participant Feedback and Future Plans

Delegates expressed high satisfaction with the Dispute Boards workshop, noting the relevance of the topics covered and the expertise of the facilitators. The interactive format and real-world case studies were particularly appreciated, as they provided practical knowledge applicable to participants' professional roles. Many attendees commented that the workshop exceeded their expectations, providing them with tools and insights they could immediately implement in their work environments.

The workshop provided exactly what I needed - practical, applicable knowledge about dispute resolution that I can use in my current projects. The facilitators were exceptional in their delivery and expertise.

Building on the success of this workshop, the Engineering Professions Association of Namibia remains committed to offering continuous professional development opportunities. The association plans to organize similar events in the future, aiming to equip professionals with the necessary tools to effectively manage and resolve disputes within the industry. These future workshops will continue to address current challenges and emerging trends in the engineering and construction sectors.

As a token of appreciation for their active engagement and contributions during the event, Dr. Gert Cloete, President of the EPA, presented all participants with thoughtfully curated biltong hampers. These hampers, filled with premium-quality biltong and other local delicacies, were well-received by the attendees and added a distinctly Namibian touch to the conclusion of the workshop.

For more information on upcoming workshops and events, members are encouraged to visit the EPA's official website or contact the secretariat directly at epa@africaonline.com.na. The EPA is committed to responding to the professional development needs of its members and welcomes suggestions for future workshop topics.



Upcoming FIDIC 3 CPD points upon completion of the Workshop: August 2025

The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia (EPA) is pleased to announce that it will host a comprehensive three-day FIDIC workshop from August 5-7, 2025, in Windhoek. This professional development opportunity is designed to enhance participants' understanding and application of FIDIC contracts in their respective roles within the engineering and construction industries.

The workshop will be facilitated by Kevin Spence, a registered Professional Civil Engineer with over 45 years of experience in the construction industry and an accredited FIDIC trainer. His extensive background ensures that participants will receive expert guidance on navigating the complexities of FIDIC contracts and implementing best practices in their projects.



Contract Selection

Learn how to choose the appropriate FIDIC contract for different project types and requirements



Contract Preparation

Master the essential elements of preparing comprehensive and effective contract documentation



Stakeholder Roles

Understand the responsibilities and relationships between key project stakeholders



Risk and Liability

Develop strategies for managing risk allocation and addressing liability concerns



Claims and Dispute Resolution

Learn effective approaches to handling claims and resolving disputes within the FIDIC framework

Attendees will be eligible to earn 3 CPD (Continuing Professional Development) points upon completion of the workshop. This accreditation aligns with similar FIDIC courses that have received official CPD certification, making it a valuable addition to professionals' ongoing education requirements.

The EPA encourages all interested professionals to mark their calendars for this valuable training opportunity. Registration details will be communicated in the coming months. For any inquiries regarding the FIDIC workshop, please contact the EPA office at epa@africaonline.com.na.

Exclusive Visit to Orano Desalination Plant

The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia (EPA) is organizing an exclusive visit to the Orano Desalination Plant, located near Swakopmund, on September 19, 2025. This unique opportunity is open to 20-25 EPA members who wish to explore one of Southern Africa's largest reverse osmosis desalination facilities and gain valuable insights into advanced water treatment technologies.



The EPA will coordinate transportation and accommodation for all participants. Accommodation options in Swakopmund include esteemed establishments such as the Atlantic Villa, offering exceptional comfort and amenities for the overnight stay. All logistical details will be handled by the EPA to ensure a seamless experience for participants.

About the Orano Desalination Plant: Commissioned between 2008 and 2010, the Orano Desalination Plant, also known as the Erongo Desalination Plant, is situated near Wlotzkasbaken in the Erongo Region, approximately 35 km north of Swakopmund. Originally established to supply water to Orano's Trekkopje Uranium Mine, it stands as the largest reverse osmosis desalination plant in Southern Africa. The plant has a variable output capacity, ranging from 12 million to 26 million cubic meters annually, with potential expansion up to 45 million cubic meters to meet increasing demand.

This technical visit promises to be an enriching experience, providing valuable insights into advanced desalination processes and water resource management in Namibia. Participants will have the opportunity to observe firsthand how seawater is converted into usable freshwater, learn about the technical challenges involved in the process, and understand the plant's significance for Namibia's water security.

Interested members are requested to register by August 15, 2025. Due to limited availability, early registration is encouraged. Please contact the EPA office at epa@africaonline.com.na to secure your spot for this informative excursion.



Contact and Registration Information

The Engineering Professions Association of Namibia (EPA) is committed to providing valuable professional development opportunities and industry connections for all members. To participate in any of the upcoming events featured in this newsletter, please use the following contact information:

General Inquiries

For any questions about EPA membership, events, or services, please contact our secretariat:

Email: epa@africaonline.com.na

Phone: 081 - 8334621

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

FIDIC Workshop Registration

To register for the three-day FIDIC workshop (August 5-7, 2025):

Email your interest to epa@africaonline.com.na with the subject line "FIDIC Workshop Registration"

Include your full name, company, position, and contact details

Registration deadline: July 15, 2025

Orano Desalination Plant Visit

To secure one of the limited spots for the plant visit (September 19-20, 2025):

Email your interest to epa@africaonline.com.na with the subject line "Desalination Plant Visit"

Include your full name, company, position, and contact details

Registration deadline: August 15, 2025

The EPA encourages all members to stay connected through our official channels for the latest updates on workshops, site visits, and other professional development opportunities. Our website is regularly updated with information about upcoming events, industry news, and resources relevant to engineering professionals in Namibia.

We value your feedback and suggestions for future events and initiatives. If you have ideas for workshops, site visits, or other activities that would benefit our membership, please share them with us. The EPA is dedicated to serving the needs of engineering professionals across Namibia and contributing to the advancement of the profession.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in EPA activities. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!