



The Engineering Professions Association Of Namibia

Newsletter - November 2025

Welcome to the November 2025 edition of the Engineering Professions Association of Namibia Newsletter

11th UNESCO Africa Engineering week, Uganda

Another award for Eng. Sophia Tekie!

In addition to the **Southern African Engineering Organization (SAFEO)** received by Ms. Tekie in July 2025, she also received the **Women in Engineering (WIE) Leadership award** in Uganda.

In September 2025 she was invited to attend the 11th UNESCO Africa Engineering week and the 9th African Engineering Conference, which was hosted in Kampala, Uganda. During this event she was awarded the **Women in Engineering (WIE) Leadership** award in recognition of the role she played as the immediate past president of the Engineering council of Namibia from August 2022 to June 2025 and for being the first woman President of the engineering association (EPA) of Namibia (2019 to 2023). She is recognized in Africa as a trail blazer for women in engineering, and the EPA honors her achievements.

This puts Namibia on the map for women in engineering.



In this newsletter:

1. Woman In Engineering Award
2. The ORANO Desalination plant technical tour
3. FIDIC training workshop in Swakopmund
4. The Namibia Road Management System (RMS) launch



The Orano lucky draw took place at Pregon Engineers



Mervin Kambanda and Rianus !Gonteb
did the lucky Draw.



The Engineering Professions Association (EPA) is pleased to announce the successful visit to the **Orano Desalination Plant in Swakopmund**, offering members and student participants a unique opportunity to explore one of Namibia's most advanced water treatment facilities.

The visit took place **at 19 September 2025**. Participants **departed from Windhoek on 18 September**, enjoyed a **guided tour of the Orano Desalination Plant on 19 September**, and **returned to Windhoek after lunch** the same day. The EPA **coordinated all transportation and accommodation** for participants.

Commissioned between 2008 and 2010, the **Orano Desalination Plant**, also known as the **Erongo Desalination Plant**, plays a vital role in supplying high-quality water to the Erongo Region. It stands as a key example of innovation and sustainability in Namibia's approach to water resource management.

Student Lucky Draw Winners

As part of EPA's ongoing commitment to encouraging student participation, a **lucky draw for paid-up student members** was held on **15 September 2025** at **Pregon Engineers**.

Out of 24 entries, **Mervin Kambanda** and **Rianus !Gonteb** conducted the draw, bringing plenty of excitement to the afternoon. Congratulations to **Stella Nghinamundova** and **Upendura Tjipenandjambi**, the two lucky student members who won the opportunity to join the EPA members on the Orano Desalination Plant visit!

All **travel expenses, accommodation, and meals** in Swakopmund were **fully covered by the EPA**, and both students were truly **grateful and thrilled** for the opportunity. Mervin personally contacted them to share the good news, and they expressed great **enthusiasm and appreciation** for being selected.

EPA extends heartfelt thanks to all participating students and members for their involvement, and looks forward to hosting more interactive and educational opportunities in the future — because **every member counts!**

EPA Members Visit the Orano Desalination Plant: A Resounding Success 19 September 2025



A Special Thank You to Orano

The EPA wishes to extend sincere thanks to **Ms. Christine de Klerk, Ms. Marianne Blaauw, and the entire Orano Plant Team** for their warm hospitality during our recent visit to the Orano Desalination Plant.

We greatly appreciated the detailed presentations, guided tours, and the time taken to explain the plant's operations. Your professionalism and generosity made the visit both **insightful and memorable**. The EPA looks forward to continued collaboration and opportunities to engage with industry leaders in the future.

The Visit Experience

The tour kicked off with an engaging introduction from the Orano technical team, who provided a detailed overview of the plant's purpose, design, and impact. Participants learned that the plant supplies drinking water to Swakopmund and surrounding mines, ensuring a reliable water source for both community use and industrial operations in the Erongo Region.

After the introductory briefing, the group was guided through to the intake area, where seawater from the Atlantic Ocean is drawn in through carefully engineered pipelines. The guides explained how screens and filters remove sand, shells, and marine particles before the water enters the pre-treatment process.

The next stop was the filtration and reverse osmosis (RO) units the heart of the desalination process. Here, high-pressure pumps push seawater across reverse osmosis membranes which allow water molecules to diffuse through while rejecting dissolved salts and minerals. The Orano team explained how the RO systems are continuously monitored to ensure safety, efficiency, and consistent water quality.

The group then visited the post-treatment and distribution sections, where the water is re-mineralized, chlorinated, and tested to ensure it meets the required standards. Participants were impressed by the advanced monitoring equipment and strict quality control procedures in place.

The final part of the tour focused on the distribution system, where the treated water is transferred to reservoirs and then pumped through pipelines to Swakopmund and surrounding mining operations.





To the left, the massive thrust blocks on the Trekkopje Mine Pipeline. The desalination plant was originally built for this mine.

The group posing below at the high pressure pumps and the energy recovery systems used in the desalination plant.



FIDIC Workshop in Swakopmund

FIDIC training

The EPA hosted a FIDIC workshop in Swakopmund for the Swakop Uranium mine. This was attended by 45 mine employees and proved to be very informative for the mine staff.

Lucky Draw Winners – FIDIC Red Book Sponsorship

As part of the excitement, a lucky draw was held at the beginning of the workshop for two FIDIC Red Books. All participant names were entered into the draw. Letisia Shilengifa volunteered to draw the names, and the lucky winners were Tianlong Zhou and Magreth Tjamuaha! Congratulations to Tianlong and Magreth. Each book is valued at N\$ 2,290.00.



EPA wishes to express its gratitude to the Prost Hotel for their outstanding hospitality. The hotel also prepared the platters sponsored by EPA for the 10:00 tea and coffee.





Helena Amadhila from Swakop Uranium organized all arrangements on their side for the training, with Kevin Spens, the presenter.



Kevin encouraged participants to break into groups for discussion, allowing each team to reflect on key points. Afterwards, a representative from each group shared their decisions and insights with the rest of the attendees, creating a dynamic and engaging learning experience.



Reedewann van Wyk extends the EPA Council's appreciation to Dr. Gert Cloete with a special gift in recognition of his continued support and contribution.

Launch of the Roads Authority RMS Hub

Summary of Pr. Eng. Sophia Tekie's Speech at RMS Hub Launch 4 Nov 2025

Maintaining Namibia's Road Quality Ranking

Sophia Tekie emphasized that Namibia continues to rank among the highest in Africa for road quality, based on World Economic Forum indicators. She stated that to maintain this position, the Roads Authority must shift its focus from constructing new roads to prioritising the preservation and maintenance of existing road assets.

Strategic Role of the RMS

Tekie highlighted that the Road Management System (RMS) should be seen not merely as a planning or maintenance tool, but as a *strategic management system*. She said the RMS can support smarter, more informed decision-making—especially at a time when public funding is limited.

Risk Management and Long-Term Planning

She stressed the need for a comprehensive risk management framework to identify, assess, and mitigate risks in road asset management. Integrating risk-awareness into the RMS, she explained, will strengthen efforts to preserve road assets and prevent expensive rehabilitation in the future.

Sustainability & Funding Prioritization

Tekie underscored the importance of shifting funding priorities toward preservation over new development. She warned that failing to invest in essential maintenance now could result in costs up to four times higher later: “for every dollar not spent on essential road maintenance today, we will spend up to four times more in the future to repair it.”

Technology & Innovation

She noted that the RMS Hub will leverage modern technologies such as data dashboards, geospatial analytics, drone-assisted inspections, and future AI applications for predictive maintenance. These digital tools will enhance evidence-based decision-making and improve intervention prioritization.

Long-Term Vision

Finally, Tekie shared a long-term vision in which the RMS not only supports current road management needs but is adaptable to future challenges, including climate change, the rise of electric vehicles, and other emerging infrastructure trends. She also mentioned plans to develop web-based components of the RMS to enable broader access for researchers, policymakers, and the public.





In recognition of women playing a leading role in engineering.....

Dear Eng. Sophia Belete-Tekie,

On behalf of the Engineering Professions Association of Namibia, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on your remarkable achievements; being awarded the SAFED award in Johannesburg for promoting diversity and inclusion in engineering, and the Woman in Engineering (WIE) Leadership award at the 11th UNESCO engineering week in Uganda.

Your outstanding service as the former President of the Engineering Council of Namibia, as well as the first female President of the Engineering Professions Association of Namibia, reflects your dedication, vision, and unwavering commitment to advancing the engineering profession, and promoting women in engineering. We are also honored to continue having you serve on the EPA Board in your capacity as Past President. We celebrate your accomplishments and wish you continued success in your inspiring professional journey.

Kind regards,

Dr. Gert Cloete

Engineering Professions Association of Namibia (EPA)

