

**ASSOCIATION OF MINE RESIDENT ENGINEERS**  
**REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**28 FEBRUARY 2007**

**COUNCIL**

**President**

J Kruger  
Impala Platinum Ltd

**Vice-President**

F K Botha  
Gold Fields – Beatrix Division

**Immediate Past-President**

J C Joao  
De Beers – Cullinan Mine

**Elected Members**

K J Botha  
Paradigm Project Management

J F Jansen van Rensburg  
Anglogold Ashanti – S A Metallurgy

K A Moxham  
Lonmin Platinum Ltd

B P O'Connor  
Anglo Platinum – Amandelbult and Union Sections

S E Oberholster  
Anglogold Ltd – ERGO

J A Whitley  
Anglo Platinum – Rustenburg Platinum Mines

**District Representatives**

**East Rand**

B Archer  
Harmony – Evander Division

**Free State**

H A Collins  
Harmony – Tshepong Mine

**Klerksdorp**

R S Mack  
Anglo gold Ashanti – Kopanang Mine

**Northern**

F J J du Preez  
Messina Platinum Mines

**Rustenburg**

A J Kleynhans  
Lonmin Platinum – Western Platinum Mine

**West Rand**

G Bullen  
Gold Fields – Driefontein Division

**Co-opted**

D R Betton  
Boynton Platinum

O N T Letsholo  
Read, Swatman and Voigt

C D Swanepoel  
Read, Swatman and Voigt

**Secretary**

M Mason  
Mines Professional Associations' Secretariat

**Offices**

Chamber of Mines Building  
Johannesburg

**PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION: 1924 – 2007**

1924/25	Smythe, G M	1966/67	Casey, J
1925/26	Dickson, A	1967/68	MacMillan, K A
1926/27	Farris, T	1968/69	Davidson, R E
1927/28	Lowes, J	1969/70	Seaward, H E
1928/29	Andrews, G T	1970/71	Dunn, C
1929/30	Olsen, A C L	1971/72	Gibbs, R S
1930/31	Merrifield, J M	1972/73	Martin, C
1931/32	Innes, J D	1973/74	Parry, D F
1932/33	Watson, W S	1974/75	Greyling, H A
1933/34	Mitchell, W H	1975/76	Brokenshire, R H
1934/35	Reekie, J	1976/77	Felix, M J
1935/36	Steele, P H	1977/78	McAdam, L R
1936/37	Craggs, W B	1978/79	Walker, R G
1937/38	Wakelin, W F	1979/80	Kruger, C C
1938/39	Cowin, T E	1980/81	Taylor, A R
1939/40	Allin, A D	1981/82	Grove, A C
1940/41	Malcolm, A	1982/83	Jooste, F
1941/42	Ainsworth, A	1983/84	Calver, H A
1942/43	Spiers, J T	1984/85	O'Connor, R H
1943/44	Hewitt, B F	1985/86	Brasher, B H
1944/45	Petrie, J W	1986/87	Mills, G R W
1945/46	Cotton, F A	1987/88	Robinson, J E
1946/47	Hutton, W B	1988/89	Hunter, E C
1947/48	McChesney, J	1989/90	Farrell, K M
1948/49	Wain, H	1990/91	Mossner, W
1949/50	Gray, E W	1991/92	Brink, A J
1950/51	Paton, G	1992/93	Brokke, A J
1951/52	Bungay, F R	1993/94	Farrell, K M
1952/53	Stain, A F	1994/95	Menzies, I D
1953/54	Robinson, L R	1995/96	Brear, F S
1954/55	Van Wyk, C F B	1996/97	Bester, E
1955/56	Shillaw, C	1997/98	Betton, D R
1956/57	Woods, G H	1998/99	Swanepoel, C D
1957/58	De Villiers, J W	1999/2000	O'Connor, B P
1958/59	Dent, J H	2000/2001	Whitley, J A
1959/60	Watson, R	2001/2002	Dempsey, G
1960/61	Ashton, W D	2002/2003	Jansen van Rensburg, J F
1961/62	Van der Spuy, J P	2003/2004	Moxham, K A
1962/63	Gore, C A S	2004/2005	A J Whibley
1963/64	Bylass, J	2005/2006	J C Joao
1964/65	Lewis, G C	2006/2007	J Kruger
1965/66	Gibbs, K D		

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2006/2007**

Presented to members of the Association at the Eighty-third Annual General Meeting held in the Oppenheimer Hall, Gold Reef City, on Friday, 18 May 2007.

### **FINANCE**

#### **Association Funds**

The Financial Statements reflect that revenue for the year amounted to **R 862 759**, made up of membership subscriptions received and interest earned on funds invested with the Chamber of Mines Cash Management Department. Expenditure amounted to **R 796 394**.

Accumulated Funds brought forward from the previous financial year amounted to **R 46 162**. An amount of **R 146 565** was transferred from the bursary fund and, with the transfer of the current year's net surplus of **R 66 365**, an amount of **R 259 092** has been carried forward to the new year.

#### **Subscriptions**

In terms of the powers vested in it by the Constitution and Rules of the Association, the Council has set subscriptions for the ensuing year at R 655 for all grades of membership, i.e. Ordinary, Associate, Affiliate and Student. Council's decision to increase subscription fees in line with inflation was taken in order to maintain and strengthen the Association's financial base.

Your annual subscription now includes costs related to attendance at all General and Annual General Meetings, as this is thought to be a more equitable method of covering costs than the present system of invoicing mines.

Your Council is pleased to report that the current year saw a 100% collection rate, however this still remains an extremely slow and onerous process. The Association relies heavily on this income for its monthly operating costs and members are requested to assist in this process by ensuring that their subscription has been paid, and also by informing the Secretariat of any change in their contact details.

#### **Bursary Fund**

In view of the extra income currently being derived from functions held during the year, Council invoked its powers as stated in Clause 5.2 of the Constitution and once again did not impose the personal bursary fund donation on members for 2006/7.

A decision was made by Council to combine the Bursary Fund with the accumulated funds of the Association, thus eliminating the current practice of cross-subsidising the various funds.

## **ASSOCIATION BURSARY**

Much discussion took place during 2006 regarding the advisability of continuing with the method of awarding several limited bursaries to deserving engineering students. It was subsequently agreed to revert to the tried and true method of fully sponsoring one student throughout his university career.

Consideration was also given to sponsoring a student who was already familiar with working in the mining industry, as this was thought to be the best method of ensuring that once the degree was obtained, the student would remain within, and be an asset to, the mining industry.

Council is pleased to report that a full bursary to cover tuition fees, accommodation allowance and cost of books has now been awarded to Mr R C Theron, who was awarded the gold medal for the best apprentice at the 2006 AGM. Mr Theron is now studying towards his degree in electrical engineering at North West University (formerly Potchefstroom).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The total membership of the Association as at 28 February 2007 (2006) was **512 (509)** members, made up of **299 (285)** Ordinary members, **43 (46)** Associate members, **27 (27)** Affiliate members, **91 (96)** Student members, **29 (33)** Honorary Associate members and **23 (22)** Honorary Life members.

This reflects a total increase of **3** members over the previous year.

It is pleasing to note that, despite the many fluctuations currently being experienced in the mining industry, the stability of the Association has not been compromised, however it is considered that a strong membership base is essential to the continuing success of the Association and Council appeals to all members to assist in identifying and recruiting prospective new members.

## **SAFETY**

In keeping with the pro-active policy of "Safety First" this item continued to be taken as the first item on the Agenda at Council, General and District meetings. With its many safety interventions, Council believes that the Association makes a valuable contribution to continued safety awareness.

### **Safety Flashes**

As part of Council's proactive approach to safety, "*Safety Flashes*" are regularly circulated to members.

## **Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee (OH&SPC)**

Council would like to thank the Chamber for making documents emanating from this Committee, which is the main employer caucus for the Mining Regulations Advisory Committee, available to Council, as in this way, members can be kept informed of DRMs, draft guidance notes, etc, thereby enabling them to take up any issues of concern within their individual Groups.

### **Safety Achievements**

Your Council wishes to place on record its congratulations to the following mines and their respective managements and staff on their safety achievements during 2006:

#### ***2 Million Fatality Free Shifts***

Eastern Platinum  
 Lebowa Platinum  
 Merriespruit No. 3  
 Murray and Roberts Cementation  
 RPM – Union Section  
 South Deep Mine

#### ***1 Million Fatality Free Shafts***

BEMA Gold SA  
 Impala Platinum No. 1 Shaft  
 Impala Platinum No. 4 Shaft  
 JIC – Amandelbult West  
 JIC Rustenburg – Northern Region  
 Kloof Mine No. 4 Shaft  
 Kloof Mine No. 7 Shaft  
 Kroondal  
 Masimong Mine  
 Murray and Roberts Cementation  
 Northam Platinum Mine  
 RPM – Amandelbult Section  
 RPM – Rustenburg Section  
 RPM – Union Section  
 RPM – Union Section – Richard Shaft  
 South Deep Mine

## **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

Your Council, in its efforts to fulfil the function for which it was elected by members, i.e. to represent and promote the interests of engineers in the mining industry, has initiated

many projects, with the objective of improving the operational effectiveness of the Association.

A strategic planning workshop will be held, in conjunction with the first meeting of the newly elected President and Council, and members will be kept informed of progress regarding strategic initiatives at the various Association meetings.

### **MPA STEERING COMMITTEE**

During the year the MPAs Steering Committee met on a regular basis to deal with the issues that arose regarding the new qualifications. More Associations are now seeing the need to be aligned with the MPAs grouping.

Most of the work relating to the original mandate is nearing completion and it is expected that the mandate will be finalised within the next few months. The steering committee will complete its work as originally set out:

- to structure the new qualification as an Engineer, both stages 1 and 2
- to be part of the transitional arrangements
- to be part of the development of the necessity of registration and possibly licensing.

Once the mandate has been completed it is envisaged that the steering committee will remain, albeit with a different focus. A grouping of Mining Industry Professional Associations/Institutions will be established to ensure that mining industry professionals are adequately represented with a common voice within ECSA structures.

### **ECSA**

Council keeps abreast of activities within this body by various means such as representation on the Registration Committee and participation in the Presidents Forum, as well as ECSA workshops.

Council is also confident that, during the coming year, the Association will meet the criteria fixed by ECSA to ensure its recognition as a Voluntary Association and urges members to submit their registration form as a matter of urgency.

The new draft legislation to identify what type of engineering work was required to be carried out by a registered person was put out for comment by ECSA. The MPAs steering committee gave feedback regarding areas of concern and arranged, in conjunction with the Chamber, to have an “acid test” performed by an independent grouping in order to ascertain the effect of the implementation of this legislation. Feedback has been given and the steering committee will continue to play a role in the development of the legislation to ensure minimal impact on the industry.

### **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)**

Those AMRE members who are registered with ECSA will by now be aware of the requirements regarding CPD. The MPAs steering committee will assume the function of establishing and overseeing a common CPD policy for the participating Associations.

As part of its service to members, an annual statement of CPD credits in Categories 1 and 3, applicable to attendance at the various meetings of the Association, will be prepared and will be available to individual members on request. Please take note that credits can only be awarded if members have signed an attendance register, which will be archived in the MPAS offices in the event of audit.

## **THE ASSOCIATION AS A FORUM**

In line with the Association's declared objectives of addressing issues relevant to the engineering discipline within the mining industry, focus has been directed towards many topical and pertinent matters at the many diverse meetings of members.

The Association's continued viability and success largely depends on active participation by members at these meetings and functions which, despite difficulties currently being experienced in the industry, have attracted good attendance levels. Council would like to stress that members, rather than feeling obligated to take part in Association activities, should actively enjoy their participation.

In addition to the regular monthly Council meetings, members have had the opportunity to participate in the following meetings and activities.

### **District Meetings**

Council is pleased to report that these meetings, held regularly during the current year and incorporating technical visits, attracted satisfactory attendances.

Your Council acknowledges the hard work of the District Representatives in organising these meetings and relies heavily on them to disseminate information to the membership on Association matters and activities.

### **General Meetings**

The General meetings and technical visits held during the year under review achieved excellent attendance levels and once again continued to maintain the high standards required by members.

The August 2006 meeting once again took the form of a joint AMRE/SACEA function, which was hosted by Matla Coal. Council is pleased to report that the relationship between the two engineering Associations continues to strengthen.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Eight-second Annual General Meeting and Dinner, held on 19 May 2006 in the Oppenheimer Hall, Gold Reef City, was attended by 93 members and guests.

### **Meetings of Presidents and Vice-Presidents**

As has become the practice over recent years, meetings of Association Presidents and Vice-Presidents were held during June and November 2006.

These meetings serve the purpose of fostering an *esprit de corps* amongst the Associations and provide an excellent forum where matters of concern and mutual interest to the 11 Mines Professional Associations may be discussed at an inter-Association level, as well as with senior officials of the Chamber of Mines.

### **MPAS Committee of Management**

Many concerns have arisen over recent years regarding the management of MPAS and its relationship with the Chamber of Mines, which had never actually been formalised. Discussions on these concerns led to the formation of the Committee of Management, comprising representatives of the 11 MPAs. The Committee is addressing many issues such as MPAS functions, tightening-up of accounting practices, etc.

The MPAs have long valued their relationship with the Chamber, although no formal agreement has ever been made regarding being under its auspices for functions such as staff conditions and salaries, HR functions, etc. Representatives of the Committee recently met with the Chief Executive of the Chamber, subsequent to which a memorandum of agreement between the two bodies has now been drawn-up. The financial manager of the Chamber is now a full member of this Committee.

### **Meetings with the DME**

It has been agreed by all parties that these meetings are extremely useful in voicing concerns regarding the mining engineering discipline and they continue to be held on an annual basis.

A recently introduced and successful initiative is that of having a member of the DME attend at the start of Council meetings so that frank discussions can be held on areas of mutual concern.

During the year under review, the DME commissioned a survey in order to define the "Role of the Engineer". It has been acknowledged that engineers today assume many more functions than in the past and that more definition was now required. The Association has been assisting with this project.

### **Meetings with CM and EE Sub-Committee**

Together with representatives of the South African Colliery Engineers' Association, your Association was once again represented at this forum, where matters of mutual interest and concern are discussed.

### **Seminar: Trackbound Equipment**

A very successful seminar was held on Thursday, 27 July 2006, at Kloof Country Club, and was attended by 240 delegates. Presentations from Association seminars can be found on the website.

### **Seminars: 2007**

Association seminars are proving extremely popular, so much so in fact that Council is arranging for two to be held during 2007, the first being on Shaft Safety. Members also receive CPD certificates for attendance at these accredited seminars, which is of assistance when accumulating credits for submission to ECSA each year.

Council would like to place on record its appreciation to all involved in the organisation of these prestigious seminars, which have now become a highlight of the Association's calendar.

### **Presidential Visit**

An extremely successful visit was held from 5 to 8 October 2006 to Saldanha Bay and Cape Town and was attended by 34 members. Members participated in a very interesting and full programme, which included extensive technical visits to Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, Namakwa Sands Smelter and Saldanha Bay Harbour. The visit concluded with a very enjoyable two night stay in Cape Town.

Council wishes to place on record its sincere gratitude to the hosts of the technical visits, and their staff members, as well as all others who contributed towards the success of the visit.

Council would also like to stress that, although the technical content of these visits is of great interest and value, the sharing of ideas and information as well as the sense of camaraderie that is generated during such visits are also of paramount importance to participants.

### **Dinner Dance**

The fifth Association dinner dance for members and wives was held on Friday, 23 February 2007, at Gold Reef City.

This very successful and enjoyable function attracted 240 guests, with after dinner entertainment being provided by *Martin Jonas*. Dinner guests then danced the night away to the music of *Mark Dio and his Disco*. Your Council is pleased to note that this innovative entertainment format proved to be immensely popular.

### **Golf Day**

The Association golf day, comprising 20 x 4 balls, was held on Sunday, 15 October 2006, at Gold Fields West Golf Club and was enjoyed by all the golfers. Council extends its appreciation to Mr B P O'Connor for so ably organising this annual event.

### **Sponsorship**

Council wishes to express its appreciation at the continued generosity of Association sponsors, which enables Council to undertake its educational initiatives.

Council would also like to record its appreciation to all involved in the organisation of these enjoyable social events.

### **PAPERS AND TECHNICAL NOTES**

The following technical presentations were delivered at the Association's General meetings during 2005/6:

- Guide Rope Change at Beatrix 4MSV Vent Shaft : A de Lima
- Dragline Electrical Equipment Upgrade Programme : P Bateman
- ABH 1600 Alpine Box Hole Borer : K A Moxham
- Tau Lekoa Main Orepass Rehabilitation : J Hattingh

The Association would like to continue its established tradition of publishing Bound Volumes of papers and appeals to members to forward any papers they may have written to the Secretary for consideration by the Editorial Sub-Committee.

Your Council wishes to record its appreciation to the convenors of Association meetings, as well as to the staff of the mines concerned. It would also like to record its gratitude to the management and staff of the respective recreation clubs without whose efforts and co-operation the meetings would have been less successful.

### **PRIZES AND AWARDS**

#### **Best Learner/Engineering Apprentices**

Medals and certificates were awarded at the 2006 AGM to the best learner/engineering apprentices during 2005, as follows:

- |      |             |              |
|------|-------------|--------------|
| • N4 | C P Rudolph | Bronze Medal |
| • N5 | I M Tlhabi  | Silver Medal |
| • N6 | R C Theron  | Gold Medal   |





**PRESIDENT**