



News in Brief

October 2019

Message from the President of the Engineering Association of Namibia



The EPA Council looks forward to achieving the following goals in this year:

- Drive the EPA towards being proactive in the affairs of the country within the economy, construction industry, networking and really reviving the engineering industry.
- Drive to restore the recognition of the engineering profession in national matters. At present, other professions such as lawyers, economists and accountants mostly take precedence.
- Revisit and build strategy from the study done by the EPA in 2014 called *Needs and Numbers of Engineering in Namibia*. Determine which of all the challenges and opportunities identified are still relevant today and the EPA to promote the findings of that report.
- Proactively gather input from its members to research and address concerns facing the Industry which include but are not limited to:
 - Shortage of engineers
 - the middle management vanishing from public and SOE sectors in Namibia
 - lack of engineers giving advice to decision makers for fear of not being accepted or losing their jobs while engineers are the best advisors of projects and politicians and decision makers need to start to involve engineers in decisions then we will have a win win situation

As the mouthpiece for the engineering fraternity the EPA is best positioned to represent affairs affecting the industry in addition to the Engineering Council of Namibia:

- strive to bring back engineering in the forefront of economic and social development in Namibia as it always used to be, especially in these difficult and challenging times that Namibia is facing
- give advice on new bills and acts such as procurement acts, etc.
- liaison with the government and public bodies regarding all matters affecting the engineering profession
- uphold engineering standards as much as possible in Namibia
- uphold engineering ethics and governance in the various sectors
- contribute to capacity building by organising courses, seminars and technical visits
- assist organisations with bursary awards in engineering as the EPA itself has a bursary trust fund that is managed by trustees with many years' experience
- promote experiential training and internship positions for young engineers

A year ago Mrs. Sophia Tekie was appointed to the International Road Federation Geneva branch as a board member for Africa. As the current EPA President her involvement will spur opportunities from this platform for not only Namibia but for the whole region.

Some exciting developments include a potential conference on the Road Sector Review which will be held next year if supported by industry, as the last one was held ten years ago in 2009.

Hence the EPA will spearhead this conference for Namibia in collaboration with the roads sector and perhaps other SADC countries, to start with the educational process and the assessment of the entities created by the MWTC2000 project.

The Safety Bill is in the process of being finalised and the EPA will have a great role to advocate for the establishment of this safety agency. At the moment the Bill for the Road Fund Administration is also being prepared and the EPA believes it has a role to play by bringing experts who were involved in the original development of the Acts of the Roads Authority, Road Fund Administration and Roads Contractor Company into the discussions regarding the new Bills.

In closing the following sentiments shared by Mrs. Tekie: that the well-being of a country can only be sustained through proper consultation with and involvement of engineers in all strata of society. Engineers are not only executors of projects but planners and advisors of decision makers before even the conception of a project. Their early involvement in long term decisions and planning will save millions of N\$ if done in the right manner. Wrong decisions costs money, time and energy. We need to learn from our mistakes and move forward for the betterment of Namibia.

Hence, the call is to all engineers and technicians in Namibia to start making our voices heard by decision makers and to be agents of change so that the right decisions are taken no matter what the consequence will be for ourselves including losing our jobs.

It is sad to see that many contracting and consulting companies are down sizing and some closing down due to the economic environment, but this gives us the opportunity to think out of the box to be more creative to do more with less to keep our firms afloat.

United we stand divided we fall! The cooperation of all engineers in the country irrespective of race, religion or colour is needed; we have to cooperate and promote engineering in Namibia.

I hope to receive your support for the next two years and with this dedicated council that is enthusiastic we will be here to serve you all engineers and to serve Namibia.

AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting of the EPA was held at the SKW on 26th June 2019. The dialogue from our members under the various topics on the Agenda was particularly well received! It was very encouraging to see the number of members that approached EPA to avail themselves and to volunteer their time, skills and passion for the profession in support of the EPA Mandate. The business of the day was concluded in a relatively short time and was followed by a social evening.



At the AGM the announcement of the 42nd EPA Council

<i>President</i>	<i>Mrs. Sophie Tekie</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Mr. Rianus !Gonteb</i>
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	<i>Mr. Reedewann van Wyk</i>
<i>Co-Opted Member</i>	<i>Mr. Nehemia Kapofi</i>

In the days following the AGM and leading up to the first monthly meeting of the 42nd EPA Council the following remaining Council Members were announced.

Civil Discipline
(Image not included)

Mr. Günther Seydack



Mechanical Discipline

Mrs. Martha Endjala



Co-Opted Member

Dr. Gert Cloete

The following positions on Council remaining vacant:

Honorary Secretary

Electrical Discipline

Industrial Discipline

We Say Farewell

We say farewell to the following Council Members and the EPA Council gratefully acknowledges the service of these four past members on the Council:

Fritz Jacobs, Volker Fischer-Buder Jens Heiser and Kevin Koopman.

Volker volunteered to remain involved with EPA as EPA Bursary Trustee and NAL/EPA Manager.

We hope they will be blessed.

EPA PRESIDENT

Sophie Tekie