



ASPASA

NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST
2025**

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FROM THE ASPASA DIRECTOR'S PEN

ASPASA Diversity and Inclusion

We had a great variety in our Diversity and Inclusion session. Zama Zikode of KZN WIM Chairperson shared their Soccer Day initiative to support men. The WIM Committee needs Regional support from ASPASA members.

SUPPORTING MEN IN MINING



Letisha van den Berg

ASPASA Director



Positive Impact share

Fana Shoji from Rossmine did a positive impact share in the history of the greenfield mine and how they incorporate community members in the mining process and appointed a female Quarry Manager. A real leading practice example of how to manage a greenfield project and the support to WIM.

Tumi Nkalo Women in Mining Project Specialist presented on the Minerals Council WiM Revised strategy 2025-2027 the main addition to the Strategy is the creation of synergies within the mining industry. The first meeting was held during August 2025 in Northwest with TCC and stakeholders in the area.

As ASPASA we are very proud that small surface mines are represented in 3 regions that we are aware of. Bareng Mngomezulu presented the successes and challenges in small surface mines related to specific WIM issues. We are represented in KZN, Gauteng and Western Cape. Zama Zikode KZN, Lucretia Jansen Van Rensburg Western Cape and Bareng Mngomezulu Secretary, Marina Gricius Deputy Chairperson and Sandra Molefe Secretary.

ASPASA Combined meeting and MINTEK Tour

Thank you to Dr. Jones Pao, Anne Mufamadi and, Andre van Niekerk with the various Department Heads for hosting ASPASA and taking us on a tour of the pilot plants. This included crushing and screening, mineral processing and even milling. I say again South Africa do not have to stand back when it comes to innovation and technology development.



Afrisam, Afrimat and Mineral Council of South Africa presented on the top ten hazard categories in their injuries and near miss reporting. We also considered the fatalities in the industry and determined the Critical Season Focus areas for ASPASA members for 2025.

It includes the following:

1. Hazardous Energy
2. Slips and trips
3. Contractors
4. TMM
5. Mental health

We will base our next few safety and health topics on these identified hazard similarities in industry.



RocketX Partick Wallet presented on injury management and emergency care importance and the services they offer in the various regions.

Mintek covered the following topics:

- Mintek overview – JS Moema
- Mineral Processing – Nicole Maistry
- Artisanal and Small Scale mining – Anne Mufamadi
- Modernise Minerals Council of South Africa

Eskay Crushers Visit



ASPASA went to visit Eskay Crushers, they are our top performer in both Environmental and ISHE Audits. I had to go see the operation for myself, coming from a small mine in Newcastle. This was even smaller but with so much heart and energy.

Turning from the main road I immediately noticed the traffic management with separation and ample signs to know where to go. Separating farm vehicles from mine vehicles. At Security there was clear instruction on which way to go and where to wait for Security and the sign in.



Arriving I found the team in a circle doing their morning production and safety session. And waiting in reception soon indicated the company culture. There is a sense of pride and joy from every person entering. Smiling even when the plant was down, not rushing the process, just being and moving towards calm order.

This is a unique operation as the plant is fed by two 12-ton tractor trailer units. It was amazing to see the entire flow and the jaw was kept at full capacity in the cycle and turnaround time from the pit.

All work areas were clean and tidy and everywhere you notice innovation like the quarry industry know how to do.

And as always, I asked the question on how we can improve our services, and John Davis reminded me of email load and losing a mail you wanted to go back to. We are working on a link on the website for members to access all the important information shared, to ensure it is not lost.



Also, the topic of unannounced audits came up again and we will see how we can make this work in 2026. Streamlining the various legislators in the different regions is a huge call from industry members, all legal entities which operate in different regions have different enforcement rules, which makes it difficult to guide members or to support with advice.

The mining right and mining licence issuing is also slow, and we will engage DMPR in this regard. John also asked that ASPASA more pro-actively fight the pre-legislation battles for small surface mines. We win some and lose some in these input sessions and every loss is felt hard by industry.

The legislator must come to the realisation that if a small mine like this says I cannot implement technology, it is not because of not wanting to comply but rather because of resource shortages. Resources in income, profit, people, and expertise. But give them a chance to innovate a solution and they will use what they have reduce the risk significantly.

Timothy Sikosana, H&S Rep 2024 Winner!



Afrisam WIM – Embracing Complementary Strengths

Afrisam invited me to their WIM event, it was attended by EXCO, Operations Managers and Services Department Heads.



The programme consisted of:

- The WIM Committee activities, challenges and successes.
- Workplace bullying
- Communication Protocols
- Impact of mental health on Occupational Health
- POWA
- Matrixmen
- My story, My journey
- Strength in diversity and inclusion
- Women have a place in Construction Materials
- Embracing individual cultures vs Corporate culture
- Construction Materials – A gender inclusive environment.



A beautiful event of support for WIM and inclusivity in all aspects of the Afrisam workplaces. The day was ended with Glenn Johnson Blessing the WIM with Proverbs 31 vs 10 to 31 with the EXCO and Operations Managers standing in support.



Transnet Ballast

Transnet included many of our comments in the Ballast standard S406 and S410 Specifications, but we have identified a few that was missed. We engaged Transnet again with Barry leading the additional comments and changes required.

Transnet committed to have these changes incorporated during 2025.

ASPASA hosting Young Professional at ASPASA ISHE Audit

Key learnings from the Audit as shared by Michael Molusi:

- Legislation and personal protection
- Understanding legislation critical for both personal and organisational protection (Sections 21 and 22 of the MHSA)
- Identification of risks for every task
- Lockout systems
- A proper lockout system helps control who has access to machinery, reducing the chance of accidental startups. Updated documentation is essential to prevent confusion and supports accountability.
- "The standard you walk past is the standard you set" – Marius Van Deventer quote.
- Standardised process is a key component to a H&S System.
- Contractor management must have up to date files with proper medical surveillance and monitoring.
- Traffic Management is a practical process to reduce risk.
- The National Safety Statistics is 33 mining related fatalities, a national concern that calls for improved strategies.
- Mini risk assessments and consistent reporting of near misses could play a positive role.

MRAC TMM COP

The TMM COP was in final stage of input around 2019 but did not move towards Gazette. The COP was circulated one more time to ensure the input is still relevant to submit it again for finalisation.

There were only three key aspects we gave input on:

1. Section 8.2.2 – Braking System
2. Section 8.2.3.1 – Testing of braking systems
3. Section 8.6.1.1 – Towbar designs

The rest of the COP was still in line with our previous comments.

NCPC Waste Stream engagement



We met online with NCPC, Ndzhukula Siza and Makwanda Auctioneers with all ASPASA members to create waste stream synergies. We decided to give members time to submit waste stream details on standard spreadsheet and meet again late September 2025 to have factual information at hand.

The reality is most mines have suppliers in place, but we need to see how we can create more economic solutions. By utilising various operations' waste we can create a circular economy.

Members raised the fact that we need to do more environmental awareness on waste management. We committed to do this through our various networks and IQSA training leg.

NCPC can assist in evaluating entire waste streams.

The action items are:

1. Obtain waste streams and quantity details
2. Waste management education
3. Synergy creation

IQSA

IQSA focus on Education, Young professionals, and Marketing and IQSA Board members was nominated to head each focus area. We look forward in streamlining with ASPASA the events and support with attendance and finding sponsorships.

We are looking forward to **15 and 16 October** Symposium at Birchwood Hotel, if you have not registered yet, please do so. It is a full programme with a practical product demonstration at Pilot Crushtech.

Training under IQSA is taking place and the focus has been on legal liability due to member needs. We will start environmental focussed sessions early 2026.

We have observed that attendance at our Young Professionals' events has been lower than anticipated. These programmes are designed to provide valuable networking opportunities and meaningful learning experiences for emerging talent in our industry. *We kindly urge all managers to actively support these initiatives by encouraging and enabling young professionals to participate.* Our goal is to foster in-depth exposure to industry knowledge, mentorship, and peer engagement that will contribute to their professional growth.

MPRDA

The final MPRDA comments was submitted on 13 August 2025. We will further engage the legislation on our specific input. A huge thank you to our MPRDA working group Gloria Motubatse, Noluthando Mbatha, Esther Teffo, Amanda Jooste, Johann Pretorius with Glory being the lead.

Afrimat Hartebees visit

I know Justin Hudson from my Afrimat days and Marie-Louis from Rietspruit Crusher days. Marie invited me to see what Justin have accomplished in the time he spent at Hartebees. This is also a very small operation and project based, which also means very little income.



The traffic management starts separating vehicles from the second turn off the Provincial Road. Signs visible to indicate where visitors should go.

Parking areas demarcated with cut and painted conveyor belts for visibility and immediately a clean waste, scrap and screen storage area visible.



Nomsa is still there making the best coffee, I suspect she invented M&B and Seattle recipes and perfected it.

The pit is taking on great shape with a very difficult geology. The traffic flow in the pit is done very simple with rocks indicating entry and exit with areas closed off that should not be accessed.



They are busy with a vegetable garden, to many this sounds like a waste, but the employees will benefit from it. It is tough times out there and every little extra you can do for the employees goes a far way for them. I am looking forward to the possible water project with the community.

ASPASA Engineering meeting and Multotec tour

Multotec hosted the ASPASA Engineering forum. We covered the following topics:

- Fire prevention by Merc Llewellyn Nel Centa Mercfire
Lithium batteries are utilised everywhere, and the current firefighting units are for small cell phone size batteries. Have you evaluated the amount of lithium batteries in your work area and where they are installed and what controls you have in place to protect the rest of your operation from harm.
- Conveyor belt Safety Nhlanhla Magagula from Drift Super Sand
Industry had one conveyor belt fatality in this year and a few electrical lockout fatalities. Nhlanhla highlighted all the safety devices and lockout rules for industry members to safety guard against incidents and accidents.



- Real Time Monitoring Morne Strauss NOHS Consulting:

The methods of conducting Occupational Hygiene measurements and RTM are not aligned. In surface operation the mine would need multiple units across the working area and probably on individuals.

The data from these units will be massive and resource to analyse and action accordingly will be challenging for small role players. Industry is not ready for these units in skill sets, equipment tested in the various environments and locally vs internationally supplied. Calibration processes are expensive, and equipment must be sent to the manufacturer for calibration.

The benefit is that you will have real time information. It can differentiate between PM2.5 and PM10 particles but not other factors of extern influence from neighboring operations or access roads.

Mines are urged to get historic data of the past 5 years, review risk assessments and control measures. Identify over-exposures and alter control measures to ensure low exposure levels.

We will engage further with suppliers and test the equipment at a small mine.

Pieter Uys took the team through for a tour of the new screening media factory. A very clean operation with latest technology equipment to support manufacturing processes. While walking through the factory one can feel the pride in this South African manufactured products.



Ministerial Stakeholder engagement

ASPASA attended the Ministerial Stakeholder Engagement session on 29 August 2025. Minister Gwede Mantashe covered three topics only: Illegal mining, Transformation and Critical /minerals.



Under illegal mining ASPASA highlighted the fact that the focus is on Zama Zamas but the biggest enemy of small surface mines is illegal sand mining. We also highlighted the fact that stringent regulatory frame works and expensive to implement and maintain is the biggest culprit for illegal sand mining. Adding on top of that Royalty Tax that was actually implemented for those exporting products and not for local supply.

We extract the mineral to beneficiate the Governmental projects such as roads, construction and rail development and maintenance.

The MPRDA covers Artisanal and Small-Scale mining but the regulatory frame works still do not support SMME or local investment theories.

The mining industry transformation has been good, but Government wants to see more ownership of mines and not just partnerships. And again, we urge the legislator to look at legal frameworks to support this process. Local investment is scarce and prospecting rights; mining rights and licences are high input processes with zero income for around 3 to 5 years depending on the process. Add to that the disconnect of DMPR and DWA with issuing of water use licences or even general authorisations.



Critical minerals in rare earths have a massive opportunity for small surface mines. Our strength is surface extraction of a mineral. We can do this quick and at low cost, we can extract and supply processing plants or even export the materials. Owners of small surface mines must spend time looking at the critical mineral list and consider prospecting rights in these areas.

The event was organised very well, but we hope to engage in more depth on each of these critical topics. There was only time to address high level issues and not detailed.



ASPASA MANCOM



We would like to welcome Jacques Stokes from Afrimat being voted and nominated as ASPASA MANCOM member at our quarter 3 ASPASA MANCOM meeting held on 7 August 2025. We look forward to the contribution Jacques will make towards MANCOM and in industry.



We extend our sincere gratitude to Marcel Fynn for his many years of dedicated service and valuable contributions to ASPASA as a member of the MANCOM. Marcel's calm, direct approach and insightful input will be greatly missed.

The MANCOM highlighted during the safety and health share the conveyor belt fatality in industry and property damage reports that shows an increase at one industry member. With property damage one must analyse to determine if it includes TMM incidents on and off the mine area.

Finger injuries remain industries main reason for lost time and reportable injuries. The care of the wounds of any injury is critical and the mine should keep a close eye on the healing process.

Slipping and falling can cause serious consequences, the mines should focus on walking areas and keep it clear.

There has been one report of RMA injury where a surgeon did not want to treat an individual, we have assisted the mine with the detail of our RMA Key Accounts individual to assist. These should be reported through to ASPASA immediately as it occurs to rectify timeously.

We again highlighted the fact that ASPASA members represent WIM in KZN, WC and Gauteng. Thank you to the Ladies for their time, this is a voluntary position over and above normal work to be performed.

The Finances are still in a positive and all levies are ploughed back into industry with the various meetings scheduled. Budgeting for 2026 will commence during October 2025.

The Royalty Tax Case has progressed to Supreme Court, we have submitted all relevant documentation for the court date.

We have also invoiced members for the first phase of Supreme Court to try and block SARS from the appeal to Supreme Court. We will start engaging National Treasury in this regard.

Health and Safety focus areas should include but not limited to:

△ ISHE (Full year feedback)

- 57 Audits (5 Showplaces) (1 Cancellation)
- Average 7% - 11% reduction in scores
- Customer trucks:
- Expired licences
- No PdP
- International drivers no work permit or valid Driver's licence
- Occupational Hygiene:
- OEL
- Risk Assessments
- Real Time Monitoring – what is it and why
- Lockout consistency following the process from beginning to end
- Repeat findings from previous year to new audit year

△ Health

- Contractor management
- Noise X offering % discount for ASPASA members
- Drift Super Sand shared a TB incident and the increase in the disease with the management process. They will share their procedure with industry.

△ Explosives

- Explosives Act 2003 – 2024 Track and Trace (DEL, SAPS, Manufacturers) – no date of gazette yet
- 23 July 2025 – AIR BLAST ;FLY ROCK; VIRATION COP
- MRAC approved for Board approval
- 29 July 2025 MHSC Board meeting
- Drive Gazetting
- Emulsion storage (UN3375 storage facilities)
- “Stemming” “Temping”
- Incident reporting and SAPS CIE involvement
- Sleep over of explosives emulsion trucks – where to the truck stay over and is it part of your CTP? Transfers to other companies and change in holding company CTPs etc

△ Environmental Compliance Audits (Full year feedback)

- 46 Audits (18 online and 10 physical showplaces)(1 Cancellation)
- Average 2% - 3% reduction in scores
- EMPR Knowledge
- Environmental Policy knowledge
- Incident investigation
- Community encroachment – no realisation of impact
- Upswing in commitment in compliance
- Initiatives
- NCPC synergies

We should share the positive initiatives found in the audits with all members

△ Technical

We will now engage Ronnie Koen on COTO/COLTO comments and SABITA on the SANS 1083 comments to align with the rest of industry.

The online Technical training we are trialling do have some bandwidth issues with the videos. This is the only negative feedback received so far.

△ Legislation

The main focus was on the MPRDA and managing to reach the comments submission date of 13 August 2025.

AARTO timelines

The President has signed Proclamations 272, 273, and 274 of 2025, published in the Government Gazette 53099 on 01 August 2025, implementing the phased national rollout of AARTO on the following dates:

PHASE 2 - 01 December 2025: AARTO Rollout to 69 Metropolitan and Local Municipal Areas.

PHASE 3 - 01 April 2026: AARTO Rollout to the remaining 144 Local Municipal Areas.

PHASE 4 - 01 September 2026: Implementation of the Points Demerit System (PDS) and the Rehabilitation Programme.

△ Engineering topics of focus

- Real time monitoring
- Fire prevention
- Person locator systems
- Explosives track and trace
- Tyre safety
- Conveyor belt safety
- Screens

We were hosted by Multotec for the 3rd Quarter meeting with a screening media tour.

△ Women in mining

One of our members are utilising LYRA, ASPASA will investigate their services as a possible EAP Programme.

The 2nd meeting in August was a success due to positive impact share from Rossmin mine, Zama WIM Chairperson and Minerals Council of South Africa with the updated Strategy for 2025 – 2027.

△ Claybrick, ASPASA, SADPO (CAS)

We meet at regular intervals with the Claybrick Association and South African Diamond Association as we share mutual challenges.

One area we are looking at is creating synergies with regards to Social and Labour Plans among each other where viable and with the larger mines under the Minerals Council of South Africa to have more impactful projects in our communities.

This will not happen overnight and plenty of engagement will have to take place between mines, communities and DMPR. What we need is a platform to share in which areas we operate and what opportunities do exist, and we will play a vital role in creating such a platform with stakeholders.

Economic pressures are our worst enemy currently as tenders and projects did not come out as anticipated in all areas.

GEE Minerals Council of South Africa

We are looking for a mine to participate in the research headed up by Minerals Council of South Africa on silica. We need a high silica mine preferably in Gauteng area for this purpose.

Milestone reporting is still at the forefront of the focus areas and part of our ISHE audit protocol.

CM&EE Minerals Council of South Africa

A mine presented an incident that involved technology and in the integration of different technologies. The addition of a technology to existing technology cause the failure of one. It is critical to do proper change management in such an event and test for interference or disruptions between the various technologies.

This is an emerging risk that must be considered in future.

Ukhozi RTF

The Employer, State and Organised labour had an informative day together with the following outcomes:

- The small surface mine industry must share case studies on noise and dust reduction through the MOSH Noise and Dust working group
- Men's health is no longer a hush hush subject it is a reality
- Fire prevention focus must start at the boundary with fire breaks and fire prevention methods
- TMM will remain a focus area with traffic management the key risk reduction method and where not sufficient technology must be investigated
- Tyre safety is a forgotten high-risk activity that needs attention
- Ukhozi RTF new Chairperson is Ntombi Gwebu, Deputy Chris Smith UASA, Deputy Bareng Mngomezulu.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 16th Discussion of the Greenhouse Gas Carbon Budget & Mitigation Plan Regs Virtual

Please contact office@aspasa.co.za for more information

SEPTEMBER 17th Technical Meeting Virtual

Please contact office@aspasa.co.za for more information

SEPTEMBER 19th Social Compliance Virtual

Venue: Virtual Only

Please contact office@aspasa.co.za for more information

SEPTEMBER 23rd Waste Stream Management Meeting Virtual

Please contact office@aspasa.co.za for more information

Your mental health is a
priority. Your happiness is
an essential. Your
self-care is a necessity.



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Liaising with Government and Industry bodies, to be the voice for small scale mining. Support small scale mines with relevant information and legal updates. Supporting the supply chain of small-scale mining by meetings, introductions to members and logo/brand visibility.

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