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ASPASA
Small surface mine association

NEWSLETTER



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2026

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FROM THE ASPASA DIRECTOR'S PEN

Dwyka Mining Services

Hosting ASPASA combined meeting Q1,
Tuesday, 24 February 2026



MQA



Funded learning programmes workplace
approval

I have always admired the robot dog from a distance at the Electra Mining Exhibition. Thanks to Eugene Preis from ERG, I was introduced to Jamie Schoor, the CEO Dwyka Mining Services.

We had a brief online meeting to understand the services of Dwyka and I am very excited about their Lab development hub. Not to mention super excited to be exposed to all the technologies related to mining.

Dwyka will host ASPASA's first Combined meeting of 24 February 2026. You must attend in person to enjoy and learn about the various technologies and solutions and access to these wonders of the world.

Most importantly to get our young people's skill sets ready or upgraded. For more information please contact: office@aspasa.co.za

Letisha van den Berg

ASPASA Director



ASPASA
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ASPASA had a meeting with MQA because some training providers lose their accreditation and arrange MOU with another Supplier. The rules of MQA are clear.

The company with the accreditation is the company that must perform the training, load the training on the system and issue the certificates. The facilitators conducting the training must also be from the accredited service provider.

It is critical for the mine to check accreditation of the service provider and the facilitators linked to the service provider.

MQA requested that we invite all members to a session explaining the need to register the Quarry as a workplace for skills development training. They did have an initial session and committed to support ASPASA members to register their workplaces. Applications must be in by end of March 2026.

It is important to note that contractors can now also do learnerships with MQA at your mine, but they must finish the 5-year contract at one mine.

Technical

We added the Eskom yard grading specifications to the list of action items and the inclusion of this in SANS1083. All parts of SANS 1083 are now ready for SANS committee. The COTO/COLTO is a working document as we receive input from members, a session with Ronnie Koen must be set up to finalise the comments for the working group.

There is nothing published under SANS 3001 that is relevant to industry currently. C01 was published and C02 is out for comments.

The next RPF is set for 20 April 2026.

Smectite in the KZN area is being investigated and an information session will be arranged once we have all the information. We will also schedule again for 2026 COTO/COLTO training on Chapter 4 and 5, Chemical Stabilisation and Smectite the geology and the testing methods. We will invite outside participants too; members can invite their road engineers.

Technical Quality Smectite

Testing for smectite is not a straightforward process and what you request when you ask for XRD testing to be done is critical. ASPASA will soon have a training session on this particular topic.



Social Compliance

The MPRDA comments and acceptance by DMPR of the comments is our biggest win for industry in 2025. We just need to see the final Bill to determine the detail of the inclusion of the comments.

The feedback on the use of the new Cadastre system is positive so far.

The DMPR Economics Audit checklist is complete and was circulated to members. At the next meeting we will share challenges identified during these audits. Inspections did increase in the last part of the year, and the one challenge is the different interpretations of the SLP requirements. Housing is becoming a concern again with DMPR enforcing a blanket approach with large and small mines.

The Housing Gazette 11 December 2019 was shared again with members as refresher.

It was recommended ASPASA develop an interpretation spreadsheet with the headings Item, Interpretation, and law reference as guidance document.

Enterprise and Supply Chain development is another pain point that need further clarity.



Junior Exploration Leadership Forum

The items highlighted at this forum is the overlapping and competing rights. We are all excited about the Cadastre system, but will it prevent this from happening?

The DMPR still allows for walk in assistance and this is a massive concern as this is how fraudulent situation occurred in the first place. It will be good to see the old data verified before loaded onto the new system, a few members did get contacted by DMPR to verify old rights.

Dr Manie Kriel gave an overview of the research done related to small scale mining an illegal mining activities came up as a massive challenge. The other issue is related to exploration and the DMPR Cadastre system.



Gottschalk Attorneys

We had one webinar from Gottschalk Attorneys last year and they want to continue their journey with ASPASA.

We are planning webinars on the following topics for 2026:

- Dismissal code
- Pregnancy in the workplace
- Maternity leave
- Cannabis
- Construction Regulations



We look forward to these important aspects and how to manage it.

If you need telephonic assistance, they are willing to take your call.

Comodex Mentor

Tanya Graham and I had a catch up early in January 2026 to determine the needs of the young mining students. We are looking for mines to host students for holiday work. Practical exposure in the workplace is a massive challenge, and we can close this gap. Any mines willing to assist must please contact ASPASA.



MPI

My journey with MPI started in 2017, way before the ASPASA role and every now and then we catch up on where the developments are on collision avoidance and what is new.



The technology has come a long way with rigid testing and specifications which evolve almost daily. This is a new phenomenon industry must get their heads around.

The basic mining equipment do not stay the same for 50 years anymore, everything is moving towards some sort of data set with algorithms and AI which constantly learns and updates. The look of the machine may stay the same, but the brain constantly evolves. How do we stay ahead and manage this risk? How do we stay ahead and manage the risk, by staying close to your supply chain and evolve with the equipment. Learn with the equipment evolvment.



MHSC Board

Mines to focus on the first period of the year to reduce fatalities and injuries. Health must be top priority with mental health support. Zero harm is no longer prevention of injury only, it is a holistic approach to overall wellbeing.

Roodepoort Crushers

ASPASA went up North to visit Roodepoort Crushers. We spent the day together discussing the focus areas:

- Health
 - NIHL prevention
 - TB
 - Dust exposure
 - Non communicable disease NCD management
- Occupational Hygiene quality and reporting
- Women in mining
 - The inclusion of men on the platforms
 - GBVF creating synergies with Wearn next door and other industries
 - NGO assist with training teams on GBVF management
- Road and Rail COP
 - Most mines already do the bulk of the requirements it is just to put it in words, record what you are currently doing
- Change Management COP
 - Include this in the daily Production meeting
 - Keep the process simple
- MHSA Chapter 2
 - The working committee is still finalising the comments
 - No new developments, the GCC 2500kW remains and no increase to 5000kW
 - We tested the new risk-based approach to determine the relevance to our industry and it worked well. A few other members are completing it to check various sizes and different commodity-based mines
- SHE System – ASPASA is in the process of developing a generic system to support small role players. Roodepoort Crushers offered their support in this matter with information.
- SLP projects and the time it takes to approve the projects is a huge stumbling block in all regions. ASPASA will make work of this challenge in 2026

- Royalty tax and Diesel Rebate calculations remain top priority
- Section 54 stoppages and the costs of administrative findings and not dangerous life-threatening situations. DMPR should not be feared but currently there is fear rather than collaboration
- Small mines just want to be seen for the positive impact they are making and recognised as employment creators and creating safe workspaces.
- Complex law should be simplified

Never underestimate small scale mining, this mine's innovation is next level. Living circular economy in their day-to-day operations.

Not some nice to have on paper and the beneficiation from this drive is massive.

A very neat and simplistic operation, yet clever innovative!!



Trichard Crushers

Visiting this quarry took me back to my humble starting days in 1998 at a small Quarry in Newcastle. It is great to see the young engineers coming into industry and aiming for GCC qualifications.

Our biggest stumbling block remains access to underground mines to get the full experience and exposure for our GCC candidates.

The starting process of the GCC journey is not an easy one and to get the candidates exam ready. ASPASA will work close with networks and the DMPR to improve this process.



ASPASA updated the mine on the MHSC milestones, Minerals Council of South Africa, NIXT, EXMS, Learning matters Barry Pearce roles within ASPASA. I flooded Neil with so much information and network opportunities.

We will not let him drown, we are just a call away for further assistance and he took me up on that offer. A quick appointment organogram session refreshed me on the structure and see how the new draft regulations will fit into the appointment letters. The lab upgrade is excellent to see, product quality control is one of the best cost saving measures. A small operation rich with history and full of passion for quarrying and related industries.



Junior Mining Indaba



ASPASA was approached by the organisers of the Junior Mining Indaba hosted in JHB every year to give input on the critical matters influencing small surface mines. We gave them the following input:

1. Legislative burden on artisanal and small-scale mining pushing investment away
2. Illegal mining not Zama Zama's but Diggers of sand, aggregates, chrome etc and no statistics available to determine the magnitude of the challenge
3. Royalty Tax – SARS vs ASPASA Bulk and selling point dispute
4. Diesel rebate – multi tasking and records kept of activities
5. WULA – blanket approach toxic vs nontoxic mines, slow responses and approvals
6. MHSA risk-based approach on enforcement failing small surface mines at massive costs beyond reasonable practicable
7. Rare earth opportunity – our strength is extraction on surface at lowest cost possible
8. Economic situation, commodity price not linked to \$ it is Rand for Rand and the commodity average selling price at R164/ton
9. There is no reward for mining a commodity for infrastructure repair only penalties in taxes. Yet our commodity is the main items needed to build and maintain new infrastructure
10. Technology and the cost of technology and cloud licence fees

Occupational Health Handbook

ASPASA had the opportunity to give input on the MHSC Occupational Health Handbook.

I can recall the previous edition and reading the new version excited me, it will be a brilliant gift for any mining individual.



GAIN



The Global Aggregates Information Network met online on 21 January 2026. The annual conference will be in China this year. ASPASA aims to attend every year, hopefully we can make it to this great event.



Afrimat MARBLE HALL visit



I had a quick visit with Willem Hattingh and Katlego the Quarry Manager. Great to see the youngsters developing to take up the role of Manager.



AND LASTLY...



Please remember the IQSA Registration Early Bird pricing will end on the 27th February, kindly forward your completed registration forms to: iqsa@global.co.za

ASPASA wishes you a productive, safe and healthy year ahead.

For any queries or suggestions please contact office@aspasa.co.za



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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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