



ENVIRONMENTAL



HEALTH
& SAFETY



CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



ASPASA
Small surface mine association

NEWSLETTER



**FEBRUARY
2026**

www.aspasa.co.za

FROM THE ASPASA DIRECTOR'S PEN

GBFV Synergies

Small mines do not have all the resources in the form of man/ woman power or finance to make big impacts and implement the new GBFV Guidance note fully.

What we do know is that when small entities stand together big things can happen. Just look at the ant colonies as an example.

We are creating a GBFV and Mental health synergy hub in the Vaal area. Initially we invited with Afrimat, Claybrick Association, Ocon and Aquerellia. Afrimat and Ocon Bricks attended and we shared resources utilised in the area:

- Thuthuzela Care Centre Tel (016 428 5959 TMoemise@npa.gov.za)
- Alpha Trauma Centre (Contact person is Makie, 073 460 3333)
- Martin Counselling – for men only (Contact number is 081 430 4445)

At the second meeting we included Afrisam, Gauteng WIM Chair and Deputy Chairperson, Minerals Council of South Africa and MHSC. We hope to include Sasol and Seritti in our upcoming meeting.

Lelisha van den Berg

ASPASA Director



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The idea is to create a constant support for the NGO's in the area to ensure the communities have resource in the event of domestic violence, GBVF or Mental Health issues. Alpha is connected to all the Police Stations in the area. We can all donate male, female, and children care packs for the NGO through out the year and not wait for 16 Days Activist against gender-based violence. We will duplicate this process in all other regions. Any mine who wants to be part of this must please contact us. ASPASA and non ASPASA members, this challenge is too large to fix by one entity, it needs villages to make a meaningful impact.



Turning Victims into Survivors



alpha community
trauma centre

**MARTIN
COUNSELLING**

Minerals Council of South Africa Legal

ASPASA is a member of the Minerals Council of South Africa, and we attend sessions to stay up to date with various aspects under the service areas of the Council.

One such session is the legal policy committee. The latest court case of maternity leave should make you sit up and review your own procedures and policies.

<https://www.concourt.org.za/index.php/judgement/617-a-werner-van-wyk-and-others-v-minister-of-employment-and-labour-b-commission-for-gender-equality-and-another-v-minister-of-employment-and-labour-and-others>



ASPASA Board

The ASPASA 2026 Strategy, Policies, Budget, Audit protocols, Royalty Tax process, was approved and ready for ratification at the April' AGM. The replacement of one MANCOM member due to Marcel Fynn going on pension will be ratified. We welcomed Jacques Stokes to the team during 2025.

IQSA Board

The main drive will be to improve the value add from IQSA on young professional development. The two Conferences remain an excellent networking platform bringing together industry, suppliers and at times the legislators.

We hope to see you all at the 16&17 April and October Conference.



GGDA

Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA) Refilwe Matebesi - Investment Development Manager introduced themselves to ASPASA.

South Africa wants to increase investment in the various regions and find reasons why investors are not investing.

We hope to set up a breakfast with GGDA to cover these aspects. We were also given details of KZN and Northwest to engage with.



GAUTENG GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



**INSTITUTE OF QUARRYING
Southern Africa**



**INSTITUTE OF QUARRYING
Southern Africa**

55th AGM CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

16 & 17 APRIL 2026

In conjunction with ASPASA

The conference will take place at the Elangeni Hotel in Durban on the 16 & 17 April 2026.

Registrations will close on the **3rd April 2026**.

For more information please contact: Terry Pop
iqsa@global.co.za



SACMA

I am also a SACMA member and try to attend their sessions. The last session was brilliant with an incident share on how traffic management can prevent unwanted events between TMM.

Keep on enhancing and improving your traffic management processes and perform planned task observations. It really works!



MHSC

The items driven through MHSC currently is the COP on Emergency preparedness, COP TMM, COP Geotechnical for surface mines, MHSA Chapter 2 and Chapter 8, SAMRAS Code book.

We have good representation on these various working groups to influence the process positively.



CASA

Construction Alliance South Africa

The bulk of our members supply construction materials to the construction sector for infrastructure projects. We keep a close eye on developments in the construction sector through CASA as challenges that faces them affects us directly.

The current items in the limelight is the latest Sa Construction Industry Master plan and the new National Building Standards. We also shared the CESA Infrastructure Indaba 2026



Maxima Silica

ASPASA visited Clive and the team in Northwest Rustenburg area to understand the challenges and opportunities. It felt like going home to Newcastle at our little Quarry with 9 people.

The difference is that this mine inherited very bad mine planning but already made a huge positive impact on the difficult pit. I am looking forward to my next visit to see progress.



As we know resources are limited but they use what they have to ensure safety measures are in place.

The product is also challenging in the form of fine dust from crushing and screening process.

They partially enclosed most of the areas with corrugated iron and old drums which do assist in dust management.



Matutu

I also visited Matutu which is a 45-minute drive from Maxima Silica. This is an even smaller operation with free digging and the commodity Attapulgit. For interest's sake I add what attapulgit clay is:

Attapulgit (palygorskite) is a natural, hydrated magnesium aluminum silicate clay mineral with a unique needle-like structure, high porosity, and strong colloidal properties. It is widely used for its exceptional absorbent, thickening, and stabilizing capabilities in saltwater drilling muds, cat litter, liquid fertilizers, paints, and as an anti-diarrheal pharmaceutical agent.



It was great to meet Sabata at the mine which I met previously at OMV. This mine free digs the clay and back fill similarly to coal mining. The usable volume is very low, and concurrent rehabilitation is real and visible. We hope to see the expansion to the plant soon.



Marlin Minaco

ASPASA went to meet Lilanie Van Wyk the Finestone Compliance Manager.



Grantie mining process flow is very different to any other commodity. Diamond cutting, loading and hauling, stock piling and sales truck – sounds simple but needs fine planning.



We discussed overall wellbeing of employees and culture change linked to their health and safety system. Traffic management remains a main focus area when we visit our members mines. It remains our number one risk reduction measure to prevent unwanted collisions. We also tested the new MQA risk-based process with the mines we visited during 2026. So far it is clear the risk rating suits our size of mine.



B&E International Howard Quarry

Now that I work for ASPASA I realise how close some quarries are to each other and how close they are to our large mining Brothers and Sisters. Which confirms that creating synergies on GBVF, Health, Emergency & Fire and other services is possible to reduce cost and enhance service delivery.



As we all know in the small surface mine environment, I did interrupt their preparation day for ESG.

Another confirmation that as a small mine manager you juggle multiple balls and need to attend to all equally with the limited resources.



I am very excited about the lab upgrade, I will keep to my song I sing when it comes to laboratories and safety. Safety must adopt the Technical Quality culture.

I have never ever in all my years in Quarrying since 1998 found an untidy lab or disorganised documents. No matter if it is in a container, outside under a car port or a concrete building.



This is the basic fundamental of any safety or environmental culture. Get this right and the rest falls into place.



Department of Public Works and Infrastructure DPWI Ministerial engagement



ASPASA attended the ministerial engagement on the South African Construction Industry Master plan through CASA.

We hope to get the draft document soon to share with members. The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure is behind Infrastructure spent; we just need to see it become reality in all regions.

ASPASA Combined meeting

Huge thank you to Dwyka Mining Services for hosting us. Excellent technology on stockpile, truck loads volumes and drone solutions. Anthony Bowen presented on the practical application of environmental laws.



JP from Ljumege assisted on what a fire risk assessment should include and why a 5x5 is not sufficient. Also giving practical fire prevention solutions for small mines that can be equivalent to a mine rescue service level but at small mine fire risk prevention solutions. Vertice presented their national footprint of overall wellbeing mobile units inclusive of Occupational Health services.



ASPASA supports services that can assist in creating cost effective solutions to include communities in health management. There are definitely ways small mines can get involved through services with existing footprint with DOH.



Regional Tripartite Forum Northwest Rustenburg

The Principal Inspector opened his 2026 strategy with the following statement: We are not in business of mining but in the business of safety in mining. Zero harm remains the focus points.



He understands the resource constraints from small surface mines but request that mines do not hide behind poor risk assessments but focus on control measures that really reduces risk.



Traffic management is an accepted risk mitigating measure but should not be the only control measure. It must be the full control level 1 to 6 process. Person locator systems and real time monitoring systems is currently a focus area. Members to investigate the technologies and possible cost effectiveness and benefits.



Danoher



I met Danoher employees via email related to COTO / COLTO and then met Jacques Botha at their offices during February. I look forward to visiting their quarry in Freestate.

The offices already gave a sense of their culture, historically born in South African in 1972, with order and neatness in the workshop areas and public parking area.

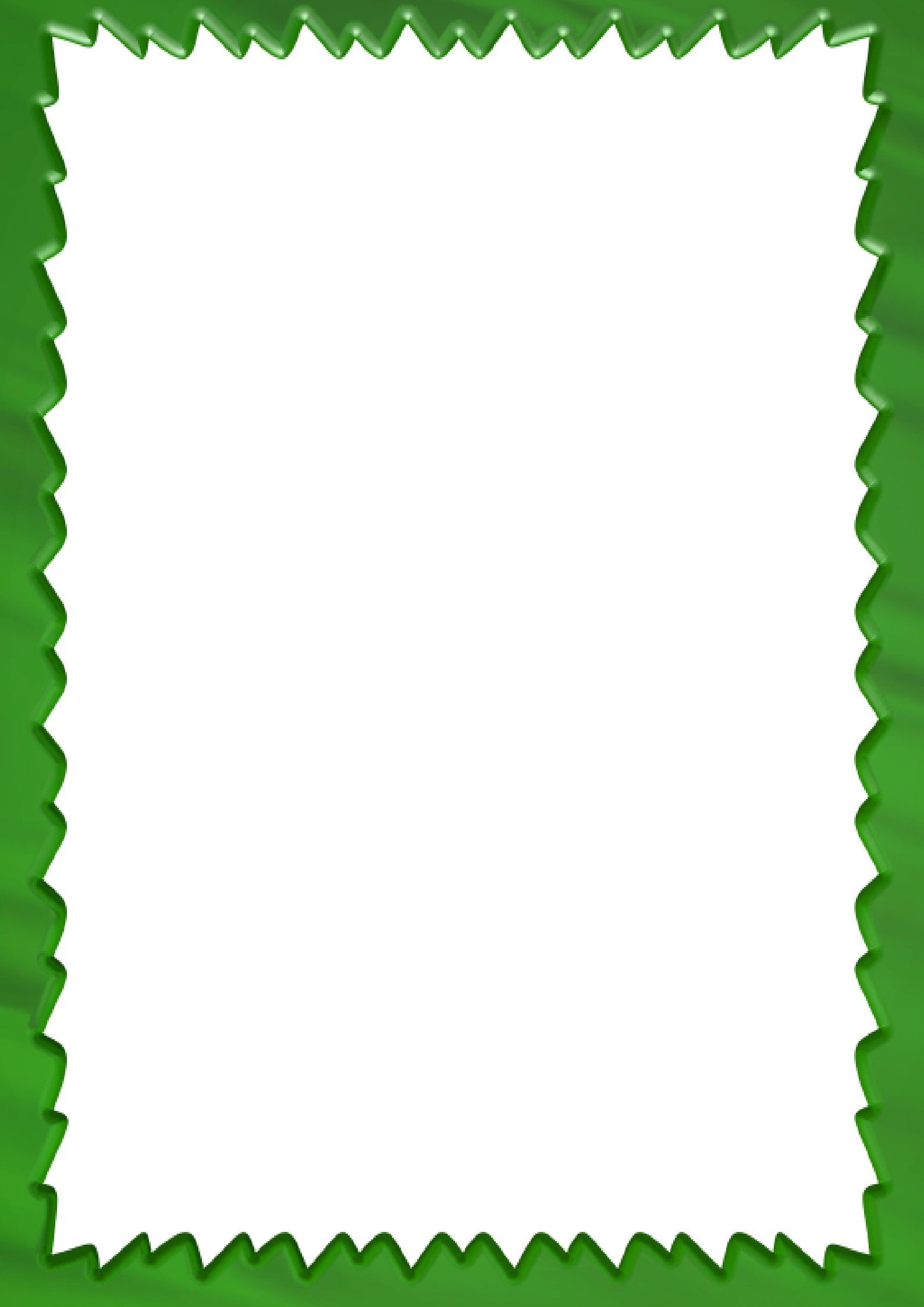


Overmind

ASPASA was introduced to Lex Goetz through Greg Heger to determine how we can form part of their technology.

It is a very exciting AI feature enhancing conversations through quick information sorting and support.

Although technology is expensive, we will engage to see if we can find a way to collaborate.



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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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