



ASPASA

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

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FROM THE ASPASA DIRECTOR'S PEN

Women's Day / Month 2025

A bit of history of why this important day is commemorated



National Women's Day (Zulu: Usuku Lwabesifazane), is a South African public holiday celebrated annually on 9 August.

The day commemorates the 1956 march of approximately 20,000 women to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to petition against the country's pass laws that required South Africans defined as "black" under The Population Registration Act to carry an internal passport, known as a passbook, that served to maintain population segregation, control urbanisation, and manage migrant labour during the apartheid era.

1956 Women's March

On 9 August 1956, more than 20,000 South African women of all races staged a march on the Union Buildings in protest against the proposed amendments to the Urban Areas Act of 1950, commonly referred to as the "pass laws". The women left 14,000 petitions at the office doors of prime minister. The women stood silently for 30 minutes and then started singing a protest song that was composed in honour of the occasion: *Wathint'Abafazi Wathint'imbokodo!* (Now you have touched the women, you have struck a rock.), which became the national phrase and represent women's courage and strength in South Africa.

Significance

Issues that are still significant, such as parenting, domestic violence, sexual harassment in the workplace, unequal pay, and schooling for all girls. It can be used as a day to fight for or protest these ideas.

Letisha van den Berg

ASPASA Director



MPRDA Summary

The ASPASA Social Compliance working group had various input sessions on the MPRDA Gazette. It consists of 283 pages, and we finished input to page 153 during July.

On first few, one might see many negatives but there are massive positives in the newly Gazetted MPRDA as well.

Herewith a summary (not exhaustive list) of where we see as potential negative impacts and some positives needing more clarity:

1. Artisanal mining
DMPR to define traditional and customary mining operations. Clarify or broaden the definition to include operations that use *basic or semi-mechanized tools* (like small crushers or compressors), especially in quarrying.
2. Illegal acts (Section 5A)
Strengthens the regulatory framework against illegal mining activities and clarifies the legal requirements.
3. Designation of certain areas for small-scale and artisanal mining
If only black persons (as defined under the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act) may be awarded small-scale mining permits and artisanal mining permits, this provision carries both transformative intentions and potentially discriminatory implications. Quarrying is small scale.
4. Section 11 transfers
Amendment gazetted.
5. Section 16 prospecting rights
Amendment gazetted. PR application does not need an empowerment partner.
6. Consultation with interested and affected people
Burden on the applicant and holder.
7. Inclusion of historical stockpile
MPRDA vs common law ownership
8. Closure certificate
Despite the issuing of the closure certificate, the holder or owner remains liable for any latent or residual environmental liability, pollution, ecological degradation, the pumping and treatment of extraneous water which may become known in the future.

This now imposes ongoing liability notwithstanding the issue of a closure certificate.

1. Section 100 – Transformation of industry (Mining Charter targets)

There is the insertion of a new Section 100(3) which provides that the Minister when granting applications in terms of Section 23 must impose the **provisions of the Housing and Living Conditions**. Quarries don't provide or build houses – financial implications on already low margins.

Final submission to DMPR is 13 August and we are working hard on getting the input done before then.

Minerals Council of South Africa - Group Environmental Engineers Committee

The Rock Engineers are shrinking rapidly in industry and small surface mines can play a vital role in adding Rock Engineers to the Social and Labour Development plans. Dani Viljoen also presented the SANIRE online programme to assist with training Rock Engineers.

The infield exposure will still take place, but the theory can easily be done online. I foresee this to be a great cost saving for smaller role players. One will never reduce the intensity and level of training required for such a critical role but if we can save costs, why not?



Occupational exposures (e.g. Dust and noise) will always be on the forefront of the industry and reporting on the MHSC Milestones will give a great baseline to work from for small surface mines and the commodities we mine. Reporting will ensure “dead” data sitting with your Occupational Hygienist and in your Occupational Hygiene file in the system becomes alive and industry can learn from each other in managing dust and noise levels.

Overexposures cause health problems over long periods of time. We need to prevent harm at all cost and data will assist us in managing the risk better. Occupational health of employees and contractors is of equal importance than the safety of our employees. The HIV TB, Chronic illness management and Mental health milestones are there to assist us in driving proactive health programmes instead of reactive. And similarly to the Occupational Hygiene exposure details the health information can assist us in preventing harm. Please start reporting on these milestones to create an ASPASA membership database on the MHSC or Health Source portals.

Illegal Sand Mining



We have seen an increase in illegal mining activities in Eastern Cape, KZN, Northern Cape and Gauteng regions. The reporting platforms is not assisting us, not from DMPR or SAPS perspective. When I tried getting statistics on illegal mining activities reported, we could find non from SAPS or DMPR or even Minerals Council of South Africa. ASPASA has a small database of what has been reported to us.

If we do not have statistics, how can anyone know the negative impact on South African's economy. As industry we are very worried about the health and safety of those workers on illegal mines and the communities surrounding them.

There are strict legal requirements in place for a legal mine to protect their own employees, contractors, and communities. Also, social support in the various communities. What does an illegal sand mine bring to the area, **only individual beneficiation** – this must be stopped.

This is excluding the negative environmental impact cause by illegal miners, with no Environmental management programme, water use licence/general authorisation or financial provisions.

DMPR needs to confirm that the entity is indeed illegal, SAPS must assist in closing the gates of these culprits. We are being sent backwards and forwards between these two Governmental entities.

We cannot win the battle this way. We need commitment from both entities to resolve the matter.

Minerals Council of South Africa - Innovation Team

The small surface mining industry must realise the drive towards data and data collection but more so the analysis of the data. Do we have the equipment to capture data? Do we have the skill to interpret the data? Do we have the skill to maintain the equipment? It is important to manage resource first then introduce technology otherwise it can become a very expensive "white elephant" or grudge purchase. Technology is an enabler that create possibilities if implemented for the right reasons and the right solutions.

We must acknowledge that the way the young generation is learning is much different than the old conventional ways, how is your training programmes evolving to suit the new generation?

There is massive cost savings in introducing technology in all areas and creating better integration of processes. But only if it was investigated thoroughly with excellent change management processes followed. Pulling all stakeholders together towards the goal of improvement and enhancement. Technology and the drive towards it must be part of your business strategy to make it meaningful.

MRAC

The MRAC is currently working on MHSA Chapter 2 Responsibilities, Chapter 8 Conveyor belts, Chapter 14 Surface protection, Chapter 17 Surveying, Chapter 23 SIMRAC forms.

We did give input on all the items with exception of SIMRAC forms, we did not see any concerns that would affect small surface mines in the new forms.

We did raise the issue of too many regulations and COPs Gazetted at a time causing strain on limited resources at small operations. Quarries should also ask extension on these deadlines to ensure processes are done thoroughly.

MOSAC

The MOSAC team is currently working on the TMM COP and Guideline to Mitigate Geotechnical Risk. We did give input int both and busy finalising the TMM COP 8.2.1 (different braking mechanisms), 8.2.3.1 (Brake test methods to standards) and 8.6.1.1 (SANS standards and engineering designs)

Association Leadership Forum

Dust and noise

The milestone reporting was again highlighted in the session to ensure we have a voice in the statistics. We also need the statistics to see how well we are doing as an industry as we put so much effort in dust suppression and noise management. But we have no indication of how well our preventative measures works. We need to tell this positive story, because it is more positive than the outliers.

MPRDA

The Minerals Council of South Africa gave us a detailed run down on the process followed with the MPRDA. The main challenge even for ASPASA members is that there is the Act but no Regulations to gauge the detail of what the Act requires.

QCTO

We have mentioned the Regulation 16 training requirement for mines to do training through Mine Rescue Services and the challenges around this. The industry is concerned that legislators are becoming to prescriptive on training solutions.

ASPASA also raised the issue of illegal minging and the lack of statistics and no one knowing the real negative impact on the South African economy.

SLP and GBVF Synergies

We again highlighted the need to create synergies between small and large role players in creating value add projects in the communities. It is also now a strategy within the Minerals Council of South Africa WIM platform. ASPASA will also keep on looking for opportunities to support the synergies.

Missing person locator system

ASPASA request that the risk-based approach is required in the technology as well, otherwise we will end up on the same path as Collision Prevention Systems.

MHSC Board

The main message from the CloM as the Chairperson of the MHSC Board is that we have to re-focus on our strategy to combat the increase in injuries and fatalities.

It is commendable that the Other commodity is still on zero fatalities but we should not relax but rather heighten the focus and increase planned task observations, perform mini risk assessments before tasks and step back in high production times to ensure safety measure are still in place.

Explosives Workshop

We must thank ERG Industrial for the excellent workshop they hosted for industry.

We had brilliant speakers:



Jennifer Van Der Walt
ERG Industrial Mandatory Code of Practice for Minimum Standards on Ground Vibrations, Noise, Airblast and Flyrock near surface structures and communities to be protected.



Explosives Workshop

Andries Ferreira MAXAM Variable Density Charging and other Technologies towards Improved Blasting accuracy.

Reinhardt Steyn ERG Industrial on behalf of O-Pitblast Product Solutions: SA Case studies.



Eugene Preis ERG Industrial
Blasting is Art- How can we consistently produce Masterpieces?

Ruan Els ERG Industrial The use of Veristem Stemming plugs, Machine learning and artificial intelligence to optimise blasting and reduce environmental impacts



Corrie Rautenbach EXMS The practical impact of Explosives Legislation on small surface mines, Col. Jurie Van Staden.

Panel discussion by Jennifer Van Der Walt, Andries Ferreira, Reinhardt Steyn, Eugene Preis, Corrie Rautenbach, Ruan Els, Col. Jurie Van Staden, Letisha van den Berg. The audience put explosives and blasting related questions in a container and the panel addressed the matters.



Drawbar

Looking for something different for your shirts, jackets, and other outfits.

Cell number: 073 625 1092
Email: info@drawbar.world

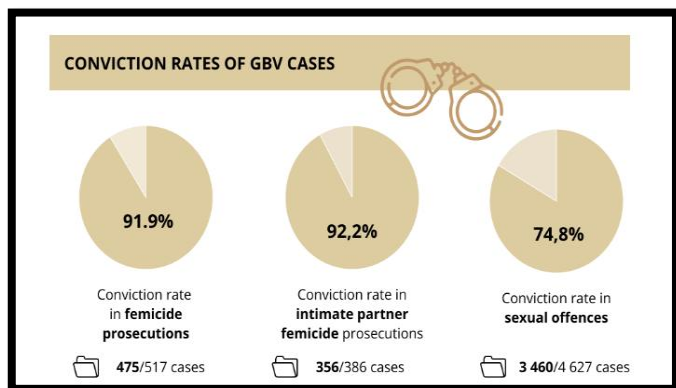


Women Empowerment Event MMP

Take a moment and answer these questions for yourself and determine a way forward from the outcome:

1. What is Gender Based Violence GBVF?
2. Do you know someone who has been involved in GBVF at work or home?
3. Do you have a GBVF strategy in place incorporated in your company overall strategy?
4. Do you have resources to manage reports of GBVF?
5. Do you have data available on GBVF cases?
6. Do you have a collaboration strategy in place?

Preventing GBVF is not the responsibility of one man or woman or one industry, it needs a National drive to eradicate it. **Change the strategy from a compliance must to a care deed.**



Call the 24-hour GBV helpline on **0800 428 428** if you or someone you know needs assistance. You can also SMS HELP to 31531.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AUGUST 12th ASPASA Combined Q3 Hybrid Meeting

Venue: MINTEK: 200 Malibongwe Drive, Praegville, Randburg. Please contact office@aspasa.co.za for more information

AUGUST 26th ASPASA Engineering Hybrid Meeting

Venue: MULTOTEC, 28 Forge Road, Spartan, Kempton Park Please contact office@aspasa.co.za for more information



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 Hybrid

Venue: Raizcorp: Centex Close, Sandton, 2196
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



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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

Accounts: Email - accounts@aspasa.co.za

Membership; Audits; Training; Quotes; Invoicing; Statements; Certificates; Audit reports from Auditors MSHA & OSHA Law books; flags; notebooks

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Technical & Quality - Guidance to ensure compliance.