



ASPASA

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

2025



www.aspasa.co.za



FROM THE ASPASA DIRECTOR'S PEN

Season's Greetings from ASPASA!

As the year draws to a close, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication throughout the year. Your hard work and commitment have been invaluable to us. Please be advised that **ASPASA will close for the festive season from 19 December 2025 and will reopen on 05 January 2026.**

During this period, the ASPASA Office will remain on standby and can be contacted should any urgent assistance be required. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year filled with success, happiness, and good health. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey—we truly appreciate you!

Letisha van den Berg

ASPASA Director



SARS Reform Diesel Rebate

SARS gave a brilliant high-level presentation on the new Diesel Rebate system and left ample time for questions.



This system is going to benefit smaller role players by removing it from the VAT system. Templates on the diesel rebate logbook will be available on the system, and you can ask permission from the Commissioner to use your own forms, but it must comply with the minimum of the SARS templates. All companies must register again on the new system from April 2026. We will keep members up to date with the information as and when we receive it.

Innovation Minerals Council South Africa

ASPASA included a positive audit score for Innovation towards health and safety initiatives. We are doing brilliant work in this regard but never share it across industry. It is time to show off our innovative minds, if there is one thing the Quarry industry can do perfectly, it is innovative thinking and doing. We will feed this into the innovation sessions of Minerals Council South Africa.



ASPASA Combined meeting

ASPASA focussed its meetings on the latest drives from the various legislators and in this meeting, we covered a wide range of topics. Noise induced hearing loss must be prevented through hearing conservation programmes and engineering controls but in many instances, we do need hearing protection as last resort. NoiseX design and maintenance of the noise clippers provide excellent protection but still allow a person to hear conversations or other alarms. NoiseX also gives ASPASA members a 5% discount on their purchase of the product.



The instruction from the legislator on real time monitoring is not ignored by the small role players in the quarry industry. We engaged with two suppliers already giving us a detailed run down on the units available, what it can and cannot do. We are busy arranging that two mines do a trial run for ASPASA members to determine the positives and negatives of such technology.

We will drive the need for entry level technologies that are affordable for small businesses. We cannot impose a technology on a quarry with limited income and already depleting profit margins. This is not the reasonably practicable solution to keep our industry members healthy and safe.

We support the overall well-being of our members inclusive of social well-being, having a job, maintaining safety devices for health and safety benefits. Which may or may not include technology.

Therefore, we also engaged with Old Mutual to assist with an overall wellness drive in our membership. They have brilliant tools to assist with finance planning on an easy-to-use app. Not everyone has a strong financial head and budgeting and planning is not offered in any school curriculum; one relies on how well your parents did or did not plan. We look forward to working closely with Old Mutual in educating our members and giving them resource to support all levels of employees.

Explosives and blasting in industry are a massive challenge, we must blast to extract the mineral. Blasting practices can be done safely and efficiently. In our ISHE Audits we only check legal paperwork on a high level but in the Explosives Audit Corrie digs deeper into the SAPS CIE processes and legalities. We want to ensure that if something goes wrong with any blast that the members are covered morally first and then legally. We never push a button to blast with the intention to hurt people. We push the button when it is safe, when all legal proceedings took place and the risks managed. We must make sure all legal documents are correct and in order.

WSP presented on the mine closure division of the company. This company has been established for years and operates in our small quarry industry. I for one learnt a lot from their special studies, water results and interpretation thereof. One cannot manage what you do not understand and WSP understands the environmental matters and they assist industry with information to also understand it. Mine Closure is a critical part of the life of mine process and planning for it from the start can save you many headaches and costs.



ASPASA Technology in use at small surface mines

ASPASA is not against the use of technology, but I want to stress again, the technology must bring the value of use vs the cost spent, and it must consider the resources available at the mine to manage the full implementation and maintenance thereof. Entry level technologies do not exist for small role players, we had to fight suppliers to just get an affordable level 7 collision prevention system, it did not exist back in 2017. The other fact is that licence fees for cloud-based technology systems are expensive, the more employees with licences the lower the cost. All Cloud based technology systems work on this basis.

This is simply not an affordable approach for the small role players.

At most two people will access the cloud platform and our data is way less than larger organisations, so why this skewed costing approach.

We utilise lighting detection units, PLCs, blasting technologies, facial recognition, automated water spray systems, automated tire inflation systems, mine planning programmes through the Surveyors and Rock Engineers.

Each one of these adds immense value and the information management is a dual role between the mine and the Consultants.

We simply cannot manage masses of daily data, we cannot maintain high complex technologies with the resource structures, we cannot install an item we cannot maintain ourselves. What we can do is implement risk reduction control measures to still keep our people safe, being in the operational areas, checking and supporting teams.

ASPASA will always drive the zero-harm process and when we engage with DMPR we agree on that the health and safety of our people are our main priority. We do not argue against the existence of the Mine Health and Safety Act or any other Act, we know that it was and still is written in blood and death.

What we do argue is the way the law is written and at times enforced. The entire law is based on a risk based and risk based should mean considering the size of mine, size of equipment, commodity mined, average cost of the commodity sold, extraction methods, people, shifts related to the people, electrical power rating and connected to this the consequences and likelihoods. At smaller mines the likelihoods are lower with control measures in place.

And this is where the difference is, the consequences of risks at any mine is severe and can be fatal and at times multiple fatalities, but the likelihood is massively different.

ASPASA will keep on driving a risk-based approach on how the law is written and how it is enforced. We will be engaging with all the Regional DMPR as per CloM request. I met with Western Cape Principal Inspector of mines during November.

The message was clear from Mr Kagiso Leseyane; prevention of harm is key and communication with the inspectorate is critical. Occupational Hygiene services, equipment maintenance, GCC power rating calculations, and technology was the few topics we touched on.

ASPASA will focus on these items during 2026.

ISHE and Environmental Compliance Audits

Members gave input on the review of the audit protocols, and it was agreed to add and change the following:

ISHE Audit protocol

Addition of the following new COPs:

- Prevention of fires
- Change management
- Road and rail

Addition of the following guidance notes:

- Non-Communicable diseases

Revised COPs and Regulations:

- Emergency Preparedness
- MHSA Regulation 16

DMPR focus areas during 2025:

- Conveyor belt safety devices
- Occupational Hygiene – noise and dust overexposures
- Occupational Medicine – non communicable, TB & HIV disease management, mental health
- Contractor management
- MHSC Milestone reporting and H&S Strategy inclusive of the milestones
- 500m Blasting and community engagements
- Fraudulent certificates and proof of vetting

Introducing a positive score for innovation that reduces the risk and enhance the health and safety of people

Introduce an award for 5, 10, 15, 20 years without LTI

Environmental audit protocol:

ASPASA identified the following changes for the Environmental Compliance Audit protocol:

Governmental drives:

- Governmental drive of reducing waste to landfill sites through NCPD
- ESG reporting
- Carbon footprint reduction
- Rehabilitation – concurrent and at mine closure
- Circular economy

Audit findings:

- Training and awareness
- Feldt fire training
- FPA membership or other
- Climate change: flooding, weather
- PTOs

Introduce a negative score for any item that triggers a NEMA and was addressed legally. A detailed discussion took place on the validity of EMPs and when it should be reviewed and what proof must be given.

SAACA Technical Talk



I attended the SAACA technical talk which covered the Ash based binder 10100-4111 Part 3, SANS presented on their processes and the working committees. Mark Hovey from CSSA is involved in the Concrete and Ash input. It just shows again we cannot do these SANS processes in isolation, I shared our input on SANS 1083 part 1 and 2 with CSSA as well. Looking forward to their input.



ASPASA and IQSA Board meetings

In both meetings we had hard conversations about value add, membership fees and possible strategies for 2026. Staying relevant is critical in both entities and driving the right agenda is the make or break. 2026 will focus on risk-based approach with data driven conversations and individual training with mentoring opportunities. Our service delivery areas are still very relevant but the execution of each need tweaking quantity over quality. Impactful events.

ASPASA wants to thank every member for the support during 2025 we could not win the battles we fought without your input and guidance.

Successes of 2025:

1. Fruitful focussed DMPR engagements
2. MPRDA comments and absorption of our comments
3. COTO/COLTO input and driving the challenging items through the technical committee input to the working group and the information for the Road Pavement Forums (G1 to G3, SANS 3001 inclusive of G4 issues) Barry Pearce have been nominated the Chair of the working group taking the issues forward
4. SANS 1083 Part 1,2,3,4 comment and engaging CSSA, SABITA and industry on the process
5. Ballast Transnet input and changes to the S401 and S410
6. Royalty Tax High Court case won with next step Supreme Court
7. Various inputs on COPs, Regulations and Guidance notes (we may not have won all the challenges here, but our voice is evident in all of them)
8. Economic statistics for our commodities

We look forward to focused work areas in 2026 to enhance our impact even further.



Total Energies



Networking is such a critical success factor in any person or organisation's life cycle. I made one phone call to a network who linked me up with Total Energies to assist us in a talk on the risks of utilising contaminated diesel and what to look out for in ordering, the delivery and use of "clean" diesel. Thank you to Total Energies Aubrey Choma Technical Fuel Support Manager and Isaac Khoza Mining Sales Manager for the presentation and offer to further educate our members on other topics.



Modenise-athon Minerals Council South Africa

ASPASA stays up to date with technologies and AI opportunities for small surface mines. We were invited to attend the Modenise-athon of Minerals Council South Africa, we may not have the resource for big research programmes on the various technologies but we do work towards small trials. As mentioned before, one such trial is on real time monitoring. We will learn and share our learning with Minerals Council South Africa similarly to the TMM Collision Prevention System trials.

CRTM Minerals Council of South Africa



ASPASA attended the CRTM session where the University of Northwest presented on real time monitoring. We learnt a lot from the presentation and agree that testing the equipment is critical. We hope to formalise our industry member trials on real time monitoring and present on this platform soon.

MOSH Traffic Management COPAs



I urge all members to keep on supporting the traffic management COPAs, every time a mine presents on their traffic management journey, I learn a new way to reduce traffic challenges in different areas. This is how you can stay up to date and continuously improve your own traffic management plan.

Vexrepairs and Redpro



I asked an Engineer, Diesel Mechanic and other experts to sit around a table and meet with Vexrepairs and Redpro to understand their technology on legacy equipment in relation to collision prevention systems level 9 slow down and stop.

The reality the technology still needs a collision prevention system linked to their unit, and this is where the complexities lie: OEM of EME, OEM of Redpro, OEM of CPS unit and the mine's operator and the mine itself.

We will engage further on this matter with various stakeholders.

Association Leadership Forum Minerals Council South Africa

This is always a great platform to share challenges amongst the various Associations and where we need to join our voices. We shared the Christmas Tree initiative of Raumix Rossway Quarry in the safety share.



The one common challenge is the risk-based approach in the various laws as mentioned under our Board meeting section. We will work with the Association Leadership Forum to drive this process from all angles.

Rand Mutual Assurance

I took part in the RMA research process to see how best they can add value to members without duplicating what is already in the industry. I look forward to more engagements and get the prevention programmes in place at all the small mines.

MQA Small Scale Mining Skills Programme

ASPASA assisted with input on the skills programme to ensure entrepreneurs know the basics of legal processing linking to owning and running a mine. We look forward to the final product, it is a great programme even for existing owners to go through this process.

Road Pavement Forum

This is an excellent platform to network with SANRAL, Laboratories conducting 3rd party testing, Civil Engineers, SABITA, SAT, SARF and industry members.

A safe platform to raise concerns with specifications, difficulties in the COTO and inconsistencies of application of the specifications.

And most importantly, what if the product in the area cannot reach the specified requirements?

SANRAL FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

N2-N3 UPGRADE	R573 MOLOTO ROAD	N2 WILD COAST
The expansion of the N2 and N3 in KwaZulu-Natal: • 135km of upgrades • 25 work packages • 8 work packages in construction • Estimate R40 billion • Estimated 17,000 FTE jobs	The upgrade of Moloto Road (R573) Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo: • 139km of road improvements • 17 work packages • 4 work packages in construction • Estimate R11.5 billion • Estimated 6,250 FTE jobs	The N2 Wild Coast Road in the Eastern Cape: • 112km of new greenfield road • 9 work packages • 3 work packages in construction • Estimate R28.5 billion • Estimated 8,000 FTE jobs

SANRAL's flagship projects are mostly on the major e

Barry Pearce presented on behalf of ASPASA members and it was agreed that he will head up the working group COTO/COLTO.

We look forward to the process and give actual data to support relevant specification requirements.

Thanks to Phil Hendriks heading up the RPF arrangements. We look forward to the physical session in April 2026.

Please do support this important platform.

SANS 1083 Part 3 and 4

We sent our final comments to SABITA for consideration, and the items were incorporated. We have shared the final version to members to ensure our input is covered accurately. I have not received any objection back yet. The comments are now ready for SANS1083 committee submission.

Western Cape WIM event

The event was held in Worcester with mines, suppliers, MHSC and DMPR present. The attendees were asked to write something that is a pressing matter on a piece of paper and crumple it up and throw it in any direction. Some of these topics were then addressed in a panel discussion. Sadly, there is still a belief that I cannot take my personal matter of a challenging menstrual cycle to my direct report if he is male due to embarrassment. And this is not one in particular at fault, it is just new to us all to be open about male and female challenges. This may seem crazy to some, but this is real. What other topics are we avoiding based on possible embarrassment for base, and should it be a matter of embarrassment. And these platforms opens up communication on the hard topics. We need men part of these WIM forums.

DMPR support for these structures and platforms is evident at each event and Mr Lindsey Polly did a presentation highlighting the injuries and fatalities where woman in mining is involved.

Suppliers of PPE, training providers and Consultancy Minrom did short presentations on their product and services.

MHSC presented the GBVF guidance note and Mineral Council South Africa presented on how close to home GBVF and violence is to us.

Best of all is the new networks we have found and new ideas to take home. I am super proud of our member Afrisam for leading the Western Cape WIM Committee Lucretia Jansen Van Rensburg. It takes a lot of your time and energy, but she makes it looks so easy.

I also popped into Afrisam Peninsula Quarry where I found this full body mirror with the message: You are responsible for your safety. Arrive in a healthy and safe manner and leave the same!



Portland Paardeberg



I visited Portland Paardeberg Quarry. It was so amazing to see the new Pilot Crushtech modular plant being installed at this Quarry. Upgrading the output significantly.

The construction area was absolutely clean and orderly. The quarry pit taking on shape with proper mine planning and execution.

Standing there reminded me of why we fight the battles we do. We need to exist to create jobs, to positively contribute to South Africa's economy. Yes, it is a small mine, but it will employ 17 people and 17 families with have an income. The concept of 1:10 starts to make sense on a different level.

We do not fight legislators not to comply; we fight legislation to ensure our existence to contribute to the social challenge in South Africa.

There are simply things we cannot implement based on cost, but we will never put a life at risk. There will be a reasonably practicable control measure in place. All we ask is consider these controls and accept them for what they are doing for us.



Sending wishes
to you & yours
for a beautiful
Holiday Season
and a peaceful
New Year!

happy
holidays



happy
holidays

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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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