



ENVIRONMENTAL



HEALTH
& SAFETY



CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



ASPASA
Small surface mine association

NEWSLETTER



**MAY
2026**

www.aspasa.co.za

FROM THE ASPASA DIRECTOR'S PEN

Overmind – ASPASA Voice Intelligence



Hello, I am Sibiso of ASPASA. Click on me and let's start.

Overmind created Sibiso voice intelligence for ASPASA and it was utilised during the ASPASA strategy review session. It will soon be available on our website for ease of access to information.

Interacting with AI is very different than with humans. It was a great learning curve from a human manner's perspective. Sibiso is very knowledgeable and is eager to assist, while you debate matters, he picks up on part of the conversation and wants to jump in and assist with further details.

overmind

Voice Operating Layer

It was astonishing how quick he can pick up on various topics ready with relevant industry information.

Sibiso can give a beautiful ASPASA overview with a summary of services, relevant documentation, why you should become a member of ASPASA and guide you on the website to the strategy and related documents without you needing to search.

Sibiso can be customised to your company and cover a fast spectrum of topics, support services and training. In quarrying you must cover multiple masses of documents and have information ready. There is no system that can summarise masses of information as fast as Sibiso can.

In the heavy compliance environment, we operate in and comment requirement on the platforms we sit on, this is a must support tool.

Letisha van den Berg

ASPASA Director



ASPASA

Small surface mine association

Minerals Council of South Africa Person Locator System session

ASPASA had the opportunity to present at the Minerals Council of South Africa Person Locator System session on what some members are doing in relation to person locator systems.

Every time the law is updated and the Gazette sent out, the mine must review the risk assessment. MHSA Chapter 16 Rescue, First Aid, Emergency preparedness and Response came out March 2025. The review must include the total number of people at the mine, their activities and location inclusive of emergency response if a person is in trouble for whatever reason.



Small Surface Mines risks are very different as individuals are in line of sight and very few work areas and work activities daily. The turnaround time of ADTs is around 7 minutes, and in 7 minutes you will know if an ADT operator did not reach his loading or offloading point.

The Primary plant will overflow without the Operator activity to mention a few examples. You must test your control measures against the unwanted emergency events. Emergency drills is a key component of monitoring and measuring.

ASPASA recommends 4 drills per year and not just 2 as MHSA requires. We all know that emergency situations bring about panic and if you do not know what to do and who to call it delays the response significantly.

We had presentations on Mine Rescue Service companies in the field to assist with proper fire risk assessments. ASPASA also engaged with RocketX for helicopter services that members can utilise.



We also brought out a guidance process from risk assessment to testing controls. Do not wait until you have an emergency before taking appropriate preventative action. Crisis on call is an excellent platform to track and trace people but with added benefits.

A member has been utilising their services since 2017 to enhance their emergency response plans. They now have added benefits to support the needs of small surface mines.



Resolution Circle

I met Mzwandile Mkhutshulwa from Resolution Circle online. As mentioned, we build networks with various technical training companies and Universities. We need a pipeline of artisans and quality artisans. This is one solution for our industry and we will share more.



Become a
CERTIFIED ARTISAN
with an Apprenticeship



REGISTRATIONS
NOW OPEN

CLICK HERE

Let's **TALK** +27 10 020 3311

www.resolutioncircle.co.za



IQSA Board



I am the newly appointed President of IQSA I want to confirm the formal collaboration between IQSA and ASPASA. The question is raised many times what the difference between IQSA is and ASPASA. IQSA is the body giving Young Professionals a platform to network and be exposed to various training in relation to quarrying. There is an international online course you can do to enhance your knowledge and knowhow. If you are a member of IQSA this is freely available. IQSA also arranges various conferences a year which ASPASA support as you all know the famous April Durban Conference and the half year one in October in the Gauteng with a supplier or construction project visit – yet the content is still quality and pressing matters.

We want to create a talent pipeline for our industry to ensure we cover the massive skills gap in industry. Giving as many young professionals access to practical exposure as possible.

ASPASA supports company level with what is new in legislation, training requirements and other related matters. Lobbying for industry on various governmental platforms. The two bodies work hand in hand to improve individuals' knowledge and company knowledge on what is new.

We started engaging Witwatersrand and UNISA and will be visiting others to build relationships. We will also start school Career Day support – please let us know when your next career day is. We need volunteers in each region to support us; I have names for Western Cape and KZN. We need for the rest of the regions. Please reach out to **Terry Pop** at iqsa@global.co.za if you want to get involved or become a member.



ASPASA MANCOM

We have reviewed the 2026 Strategy preparing for 2027 Strategy, we are looking forward in engaging with members to get your input into the new strategy.



I started in 2022 and we did a survey on ASPASA services with members, we will have a Microsoft Teams brainstorming session to enhance our current services and strategy with your input.



Munesu Shoko Founder of Quarrying Africa



Munesu is one of the great drivers of getting our industry visible on various platforms. The magazine always shares latest suppliers of equipment, featuring our quarries with various topics and leading practices.

I think Munesu will be able to start a quarry and run it efficiently with all the knowledge gained by visiting various quarries and manufacturing companies of our equipment. His heart is not just in media, but it is driven by a passion for this unique industry and its people. Thank you Munesu, looking forward to the rest of the year's Quarrying Africa issues. And please do not forget, we need those magazines in the DMPR offices!



SACAA Conference



I was invited as a guest to the SACAA Conference by Roelf De Beer, the President of SACAA. 40 million tons of fly ash is produced every year through the power generation facilities. It is managed as a waste and not a resource. But this landscape is quickly changing with industry research and the drive towards circularity.



This conference covered multiple research topics already conducted by universities and CSIR. The science behind this is intimidating but very interesting.

Many of our industry members utilise fly ash in brick and concrete production but there are even agricultural uses to improve rehabilitation of land with huge successes. There is no naivety in the possible metals and leaching and most research are delving deeper into this.

Small surface mines have been part of waste beneficiation for a very long time, they just do not sell their good initiatives boldly. Green Cement, readymix and bricks with reduced carbon footprints have been a fore running in this process. We should get the data and waste reduction on this perfect circularity concept. One particular example is SA Block in the Vaal area – we need to hear this story again as a reminder what can be done.



Hope to see you at the next SACAA Conference and to see fly ash utilisation rise to reduce “waste”.

MQA DMPR Mine Overseer session and available Surface mine competencies linked to the reviewed MHSA Chapter 2 Regulations

ASPASA arranged sessions with DMPR on the GCC, Mine Managers and Mine Overseer process with DMPR which raised various questions on what competencies are available currently for Surface Mines. ASPASA then invited MQA to do a full presentation on the qualifications currently available, what is to come and what will be discontinued.



We are also actively involved in the input on the MHSA Chapter 2 Responsibility and Competencies linked to these appointments. Soon we can let IQSA drive the individual competency training for the Young Professionals in Surface Mining.

Industry cannot wait for the regulations to be promulgated; we are doing our homework in detail now to be fully prepared once promulgation takes place. Some qualifications still need the stamp of approval by DMPR: the QCTO / MQA process is complete with NQF levels allocated.

Main message is start with Competent A and Blasting Certificate/Rockbreaking



Minerals Council of South Africa



I am pleased to announce that I am now a Board member at Mineral Council of South Africa representing ASPASA and Claybrick Association on the platform.

We have been part of the Junior and Emerging Miners Leadership and Association Leadership Forums and will remain involved on these two important platforms.



Northwest Crushers



I traced my car tracks back onto the N14 but this time towards Vryburg Northwest Crushers. A gem perfectly situated to service the area with quality aggregates, readymix and blocks.

The operation's solar system is state of the art, fully integrated with a variety of supply solutions and automated to switch from one to the other. The plant and pit are not huge, but the output is.



The fully automated brick plant is pushing out quality bricks by the thousands in a short time frame. I could set my workstation up in the brick plant, it is clean, neat and just the right noise levels to know you are in a factory setting. Robotic movements yet smooth and efficient.



The challenges for this new member is similar to our other members. Competencies, illegal sand mining and geographically situated far from any quick access to resource.

The culture of this operation is beautiful. The people engage openly and keep their work areas in tip top condition. The drive is to be the best in industry in everything that they do.



On the day DMPR also visited, and as usual we had to change our plans slightly to accommodate management. That is the challenge for a small operation, multiple visits on one day thins out the resource immediately. Planning is essential in all aspects, all the time to juggle everything that must be done. And that is what small surface miners can do well, get a lot done with very little resource in people of finance.



ASPASA
Small surface mine association

Wonderstone Assore visit



Wonderstone supplies technical ceramics, pyrophyllite, refractory materials and industrial ceramic solutions in South Africa. The proof was again that all small surface mines grapple with the same challenges and opportunities.



Managing the day-to-day operations with limited resources is a challenge very few understand, it is clear from our engagement on various platforms.



This surface mine is very different to a normal quarry in the sense that it has three different process flows. Very simple process flows but with high technical and quality intensity.



Extracting the mineral is also not via blasting but free digging. I could sit and watch the rock breakers for hours loosening material for the excavator to load into the ADTs for the various stock areas. The yellow fleet sizes are the same size as our quarry industry. The only difference is the crushing plant is even smaller than the 90 ton per hour one I saw last year at one of our member mines. The plant is loaded by an Excavator, that is how small the feeder and primary plant is. And choke fed, not half fed! Fascinating.

What I have learnt as well is that diamond cutting blades vs others can reduce your dB with 3 to 5 dB – proven fact. An important item to note in the drive to reduce equipment noise levels below 107dB and prevention of noise induced hearing loss. This is a perfect buy quiet example. Maybe not the machine but the accessory to the machine. End result, noise was reduced. The cutting blade is similar to that of the Dimension Stone industry. The smaller cutters in the indoor area had no noise, I could not believe it.

As mentioned, it is a quality intensive product / processes and each process flow have a permanent quality controller.

I cannot wait for Wonderstone to join the ASPASA team. Health, Safety and Environmental matters is visible from the access point throughout the operation. Small as it is, no room for poor cultures at this operation.



Mesong Holding: Navigating Regulations, Blast Management, Safety and Community



The session was packed with various research conducted on blasting and the effect it has on the communities. Latest technology in relation to blast planning and data logging. We had exposure to international blasting experts and Doctors that operates in 40 different countries. South Africa is not the only country faced with community complaints.

We are concerned about the 2-Km pre-survey of the structures that came up more than once. It was confirmed that this is purely based on an instruction and not related to any research of scientific outcome. The blasts are designed according to the closest structure within the 500m radius and structure surveys are done similarly.

Legal limits are no longer sufficient and the Constitution of South Africa and NEMA duty of care is considered by community members. How are you preparing for this direction of thought?

ASPASA Combined meeting Quarter 3

Albertina Maluleke opened the meeting with success stories of Raumix Diversity and Inclusivity programme and the development of Women in Mining. Albertina being one such candidate coming through the ranks.



Naren Sunker from Idwala presented on their excellent continuous based risk assessment process. A detailed process on the various activities at their operations. It opened the discussion on pre-configured or empty risk assessment forms. Every team and the maturity in the team is different and the most important aspect is the discussions on the day before the job starts.

Florence Matapelo Magampa from MHSC gave a detailed explanation of the MHSA Chapter 16 Emergency and rescue regulations.

Brian Ncube Minerals Council of South Africa strengthened the MHSA Chapter 16 process on Minerals Council's process and person locator systems. He also gave an update on the Continuous Real Time Monitoring (CRTM) projects currently running through Mandala Mining Precinct.



Dion Nelson and Ruan Knoetze from Iosfeer gave a detailed presentation on the CRTM equipment available with a new kid on the block a hand held dust monitoring unit.

Magdal Kruger of Valnova gave a full presentation on their journey towards person locator system with the Crisis on call and added benefits on the programme with employee reward systems, discount at certain shops and funeral plans.

Robyn Morris from Econest gave a full presentation of the ESG programme with one of the member mine's information of 2023. It is an easy to use system with a variety of selections to cover any volumetric used. There is also the carbon tax automatic calculation based on your scope 1,2 and 3 emissions.

Gubani Exploration Geology Lindi Nakedi presented on their exploration drilling and geology services

Siba ASPASA's voice intelligence was demonstrated to members. It is now available on the ASPASA website, please go chat with SIBA and give us your insights and suggested users at your operations.

Letisha van den Berg highlighted the following areas to focus on:

- Occupational Hygiene services, results and checking the reports submitted
- RMA prevention programme – open for small mines to become part of the journey for 2 years
- UNISA student exposure opportunity at mines. Drift Super Sand and Afrimat Glen Douglas started the process. Anyone else with opportunity please contact ASPASA.
- Blasting practices and structure surveys.



GAIN



We meet online quarterly with the rest of the aggregate industries across the world. This session it was evident how the current war is affecting all stakeholders with regards to fuel prices and in certain areas shortages.

The economy in most countries is not where it can be.

ASPASA hope to attend the GAIN Conference in October 2026 China Shanghai.



ASPASA INFO:

Director - Letisha van den Berg
Mobile No - 082 210 1628
Email - letisha@aspasa.co.za

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.

Accounts: Email - accounts@aspasa.co.za
Dewald Wouda - RANRUS

Audits: Quotes; Invoicing; Statements;

Admin Email - Anneké Earle
- office@aspasa.co.za

All administrative; Meetings; Events Calendar; Queries; Website; ASPASA Newsletter; Reports; Policies; Scheduling Director's appointments; Certificates; Audit reports from Auditors MHSA & OHSA Law books; flags; notebooks & Memberships

Admin Email - Terry Pop - IQSA
- iqsa@global.co.za

IQSA / ASPASA: Training

H&S Auditor - Marius van Deventer
Mobile No - 083 635 2873
Email - marius@aspasa.co.za

Health & Safety Audits - Guidance to ensure compliance. Legal Liability Training

Environmental Auditor - Anthony Bowen
Mobile No - 083 652 9907
Email - anthony@aspasa.co.za

Environmental Audits - Guidance to ensure compliance.

Explosives & Blasting Auditor - Corrie Rautenbach
Mobile No - 083 456 3018
Email - corrie@exms.net.za

Explosives Audits - Guidance to ensure compliance.

Technical & Quality Auditor - Barry Pearce
Mobile No - 082 883 2225
Email - Barry@learningmattersetc.co.za

Technical & Quality - Guidance to ensure compliance.