

**MINE METALLURGICAL MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**COUNCIL : 2006/2007**

**President**

C J Pearson (Ms)  
Impala Platinum Ltd

**Senior Vice-President**

G A Cormack  
President Steyn Mine

**Junior Vice-President**

E A Dhlamini  
Anglo Operations Ltd – Kleinkopje Colliery

**Immediate Past President**

K McMillan  
Anglocoal Operations Ltd

**Elected Members (until 31 August 2007)**

G J Jonck  
Exxaro

C R Steyn  
Anglogold Ashanti Ltd  
(resigned April 2007)

M M Valenta  
Metallicon Consulting

**Elected Members (until 31 August 2008)**

N G C Blackham  
De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd

K de Wit  
Xstrata Coal

T T Ndlovu  
Sasol Mining

**District Representatives**

**Central District**

C J le Roux  
Kloof Gold Mine

**Eastern District**

K Martin  
Exxaro Coal

**Northern District**

N Kumalinga  
Marula Platinum Mine

**Rustenburg District**

L Nyandeni  
Anglo Platinum - WLTRP

**Southern District**

L T van Niekerk  
Beatrix Gold Mine

**Co-opted**

D P Power  
Anglo Operations Ltd

C A Roode  
Metenco

**Secretary**

M Mason

**Offices**

Chamber of Mines of South Africa

## REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2007

Presented to members of the Association on the occasion of the Twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting held at the Kloof Country Club, on Friday, 26 October 2007.

### FINANCE

#### Financial Statements

The financial statement appended to this report shows that revenue for the year amounted to **R 648 645**, made up of subscriptions received from members during the year, interest earned from funds invested with First National Bank and revenue earned on the sale of Association memorabilia, plus the surplus arising from the seminars, social events and other functions held during the year under review.

Expenditure amounted to **R 648 437**. Accumulated funds at the beginning of the financial year amounted to **R 346 854** and, with the transfer of the current year's net surplus, an amount of **R 347 062** will be carried forward to the new financial year.

#### Subscriptions

In terms of the powers vested in it by the Association's Constitution and Rules, Council fixed subscriptions for the year under review at **R 580** for Ordinary Members, **R 550** for Associate and Affiliate Members and **R 75** for Retired Members.

Council's decision to increase membership fees in line with inflation was taken in order to maintain the Association's strong financial base. It is considered that members receive extremely good value for their annual fee, which includes costs associated with attendance at General and Annual General Meetings and compares extremely favourably with other bodies.

Subscription collection, which has been a major cause of concern in recent years, has become an extremely slow and onerous process. The Association relies on this income for its monthly operating costs and members are requested to assist in this process by personally ensuring their subscription has been paid, and also by informing the Secretariat of any change in their contact details.

### MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Association as at 31 August 2006 was **533** (531) members, made up of **136** (130) Ordinary Members, **83** (80) Associate Members, **290** (296) Affiliate Members, **0** (1) Student Member, **11** (13) Retired Members and **12** (11) Honorary Life Members. This represents a net increase of **2** members.

It is pleasing to note that, despite the many fluctuations currently being experienced in the mining industry, the stability of the Association has not been compromised, however it is considered that a strong membership base is essential to the continuing success and long-term survival of the Association. Council urges all members to assist in its ongoing endeavours in identifying and recruiting prospective new members.

## **SAFETY**

This item continues to be taken as the first item for discussion at Council meetings and, with its many safety interventions, Council believes that the Association makes a valuable contribution to continued safety awareness in the metallurgical mining industry.

### **Safety Flashes**

As part of Council's proactive approach, informative "Safety Flashes" are regularly circulated to members. These are compiled from incident reports given at the monthly Council meetings.

### **Chemical and Allied Industries Association**

Your Association maintains close links with this forum and continues to receive reports of meetings, which are subsequently circulated to Council. Any safety items of particular interest are then disseminated to the membership at various Association meetings.

### **Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee**

Council would like to thank the Chamber for making documents emanating from this Committee, which is the main employer caucus for the Mining Regulations Advisory Committee, available to Council as, in this way, it can keep abreast of developments in the area of Health and Safety in the Mining Industry and take up any issues of concern with individual Mining Groups.

### **Safety Achievements**

As well as incident reports, any safety achievements are also recorded at Council meetings. Congratulations are extended to those mines/plants that have attained noteworthy achievements. Safety achievements by mines/plants, with representation within the Association, that are brought to the attention of Council, are duly noted and acknowledgement of these achievements is given to them by letter. Association members are also kept informed electronically of these achievements.

## **SAFETY COMPETITION AWARDS**

Since its inception 13 years ago, the popularity of this competition has not waned, which can be recognised by the large number of entries received each year.

The Safety Sub-Committee of Council has evaluated the entries, the measurement period being July 2006 to June 2007, and the awards will be made at the Twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting.

At the 2006 AGM, the annual Safety Awards were awarded to the following:

***Category 1 - + 150 tpm***

Anglogold Ashanti – South Uranium Plant

***Runners-up***

Anglogold Ashanti – East Gold, Acid and Float Plant  
 Anglogold Ashanti – Savuka Gold Plant  
 Anglogold Ashanti – West Gold Plant  
 Anglogold Ashanti – West Wits Tailings Plant  
 Aquarius Platinum – K2 PSA Concentrator  
 Beatrix No. - 1 Plant  
 Dikuno Process Solutions – Platinum Mile  
 Geita Gold Mine  
 Goedehoop Colliery – Bank 2 Plant  
 Impala Platinum – Merensky Concentrator  
 Impala Platinum – MF2 Plant  
 Impala Platinum – UG2 Plant  
 Jwaneng Diamond Mine – Recrush Plant  
 Jwaneng Diamond Mine – Main Treatment Plant  
 Kleinkopje Colliery Plant  
 Kloof – No. 1 Gold Plant  
 Landau Navigation Plant  
 Namdeb – Orange River  
 Namdeb – PTF  
 Namdeb 2 Plant  
 Namdeb 4 Plant  
 New Vaal Processing Plant  
 Northam Platinum Concentrator  
 RPM – Waterval UG2 Concentrator  
 Sadiola Hill Gold Plant  
 Societe Ashanti Goldfields de Guinee – Heap Leach Plant  
 Societe Ashanti Goldfields de Guinee – CIP Plant  
 South Deep Gold Mill

***Category 2 - - 150 tpm***

De Beers – The Oaks Mine Plant

***Runners-up***

Anglogold Ashanti – Nufcor Plant  
 Barberton Mines – Sheba Gold Plant

Beatrix – No. 2 Plant  
 Goedehoop – Bank 5 Plant  
 Impala - Mineral Processes Slag Plant  
 Lebowa Platinum – Merensky Plant  
 Lebowa Platinum – UG2 Plant  
 Marula Platinum Concentrator  
 RPM – Frank Concentrator  
 RPM Klipfontein Concentrator

***Category 3 – Assay Laboratories***

RPM – Amandelbult Assay Laboratory

***Runners-up***

AngloGold Ashanti – Vaal River Chemical Laboratory  
 Anglo Coal Central Laboratory  
 Impala - Mineral Processes Laboratory  
 Marula Platinum Assay Laboratory  
 Northam Platinum Laboratory  
 Rand Refinery Laboratory  
 RPM – PF Retief Laboratory

***Category 4 – Acid Plants and Smelters***

Northam Platinum Smelter

***Runners-up***

AngloGold Ashanti – Vaal River East Acid Plant  
 Rand Refinery Smelter

None of the entries in Category 5 (Refineries) qualified for an award, which had been a disappointment to Council.

**AWARDS FOR BEST PAPER PRESENTED**

Certificates of merit were awarded at the 2006 AGM to Messrs M Sole and C van Tonder for their paper “A Novel Electrolytic Sstem for Gold Recovery”.

Council has been concerned in recent years at the shortage of papers available for publication and, as it would like to continue the established tradition of publishing the annual circulars, appeals to members to forward papers they may have written to the Secretary for consideration by the Editorial Sub-Committee. Alternatively, members could consider adapting presentations they have made at various meetings into paper format.

## PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The prize for academic achievement was awarded to Mr L E Mualusi, who achieved an aggregate of 74% in his examinations at the University of Johannesburg.

## PUBLICATIONS

During the year under review the following papers were published, in Circular 1/2006:

Regional Mine Water Treatment Opportunities

*Author:* P Gunther

Teetered Bed Separator and Its Effect on  
Navigation Fines Qualities

*Author:* R Ratlou

Trithiocarbonates for the Flotation of PGM Sulphides

*Authors:* C F Vos  
J C Davidtz  
J D Miller

Can Outsourcing of Operations Add Value

*Authors:* Ron Fickling  
Hendrik Snyman  
Roy Malcolm

Council would like to place on record its appreciation to the Chamber of Mines for its annual publication subsidy, which enables it to continue with publication of these prestigious Circulars. These publications, as well as being useful reference documents, are a permanent record of the Association's achievements throughout the years.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Your Council, in its efforts to fulfil the function for which it was elected by members, i.e. to represent and promote the interests of metallurgical professionals in the mining industry, has initiated many projects, with the objective of improving the operational effectiveness of the Association.

### MPA Steering Committee

During the year the MPA Steering Committee met on a regular basis to deal with the issues that arose regarding the new qualifications. The MMMA enjoys observer status on this committee.

Most of the work relating to the original mandate is nearing completion and it is hoped that the mandate will be finalised within the next few months.

Once the mandate has been completed it is envisaged that the steering committee will remain, albeit with a different focus. A grouping of Mining Industry Professional Associations/Institutions will be established to ensure that mining industry professionals are adequately represented with a common voice within ECSA structures.

## **ECSA**

Council is hopeful that, during the coming year, the Association will meet the criteria fixed by ECSA to ensure its recognition as a Voluntary Association and urges members to submit their registration form as a matter of urgency.

The new draft legislation to identify what type of engineering work was required to be carried out by a registered person was put out for comment by ECSA. The MMMA, as well as the MPA steering committee itself, gave feedback regarding areas of concern and arranged, in conjunction with the Chamber, to have an “acid test” performed by an independent grouping in order to ascertain the effect of the implementation of this legislation. Feedback has been given and the steering committee will continue to play a role in the development of the legislation to ensure minimal impact on the industry.

## **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

Those MMMA members who are registered with ECSA will by now be aware of the requirements regarding CPD. The MPA steering committee will assume the function of establishing and overseeing a common CPD policy for the participating Associations.

As part of its service to members, an annual statement of CPD credits in Categories 1 and 3, applicable to attendance at the various meetings of the Association, will be prepared and will be available to individual members on request. Please take note that credits can only be awarded if members have signed an attendance register, which will be archived in the MPAS offices in the event of audit.

## **THE ASSOCIATION AS A FORUM**

In line with the Association’s declared objectives, that of addressing issues relevant to the metallurgical profession within the mining industry, focus has been directed towards many topical and pertinent matters at the many diverse meetings held during the year.

The Association's continued viability and success depends to a large extent on active participation by members at the many diverse meetings and functions which, despite difficulties currently being experienced in the Industry, have attracted good attendance levels. Council would like to stress that members, rather than feeling obligated to take part in Association activities, should actively enjoy their participation.

In addition to the regular monthly Council meetings, the following meetings were also convened:

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Twenty-third Annual General Meeting was held at the Tubatse Chrome Club, on 27 October 2006 and was attended by 73 members and guests.

### **General Meeting**

The General Meeting, incorporating technical visits, was held at Rustenburg Golf Club on 25 May 2007 and attracted some 63 members and guests. Several very diverse presentations were delivered at this meeting.

### **District Meetings**

Council is pleased to report that for the most part these meetings, held regularly during the current year and incorporating technical visits, attracted good attendance levels despite, in many instances, the long travelling distances involved.

Your Council acknowledges the hard work of the District Representatives in organising these meetings and relies heavily on them to disseminate information to the membership on Association matters and activities.

Council would like to place on record its thanks to the hosts for providing the venues for all Association meetings.

### **Meetings with other Professional Associations**

As has become the practice over recent years, meetings of the Association Presidents and Vice-Presidents were held during November and July. These meetings serve the purpose of fostering an *esprit de corps* amongst the Associations and provide an excellent forum where matters of concern and mutual interest to the 11 Mines Professional Associations (MPAs) may be discussed at an inter-Association level, as well as with senior officials of the Chamber of Mines.

### **MPAS Committee of Management**

Many concerns have arisen over recent years regarding the management of MPAS and its relationship with the Chamber of Mines, which had never actually been formalised.

Discussions on these concerns led to the formation of the Committee of Management, comprising representatives of the 11 MPAs. The Committee is addressing many issues such as MPAS functions, tightening-up of accounting practices, etc.

The MPAs have long valued their relationship with the Chamber, although no formal agreement has ever been made regarding being under its auspices for functions such as staff conditions and salaries, HR functions, etc. Representatives of the Committee recently met with the Chief Executive of the Chamber, subsequent to which a memorandum of agreement between the two bodies has now been drawn-up.

### **Seminars / Workshops**

An extremely successful seminar on “Corporate and Social Investment” was held on 30 March 2007, at the Randfontein Estates Sports Club, and attracted an attendance of 55 delegates.

A second successful seminar entitled “The Application of New Technology in Metallurgy” was held on 24 August 2007 at the Kloof Country Club. This popular seminar once again attracted an excellent attendance of 110 delegates.

Both of these seminars were accredited and all delegates received CPD certificates.

Council wishes to place on record its appreciation to all involved in the organisation of these interesting and informative seminars, which have long been a highlight of the Association’s calendar.

### **Presidential / Technical Visit: 2007**

20 members plus the Secretary participated in a very successful technical visit to the Western Cape from 30 August to 2 September 2007. Members participated in extremely interesting and informative visits to Mittal Steel, Saldanha Bay Harbour and De Beers Marine. The weekend concluded with a very enjoyable two night stay in Cape Town.

Council wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation to the hosts of the technical visits and their staff members, as well as to all others who contributed towards the success of the visit.

It should be pointed out that, although the technical content of these visits is of great interest and value, networking and information sharing, as well as the sense of camaraderie that is generated during such visits are also of paramount importance to participants.

### **Golf Day**

The eleventh annual golf day was held on Sunday, 28 July 2007, at the Crown Mines Golf Club, with all 41 players having enjoyed an extremely successful day.

### **Race Day**

The eighth annual race day was held at Turffontein Race Course on Saturday, 5 May 2007. This year, the function was held on a feature race day and attracted another record attendance of 86 members and guests.

### **Association Dinner**

The eighth annual dinner was held in the Oppenheimer Room, Gold Reef City on 15 September 2007. A convivial evening was enjoyed by the 280 guests, with entertainment having been provided by *Martin Jonas* as the after dinner entertainer. Guests then danced the night away to the sounds of *Duane Rockwell and his Disco*. This new entertainment format has proved immensely popular with dinner guests.

### **Sponsorship**

Council would like to express its appreciation to all those companies who generously sponsor these social functions and would like to stress that any surplus funds arising from them are used to the benefit of young metallurgists by way of Council's many educational initiatives.

Council also wishes to place on record its grateful thanks to all who contributed to the success of the three social functions. It would also like to encourage those members who have not yet participated to take advantage of Council's efforts to promote social interaction.

## **LIAISON WITH OTHER BODIES**

### **SAIMM**

The good working relationship, established some time ago with this Institute is ongoing, with the Association being represented on the SAIMM Council and Technical Committees. A reciprocal agreement is also in place, whereby an SAIMM Council member attends the MMMA Council meetings.

The two bodies complement each other well and keep each other's members informed of forthcoming conferences, seminars, etc.

### **Coal Processing Society (CPS)**

Members from collieries situated in the Eastern District enjoy their liaison with the CPS, with District meetings taking the format of joint meetings of the two bodies.

## **EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES**

It has now become a tradition to utilise surplus funds, generated throughout the year from social events, seminars, ect, for the benefit of young metallurgists. During the current year, the following initiatives have been undertaken.

### **Bursary / Award**

A Bursary, for full tuition fees, was awarded to Ms K M Mogape, who is in her third year at the Vaal University of Technology and is studying towards a degree in Metallurgical Engineering. Miss Mogape is currently doing very well in her experiential training at Sishen Iron Ore Mine.

### **Travel Grant / Technical Visit**

The 2007 travel grant, to participate in the Presidential Visit, was awarded to Mr C Ayers and Ms C Manxusa, both of Anglo Platinum. They will deliver a presentation on the visit at the AGM.

### **Donation of Technical Books**

The annual book donations, in the amount of R 2 250 each, which are offered to the nine recognised Institutions of Higher Learning on a three year rotational basis, were this year offered to the Universities of Johannesburg, KwaZulu Natal and Stellenbosch.

### **Educational Institutions**

Your Association enjoys a good relationship with the Institutions of Higher Learning situated throughout South Africa and, whenever possible, visits these Institutions in order to inform students about the Association and bring their attention to the prospect of metallurgy in the mining industry as a career choice.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Website**

The website, which is considered to reflect the status and professionalism of the Association, is updated regularly. The website gives members valuable information on Association activities, as well as the displaying the presentations given at various meetings and seminars. Members are invited to visit the site at [www.mmma.org.za](http://www.mmma.org.za).

### **Electronic Mail**

The membership database contains email addresses of members and, as a cost saving initiative, the Secretariat is utilising this preferred method of communication as far as possible.

However, Council stresses that for this initiative to be fully successful, the responsibility falls on individual members to keep the Secretary informed of current e-mail addresses and contact details.

## **REPRESENTATION**

The following internal, as well as external, Sub-Committees were formed to assist and advise Council in its deliberations:

### **Standing Committee**

C J Pearson	President
G A Cormack	Senior Vice-President
E A Dhlamini	Junior Vice-President
K McMillan	Imm-Past President
C J le Roux	Central District
K Martin	Eastern District
N Kumalinga	Northern District
L Nyandeni	Rustenburg District
L T van Niekerk	Southern District

### **Editorial**

D P Power (**Chairman**)  
 G Cormack (**Vice-Chairman**)  
 G J Jonck  
 K McMillan  
 T T Ndlovu  
 M M Valenta

### **Membership**

E A Dhlamini (**Chairman**)  
 N G C Blackham (**Vice-Chairman**)  
 C J Pearson

### **Safety**

N G C Blackham (**Chairman**)  
 K de Wit  
 G J Jonck  
 K McMillan  
 L T van Niekerk

### **Seminar/Workshop**

M M Valenta(**Chairman**)  
D P Power (**Vice-Chairman**)  
C J le Roux  
K McMillan  
T T Ndlovu

**Strategic Planning/Budget**

C J Pearson (**Chairman**)  
G A Cormack (**Vice-Chairman**)  
E A Dhlamini  
K McMillan

**Educational Institutions (Liaison)**

C A Roode (**Chairman**)  
N G C Blackham  
M M Valenta  
L T van Niekerk

**Presidents and Vice-Presidents**

C J Pearson  
G A Cormack  
E A Dhlamini

**MPAS Committee of Management**

C J Pearson  
G A Cormack

**MPAS Budgetary**

C J Pearson  
G A Cormack  
E A Dhlamini

**SAIMM**

N G C Blackham  
D P Power  
M M Valenta

**MQA-ECSA**

C A Roode

**MPA Steering Committee  
(Observer Status Only)**

K de Wit (Representative)  
C A Roode (Alternate)

**Standing Committee on Security**

G A Cormack (Representative – only when required)  
N G C Blackham

Your Council wishes to place on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to all those members who gave of their time and effort to represent the Association on the various committees.

**APPRECIATION**

Finally, the Council wishes to express its appreciation to all members, both old and new, for their continued support, and especially to those who have provided input in one form or another, as well as to mining groups and metallurgical companies for their continued support of the Association.

The Council also wishes to record its appreciation, on behalf of the Association, for the Administrative services and other facilities rendered by the Chamber of Mines and to extend its gratitude to the Secretariat and its staff for their good management of the Association's affairs.

**C J PEARSON**

**PRESIDENT**