

SACAA



FLASHES

Issue 36 – October 2018

THE MEDIUM (since 2010) FOR QUICK ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE SACAA

INTRODUCTION

This issue is jam-packed again with some general topics and news on what has been happening in the association to ensure all the members of SACAA remains informed.

Remember the updated SACAA website - www.coalash.co.za Please assist in keeping it current.

- ❖ Membership news
- ❖ Ash economy – Formal v/s Informal sector
- ❖ Who's Who and What they do? We interviewed Maite Ruth Terblanche our new Deputy President

Kind regards

Mark Hunter

SACAA GM

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Condolences to the DEA Minister – The South African Coal Ash Association would like to offer our sincere condolences to the sudden passing away of Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs. We are sure that the hard work she has achieved did not go unnoticed. The new incumbent has some big shoes to fill - may her soul rest in peace.

Terms of Reference (ToR) – DEA and SACAA have signed the Terms of Reference in which the DEA grants the mandate for SACAA to drive the Ash Beneficiation Waste Phakisa Initiative. The DEA remains accountable and the responsibility of implementing the various workstreams resides with SACAA. A copy will be posted onto the SACAA website.

Association Membership – With the downturn in the economy, SACAA, similar to all other associations, is challenged with both cost structures and members. This has resulted in some new thinking and possible merges for like associations. SACAA remains an associate member of ASPASA, who provide us with a full accounting and administration service. ASPASA also assists with marketing and strategic business aspects that are critical to keep abreast of matters.

ASH ECONOMY – FORMAL v/s INFORMAL SECTOR

As SACAA is now attempting to entrench the Waste Phakisa Initiatives with the objective of growing the number of jobs, growing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and reducing the environmental impact, by the roll out of the various focussed workstreams, I would like to unpack the topic of **Formal** versus **Informal** sector in relation to ash beneficiation and how we can incorporate them equally into the ash beneficiation objectives.

The formal sector consists of the businesses, enterprises and economic activities that are legislated, monitored, protected and taxed by the government, whereas the informal sector comprises of the workers and enterprises that are not under government regulation. (Wikipedia 27 September 2018)

While the formal sector in terms of ash in South Africa is well documented and stable, I would like to focus on the informal sector as this is where a lot is happening and as part of the Phakisa Initiative, will need our attention to incorporate this category into our growth opportunities. The informal economy is not included in a country's Gross National Product (GNP) or GDP. The informal sector can be described as a grey market in labour.

The informal sector makes up a significant portion of the economy by creating business opportunities for the poor and has been expanding in the brick and block manufacturing using ash amongst other materials. With no quality control or clear specifications, this could be a real risk to stigmatisation of the ash brick if not addressed. This, I believe could be achieved without adding massive bureaucratic processes, but will require some understanding and communication.

The informal sector is largely characterised by several qualities: easy entry, meaning anyone who wishes to join the sector can find some sort of work, which will result in cash earnings, a lack of stable employer-employee relationships, a small scale of operations and skills gained outside of formal education. Workers who participate in the informal economy are typically classified as employed. The type of work that makes up the informal economy is diverse, particularly in terms of capital invested, technology used, and income generated.

In the formal sector you generally have the producers of the waste, off-takers who have invested in plant and equipment to remove the ash in different categories, whilst they also have a team of specialists that market the ash to ash users and provide back-up technical support including both audit and traceability requirements. All these dynamics influence the cost or pricing structure of the types of ash, over and above the transport costs that also could influence the economical value of the ash. These role players together with academics and government departments have all invested in research and development of ash, particularly in the new product applications.

As the Phakisa workstreams go about the business of identifying new ash products, ash uses and ash application, they should not only factor the informal sector into the fold from an economical point, but also the qualitative and related compliance aspects. This will be achieved by compiling norms and standards, innovation hubs, training and perhaps financial and funding assistance channels to assist with some business ventures under the small, medium and micro enterprise development umbrella. It may even go as far as creating some sort of quality mark/certification for the brick and block manufacturers for both the formal and informal sector.

The quality control aspect does not only apply to the informal sector but also the formal sector as we recently experienced a case where ash bricks that were manufactured by a major brick manufacturer, failed due to pitting after they were used in a building site, rendering the work having

to be redone at great expense. Unfortunately, this manufacturer is not a member of SACAA and as such no formal interactions or solutions were solicited from our experienced members.

The Phakisa workstream has to come up with a plan to identify all the current formal and informal manufacturers and a method of engagement to establish a proper needs analysis, before they embark on any solutions. This may take time to reach all, but if at least 80% of the target is achieved, this will go a long way to gather enough information to make recommendations and solutions, to grow the market.

Whilst brainstorming the informal sector operations, an informal site near Kempton Park gave some insight on this stream of potential ash users.



Figures 1 - 3 : Some of the Informal sector operations on the side of the road near Kempton Park.

There were about 12 separate business areas working in a 3 km long strip, making the same products. I solicited some brief information from one of the enterprises as listed below;

- ❖ Employ 6 full time employees
- ❖ All bricks are hand mixed and compressed in the templates
- ❖ The bricks are air dried and stacked on site for sale
- ❖ The indicated that they manufacture about 8 loads per day
- ❖ They offer free delivery and discount to contractors
- ❖ They indicated that they are self-taught and had no technical training.



Introduction to Maite Ruth Terblanche – SACAA Deputy President

It is a great privilege for me to serve as Deputy President for SACAA. Most especially at this time when we have an opportunity to make a significant difference in South Africa with regards to job creation through enabling the ash reuse value chain.

I started my career 18 years ago at Sasol as a scientist and developed to the current role as an environmental specialist in the areas of waste, contaminated land and biodiversity. In that time, I have had developed the following competencies:

- Training leadership in the areas of waste, contaminated land, biodiversity management and compliance with associated South African legislation;
- Reporting on waste, contaminated land and biodiversity under group Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting;
- Custodianship of the SAP Environmental Compliance (EC) module. Integrating the use of the module across business units;
- Custodianship of the Sasol Group environmental incident data base for tracking environmental performance and reporting at appropriate governance structures;
- Employment Equity (EE) representative for Risk and SHE function reporting to Senior Vice President and participating at the group EE and Skills Development committee meeting at Executive Vice President level;
- Waste characterisation in accordance with South African legislation;
- Execution of empirical disciplinary and transdisciplinary research to support environmental projects mainly focused on raw water treatment as well as coal ash and industrial effluent management projects.

I have the following qualifications: Bachelor of Science (BSc) Chemistry, Bachelor of Science Honors (BSc Hons) Chemistry and (BSc Hons) Water Utilization completed with University of Pretoria. Master of Arts (MA) in Development and Management (Water Studies) completed with North West University.

My intention is to contribute my skills and competencies in shaping and meeting the short-term goals and long-term vision of SACAA. I will be supporting Deidre Herbst (SACAA president) as she

leads the association and collaborating with Mark Hunter (SACAA general manager), SACAA members and all other relevant stakeholders to get pertinent tactical and strategic work done.

On the home front, I am a wife of 9 years to Eduan Terblanche and a mother of twin boys Dikano and Leeto. Our favourite family hobby involves going to a nearby park where there are dogs to pat, a lovely path to walk with swings and slides at the end of it. We also enjoy reading books together, telling stories and singing nursery rhymes.

Maite Ruth Terblanche
082 468 2066

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Early update on the **World of Coal Ash (WOCA)** 2019 conference:



13 – 16 May 2019
St Louis, Missouri USA

This conference is jointly facilitated by the American Coal Ash Association (ACAA) and the University of Kentucky, Centre of Applied Research. The conference attracts over 1000 delegates from across the world.

They have early bird registration at discounted prices.

The call for papers and/or posters is open, so are we going to see someone from South Africa presenting?

<http://worldofcoalash.org/register/>

DIARY

The next Council meeting will be held on 14 November 2018. This meeting will be followed by a technical talk.

ALL FOR NOW

Regards

SACAA GM