

Engineering Technology Keeps Your World Working!
See www.engineeringchamber.yolasite.com

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No 1. Membership Statistics.

These details are often requested by Government, State & Municipalities.

Asians	3.3%
Blacks	7.9%
Coloureds	2.3%
Whites	47.2%
Unknowns	39.3%
Only 1.3% are female!	

No 2. ECSA. Related News.

ECSA has reduced the discount offered to our members as ECSA appears to be spending more money than they receive. This reduction was apparently hotly debated at the Council meeting as it affects all Voluntary Associations.

The actual fees for 2017 and the discount have not been finalised or announced.

There is a move from ECSA to revise the functions etc. of the Voluntary Associations and it has had some road shows to explain their thinking.

The legal challenge to some procedures in electing the new ECSA council has resulted in lawyer's letters to both ECSA and the Minister. No response has been received. The lawyers will advise on the next step to be taken. This initiative is being driven and administered by SAICE. Some 10 + organisations, including COET have or are to contribute to the cost (R10 000.00 for COET already paid). The next ECSA Council meeting around end Feb beginning March is sure to prove to be interesting. We await outcomes. Meanwhile ECSA CEO has sent out a press release which we have also circulated. (See www.ecsa.co.za and select *ECSA Stakeholders Briefing Update*).

The ex CEO of ECSA, Mr Paul Roux, passed away recently and COET made a donation (R1000) to the Kidney Foundation of SA in lieu of flowers as per Mrs Roux's request.

A frustrated writer in front of his laptop:

“Dear google, please do not behave like my wife. Please allow me to complete my sentence before you start guessing and suggesting.”

No 3. Of This and That.

The Chamber of Engineering Technology (COET) initiated the idea of producing a hard copy journal / magazine. In order to make the project more viable two other organisations, namely the Institute of Professional Engineering Technologists (IPET) and the Fire Engineers Association of South Africa (FEASA) were invited to combine with COET in this project. Unfortunately 2016 was a very tough and financially disastrous year for many companies and persons and this project had to be scrapped.

It is interesting to note that one of our other large engineering associations is also now about to scrap its printed journal citing excessive expenses in producing it. These publications depend on advertising which is just not forthcoming in the decreasing pool of advertising budgets. Of course the Postal service for deliveries is a further factor!

So we go from Jan-U-Worry and Feb-U-Worry into March being the final month of the first quarter of the year! Time certainly flies!!

With the posting of calendars and news etc (over 600 items) we used to use post office prepaid envelopes but these have not been available for many months so we have to use ordinary envelopes and stamps. On buying stamps the local post office ran out of stamps. Seven other post offices around the general north area here did not have any and still do not have any! The standard answer is no stock available!

Sure they can print you stamps but are reluctant to do so and here is why.

Their little label printer prints about 3 to 4 a minute when it does not jam or get out of alignment. This meant when we bought 100 stamps recently it took some 25 minutes to actually get them, much to the frustration of the poor post office employee (who was really trying to help) and the ever growing que of customers behind us! Seems only one person to serve in the PO is standard at most post offices. If I had asked for 500 there would have been a riot!

The system of using a franking machine was checked out some time back and was not economical for us as we don't have enough mail in a year – it actually worked out more expensive than just using stamps!

On phoning telephone numbers gleaned from the Telephone book and Internet we found that many delivered the statement “the number you have dialled does not exist!” and some others just rang and rang. We eventually got through to a lady who was most helpful and she managed to source four booklets of stamps (400 stamps) and had them delivered to the Randburg Post Office. When we went to collect them a few hours after her call 100 stamps had already been sold!

In December over a period of two weeks the Randburg Post Office seems to have had only one person there and as such with the que we could not collect registered mail at all. In Jan we managed to collect mail but they still seem to be running on skeleton staff!

If this is going to be the norm then we may seriously consider using only E Mail and those without E mail will have to get E Mail. The yearly delivery of calendars (and invoices etc) by mail may also be stopped.

Anyone out there with carrier Pidgeon's!

2016 was not a good year for most South Africans. There was a water shortage, insufficient electricity, little money and jobs were scarce. Figures showed that Eskom produced only around 32Gw and the demand was around 37Gw and on the jobs side only 24.5% of the population were employed. This meant we had some 23 million persons not in active employment in SA!! Every new job created will help support around 5 people and also reduce the potential number of persons forced to become criminals to survive! Eskom has since achieved generating slightly more power than needed but mainly due to the demand for power not growing.

Unfortunately this year much of the above is still valid. Political infighting and slander mongering is intensifying. . The past four months have seen foreigners being net sellers in local equity and bond markets, accumulating around R44.5 billion and R58.5 billion respectively. This shows investors lack of confidence in SA. This year we will all be paying the price for inadequate planning, and for allowing corruption and inefficiencies to take root. The sooner we all acknowledge that it's time to stop passing the buck, time to stop turning a blind eye, the better. South Africa needs all shoulders to the wheel to become productive! The gloomy economic scenario facing South Africa needs to be fought head on with systems that will enable optimisation of efficiencies for asset and resource management, revenue protection, budget expenditure, monitoring and logistics, utility maintenance and no corruption. The recent socialism style of budget may help but while it presented expected extra burdens on Tax payers it was fairly well balanced in difficult circumstances. However besides the upping of most taxes the rise in the fuel levy means that fuel is now taxed at 35% according to the Automobile Association. This may prove disastrous in its knock on effect on the economy! It needs the private sector as well as the government to take honest, fair, practical and productive action now and not just sprout words and promises!

In boom times, decision makers were not too concerned about efficiencies as there was enough fat in their budgets. This hid mismanagement and/or wasteful expenditure. In today's trying times budgets are fat-free in fact they are very skinny. Decision makers wanting to keep their jobs need to identify how to extract maximum value from limited funds.

Having said that, we now praise our members for being the true drivers of the economy. This they do by offering affordable products and services. We would like to recommend that wherever possible local products and services be used. This is not to say that foreign products and services should not be used, but intelligent and efficient decisions should be made. Buying the apparent cheapest is often short term gain but medium and long term financial disaster. Do not let the politicians and bean counters, who only see a one year view, make your technical decisions! You do so at your peril.

Remember to stick to ones that comply with SABS standards, OH&S act and Labour laws and other laws. Of course honesty is to be practised by all and not just preached! Corruption should be reported to the authorities (and Newspapers). The anonymous crime line of an SMS to 33211 is also an option.

A provisional list of members that offer their services is available on the Website. Persons interested may download the list as it may assist in networking etc. See www.engineeringchamber.yolasite.com

We invite readers to air their views on important matters by sending a letter to the editor. Kindly note that content may be edited and shortened and that the publisher reserves the right not to publish if it deems that publication is not in the best interests of the publisher or the contributing associations etc (T&C's apply).

Editor; Viv Nel

Postal History.

It was legal in 1913 America to mail your children. The stamps, affixed to said offspring's clothing, cost 53 cents.

28bn \$ The amount in dollars that Bill Gates has given away since 2007.

(A great Capitalist – how many politicians could learn a thing or two)!

No 4. A Small Selection of Enquiries That Hit Our Office!

The following is just for interest and perhaps a grin or two.

E Mails:-

Hi,

Can you tell me how to register as an Engineer?

Answer.

Info sent.

Hi,

I have been trying to get hold of the Labour Department for days and days. No one seems to work there anymore. Can you perhaps tell me where I can obtain an application form to register our company as an LME?

Ja Well No Fine!

Answer.

A diplomatic and informative answer was sent! (Full answer not reproduced here).

Dear Sir,

I would like to apply for Technician position with your company.

I have qualified as a Technician with three years experience in consulting for existing and new XXXXX etc etc.

Answer.

As a Voluntary Engineering Association we do not have any vacancies. (Full answer not reproduced here).

Myself I am a qualified motor vehicle technician and would like to be a member of this engineering org. So for a person of my calibre to become a member he must meet what criteria? Please send your details and contact numbers.

Answer. Details and rules were sent. (Full answer not reproduced here).

The XXXX is trying to establish a team of technicians to service / audit our equipment on a regular basis. Can you please assist us by identifying training providers and persons who could help us?

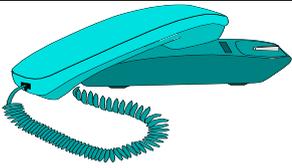
Answer. Information supplied (Full answer not reproduced here).

I am most annoyed as I found that I am not listed as a member.

Answer. As you have not paid any membership fees for the past three years you were written off! (Full answer not reproduced here).

Hi, I am phoning you about your computer --- please go on line and select @%\$# so we can upgrade and protect your computer.

As this is a scam to control; the computer we either terminate the call or ask how is the weather in Nigeria, India, China Russia etc!



Telephone messages: -

These are often from Cell phones where the speaker sounds as if they are in an extremely noisy car, shop floor, waterfall or boilerplate factory and chewing lunch while speaking!

Dis Xyz--- grr! Hier. Bel my!

No return numbers given!!

Hi, Mi----here, ??? would xyz?? Join?? Burp Glug -----Phone 0?? Vamoon !@\$ splatter splatter boom 89!!

Why have I not been registered as an Technologist - why are you stalling this?

(We are often mistaken for ECSA)!

*# !!--%%&**@@xzlabc gurgle, gurgle, boom boom plonk -----!!*

Mr XYZ. Please call XXXX and quote the following reference number XYZZ.

We do not answer such calls as they are obviously not for us.

Also many calls where contact numbers given result in the following message

"The number you have dialed does not exist!"

""Please try again later""

""Who - never heard of him!""

Ed. It appears we have many dyslexics out there and also many who need to be taught the correct way to communicate on the phone. Kindly remember that Cell phone quality in SA is notoriously bad!!

Speak clearly and slowly from a noise free area and repeat the contact details slowly!! Better yet send an E mail!

No 5. News; Lifting Equipment Engineering Association of South Africa (LEEASA).

As previously indicated in November 2015 LEEASA would break away from COET to become an association on its own in 2016.

At the beginning of 2016 all COET /LEEASA members were again informed of the breakaway and also given the opportunity to join the new LEEASA or stay with COET and / or become members of both organisations. As from early 2016 COET no longer handled any of the LEEASA admin.

The new LEEASA elected Ken Greenwood as chairman and Arni Sommer took over all the admin and other functions.

AS COET wished to assist its old members it drew up an agreement with the new LEEASA to supply a certain amount of seed money to ensure that its old COET, but now LEEASA members benefits and services continued. Certain terms and conditions applied. After paying over a significant amount of funds to the new LEEASA, regretfully further funding was suspended as the new LEEASA had not complied with the terms and conditions. This was mainly due to running expenses of the new organisation. Letters requesting further information on their expenses were not answered.

In view of the above all further funding of the new LEEASA from COET has been terminated.

LEEASA can be contacted at www.leeasa.co.za (A Sommer 074 900 8378)



No 6. CPD Courses.

Reminder!! - For professional re-registration with ECSA, at least 5 credits are required per five year cycle from Category 1 (Attendance of structured educational / developmental meetings). Unfortunately, only a maximum of 4 credits per annum can be accumulated each year in category 1.

For the CPD Courses and providers please go to our Web Site and download the CPD Course List PDF File. A full list was published in the December 2016 Newsletter.

SEE www.engineeringchamber.yolasite.com

Members are reminded that they are entitled to claim of 10 % to 15% discount on the fee from the provider, as this is part of our assessment agreement with them. This applies only to the courses advertised on our Website.

The latest addition to the list is

Contractual Landscape for Built Environment Professionals a one day course for 1 credit Course validation number IPET 2017/01 Contact 6CDS (Johan) at 082 737 5532.

E Mail Johan@6cds.co.za

No 7. Policy; Facebook, Twitter, and other Social Networks. All Members Please Note!!

We get suggestions that the Association should be on one or all of the above social networks.

A recent survey found that checking social media and e mails cost 40% of respondents more than an hour each day in lost productivity!

So to all members (and others) who have asked us to join their group or circle we will not be doing so at present as we just do not have enough time available or volunteers to handle this task.

The above also applies to the Editor and Admin Officer.

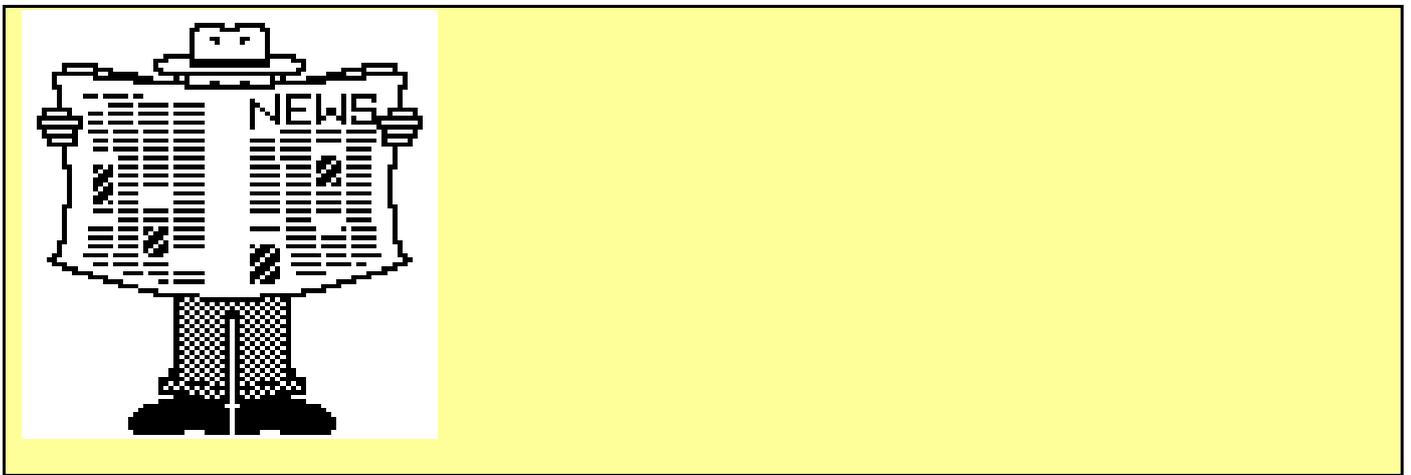
Ed.

No 8. Snippets.

The following mini articles, notices and news follow the trend of interesting scientific, engineering developments and general interest items that we come across. Read and enjoy!

Please feel free to contribute by sending your articles to share with our members!

Ed.



We live in a rotten, corrupt world

Not a single country in the world is completely corruption free according to an international perception index just released by Transparency International (TI). Close to 60% of all countries scored below 50% on the scale and South Africa, at 45%, is just above the global average of 43%. The index has been going since 1995.

Corruption is defined by TI as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain”.

Not a single country gets close to a perfect score on the scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The average score of the 176 countries surveyed is only 43% - more than two-thirds of the countries and territories in this year’s index scored below the 50%-mark.

South Africa scored 45% in position 64 on the index, just two percent above the average. This means that 112 countries did worse. However, this is of little consolation since it is stated that it is “the same bleak picture we’ve been seeing now for two decades ... except it’s getting worse”.

The data, however, shows that 85% of the global population now live under a corrupt government.

The top spot of least corrupt at 90%, goes jointly to Denmark and New Zealand.

In Southern Africa only two countries, Botswana on 60% (35th in the world) and Namibia on 52% (53rd in the world), are above the 50%-mark. South Africa with its 45% score is in the third spot in the region.

Source TI

Japan to use old phones for medals

Japanese Olympic officials have issued a call for old smartphones and electronics. The aim is to recycle enough metals to produce the medals for its 2020 Olympic Games. Although Rio used about 30% recycled materials in its medals, Japan is clearly trying to do better.

Japan to simplify hi-tech toilet instructions

In what can only be described as the pinnacle of Japanese scientific industrial efficiency, the country's major hi-tech toilet barons will create a uniform set of instructions. The intention is for tourists unused to the ridiculously sophisticated thrones to avoid incorrect use of the various buttons. After all, if you are looking for noise-baffling music while conducting business and wind up spraying your unprepared cheeks with water, nobody wins. The new eight pictorial instructions should wipe all confusion away.

Source Daily Maverick +

Sinkhole!

A large expanding crack appeared in Northern Cape, South Africa, between the cities of Daniëlskuil and Kuruman, following the heavy rains that hit the region at the beginning of January.

The crack is located about 55 km south of Kuruman and was discovered on January 6, 2017. On January 13, it was about 300 m (980 feet) long and 30 m (98 feet) deep; and it is still increasing in size. As it is dangerously approaching R31 road, which runs between the two cities, the road is now officially closed by the Department of Roads & Public Works for precautionary reasons.

The crack is believed to be a natural sinkhole formed due to the karst topography of the area. The region consists of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum and is characterized by underground drainage systems with sinkholes and caves. It seems to be used to such formations, since the Boesmansgat sinkhole - one of the world's deepest submerged freshwater caves - is also located nearby.

Source: THE WATCHERS

No 9. Is Our E Newsletter in the JUNK Box?

*Just because you get E mails that are sent to you **INDIVIDUALLY** from us does not mean that you receive bulk E mails.*

As the internet becomes ever more invasive, computer savvy members and companies are using **SPAM FILTERS** to separate legitimate email from the hoard of promotional messages that invade email **INBOXes** every day.

These filters are very smart and useful but sometimes are a little too smart for their own good. They can shift essential emails into your Junk mail folder and cut you off from critical and essential information.

So to ensure you receive our Newsletters add the following addresses to your **SAFE SENDERS list**.

noreplycoet@gmail.com
jjconsultancy@gmail.com
jameshellerjhb@gmail.com
206on8th@gmail.com
engineer@netactive.co.za

Just because you get E mails that are sent to you **INDIVIDUALLY** from us does not mean that you receive bulk E mails.

Some Companies and Internet Service Providers block E mails when they are addressed to more than a few people as they suspect that these E mails are Spam.

Members who supplied E mail addresses which end in Spoornet, Transnet, Eskom and Gov (Government) and Aurecon are warned that our E News is often blocked as they are suspected of being Spam. This even happens to single individual E mails only sent to one person.

This unfortunately also applies to some other firms and consulting engineering companies as well.

Members must sort this out with their IT people at work or their Internet supplier. Your own Computer settings also need to be checked and set especially if you have filters of any sort in your machine.

It is not something we can do from our end!

If all else fails get your own private E Mail address please.

Your co-operation in this will be beneficial to you and the Association.

Please see the list on our Websites where we list some of the suspect names where E mails bounce back undeliverable.

Visit our Website regularly to check out the Newsletters etc, which are updated from time to time. E Newsletters are sent out approx. 4 times a year. No hard copies are sent by post.

If your contact details change kindly complete the information update form, which you will find in various newsletters and also on our Website.

Chamber of Engineering Technology (COET) Website www.engineeringchamber.yolasite.com

Your co-operation in this regard is much appreciated.

Thanks!

COET

PO BOX 1269

Ferndale

2160

E Mail engineer@netactive.co.za

Tel/Fax 011 787 9706

No 10.

Failed E mail Addresses and Lost Members List.

It's absolutely amazing at the number of incorrect, out of date or blocked E mail addresses members have given us over the past year!

Please see the lists on our Websites. These are updated from time to time.

If your name appears on the list kindly supply our office with your latest contact information.

Please do so in writing by E Mail or post but not telephonically.

Thanks

See

www.engineeringchamber.yolasite.com

No11. Unsubscribe.

As a member of CET you should want to receive the E News. If however you do not want to receive the CET E News as an E Mail then you have the option to unsubscribe.

To unsubscribe send an email with ""CET unsubscribe"" in the text to engineer@netactive.co.za

Number 12. E. & O. E.

The Chamber of Engineering Technology (CET), its agents, volunteers, workers and members cannot be held responsible for errors in, amendments to, or any damages whatsoever arising from information published in good faith. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by CET.

No13. DISCLAIMER

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Scroll down for the last page!

**The Chamber of Engineering
Technology**

**P O Box 1269, Ferndale 2160
To All Members**

**Tel / Fax 011 787 9706
E Mail engineer@netactive.co.za**

If you have not sent us an update in the last 12 months and details have changed please complete this form in large black font.

Return the completed form to us by POST or E mail. Faxes not recommended due to poor quality.

You are strongly advised to provide us with your E mail address.

This will allow us to send you our regular E Newsletter. We have discontinued sending hardcopy newsletters at this time.

Form for Individual Members

Last name		Initials	
First Names			
Your Preferred Postal Address		Postal code	
Work Postal address		Postal code	
Name of Employer / Company			
Your or your Company's main field of engineering			
Work Tel (include area codes for all numbers)	Work Fax		
Home Tel	Home Fax		
Cell No	E Mail This is important!		
Membership Number			
Engineering Council of SA Registration Number (If applicable)			
ID Number			
Race (For statistical purposes only) Government often asks for this info.	Asian (Indian etc) = A Black = B	Coloured = C	White = W

