

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ROCK ENGINEERING

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT JOHANNESBURG COUNTRY CLUB, AUCKLANDPARK
ON THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 2024 AT 09:00**

PRESENT: Mr K Le Bron (President, in the Chair) together with 20 members and guests.

1. SAFETY BRIEF

The safety brief was shared by Colin from the Johannesburg Country Club.

2. WELCOME

The President in chair, welcomed all members to the Annual General Meeting and extended a special welcome to guests, and online attendees.

The President proposed the vote of thanks in appreciation to the SAIMM team and Council for their outstanding efforts in maintaining the high standards of the Institute during the previous year.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 31 August 2023 were accepted.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3.1 History of SANIRE

Following the ISRM Congress in Lisbon in 1966 a small group of local rock mechanics enthusiasts met to form an interest group. This group was led by Dr H G Denkhaus, a former director of the National Institute for Mechanical Engineering research at the CSIR. In March 1969 the South African National Group on Rock Mechanics (Sangorm) was formally constituted with a membership of six. Dr Z. T. Bieniawski, Head of the Geomechanics Division of the National Institute for Mechanical Engineering research at the CSIR, was appointed Chairperson, Mr A. A. T. Wilson of Keeve Steyn and Partners was appointed Vice-Chairperson and Mr U. W. O. L. Vogler of Dr Bieniawski's staff was the first Secretary/Treasurer of Sangorm. Under the guidance of this team the membership of Sangorm grew to 175 members in 1978, when Dr Bieniawski left South Africa to take up a professorship at Penn State University in the USA. Since its inception in 1969 Sangorm has played an important role in the activities of the ISRM. In the period from 1969 to 1988, Dr Bieniawski, Dr Wagner and Dr Steffen all served as Vice-Chairmen for Africa on the Board of the ISRM. By 1988, fourteen members of Sangorm were serving on ISRM Working Groups and making valuable contributions to the international rock mechanics community. By early 1988, Sangorm was the third largest National Group within the ISRM with a membership of 380. The major technical activity of Sangorm has been their symposia. These have been held annually since 1982 and it has become a tradition in the later years to invite eminent overseas rock mechanics experts to present a keynote address. More latterly it was decided that a further objective should be to change the status of Sangorm to a professional institute. When SANIRE was formed in July 1999, Dr Nielen van der Merwe became its first President. SANIRE is currently the second largest national group (after China) within the ISRM (SANIRE membership total is 776 as at July 2024).

3.2 Key Objectives of the Institute

With nearly 60 years of experience as an independent professional body in the mining industry, we champion continuous development, foster expertise, and drive forward-thinking perspectives, which uniquely position the Institute to guide and support our members in navigating the challenges and seizing the opportunities of the future.

3.3 Strategic Initiatives

SANIRE has been actively involved in the education and qualification of rock engineering practitioners in the South African mining industry. It upholds the high technical standards of the Strata Control and Rock Mechanics Certificates, previously administered by the Chamber of Mines, on behalf of the Minerals Council of South Africa (MCSA). These certificates are the only rock engineering qualifications recognized by the Mine Health and Safety Act of 1996 (MHSA). Additionally, SANIRE participates in the MCSA Mine Occupational Health and Safety (MOSH) and Fall of Ground Action Plan (FOGAP) programmes. SAIMM began providing secretarial services to the SANIRE in April 2024. These services include administrative support, membership management (via the MYMEMBERSHIP platform), the coordination of branch meetings, the organization of annual conferences, and accounting services. This arrangement is designed to strengthen the collaboration between SAIMM and SANIRE, both of which are internationally recognized professional institutes, synonymous with the South African mining industry. Launched at the 2024 SANIRE AGM, the MYMEMBERSHIP platform significantly simplifies membership management. It includes features such as database management, member data analysis, online issuance of membership certificates, and streamlined membership applications. Additionally, it introduces firewalls to separate access for non-members from registered members, providing secure access to educational materials, publications, and more. In July 2024, at the SANIRE Symposium 2024, SANIRE launched the Flex Learning Management Ecosystem, developed by Mr. Dani Viljoen of Insight Online. Facilitated by the MCSA, this living platform will be hosted by SANIRE for its members.

3.4 Reflecting on the Past Year

For yet another year, the flagship event of the South African Institute of Rock Engineers saw the coming together of industry beacons, young and old all in an interest to share knowledge and keep abreast with industry innovations. The much-revered SANIRE symposium was held on the 13th and 14th of June 2024 at the Silver Star Casino in Krugersdorp. This year's event was themed, "Technical Applications in Rock Engineering". The event was once again coupled with the RockBowl, which afforded the youngsters the opportunity and platform to showcase their Rock Engineering knowhow and of course earn bragging rights. The RMC practicals was also held at the same venue, the day before the symposium. Recognition needs to go to the SAIMM secretariat for organizing a wonderful event where our members and honoured guests had the opportunity to reconnect once again. During the symposium, the SANIRE Treasurer, Sifiso Mashile, informed members of the new agreement between SANIRE and SAIMM, and highlighted the contribution by the SAIMM secretariat, since the secretarial service commenced. Unfortunately, administrative challenges during second half of last year had prevented the reliable collection of membership fees, creating significant cash flow challenges. This has now been resolved through the SAIMM secretariat's

5. OBITUARY: Dr Evert Hoek

The President shared Dr Hoek's contribution history in the Mining Industry.

Dr. Hoek passed away on July 6, 2024. His death is a profound loss to the field of rock engineering and to those who knew him personally. His ground-breaking contributions, such as the Hoek-Brown failure criterion, had a lasting impact on discipline, shaping modern practices and theories in rock mechanics. Dr. Hoek's legacy is not only marked by his technical achievements but also by his role as a mentor. His work will continue to influence and guide future generations in the field. Our thoughts and deepest condolences go out to Dr. Hoek's family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. We join the global geotechnical community in honoring and remembering Dr. Evert Hoek, a true visionary in rock engineering. His legacy lives on.

6. INTEREST OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

5.1 Membership

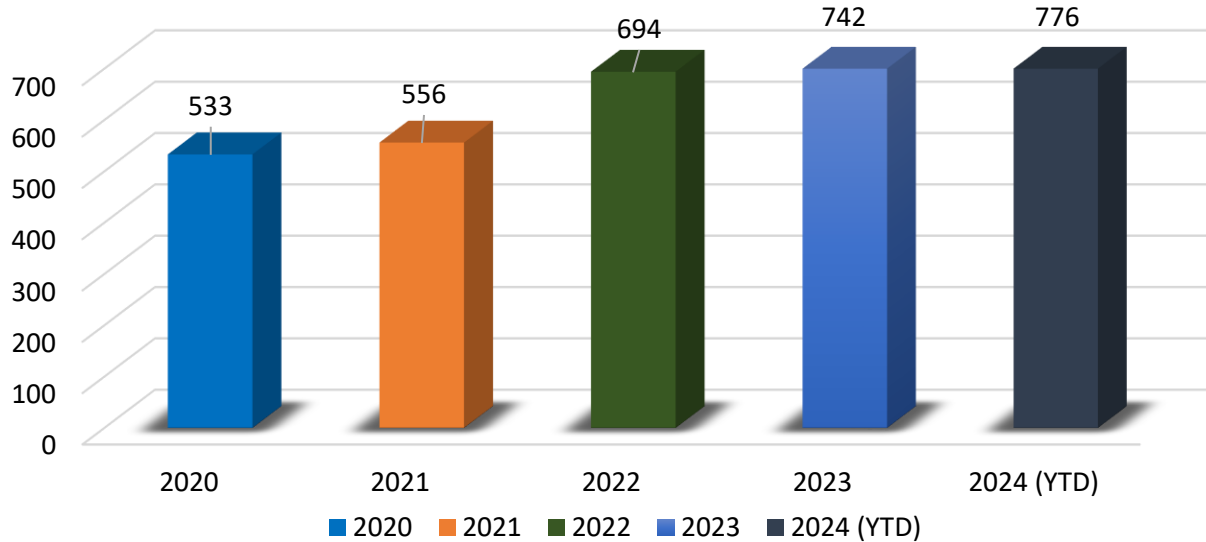
Ms. Nkosi presented the membership report and mentioned that the total membership is 776. She mentioned that there was positive feedback from transferring Associate members to Member as this exercise increased the Member category.

Ms. Nkosi mentioned that the new membership platform which will simplify the membership applications and allow members to download their certificate. She mentioned that the platform also has a shopping cart where you can buy the SANIRE publications and SANIRE items. SANIRE introduced the SANIRE Fellow pins that will be awarded to the SANIRE Fellows.

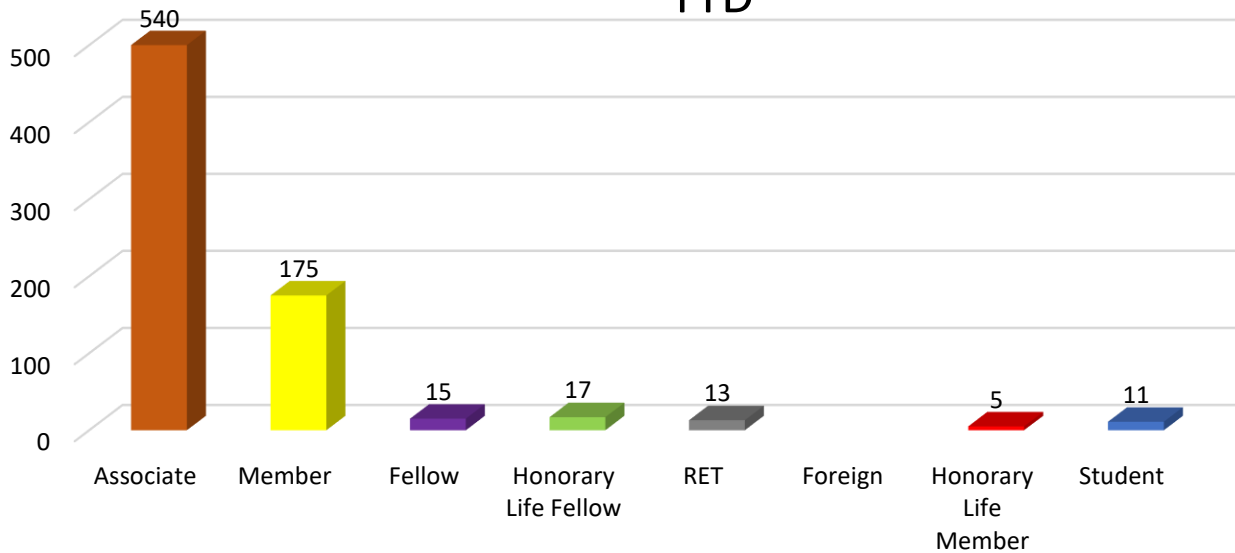
The changes to the Constitution were presented and approved.

President: Mr. Kevin Le Bron
Administrator: Ms. Prudence Ntumelang

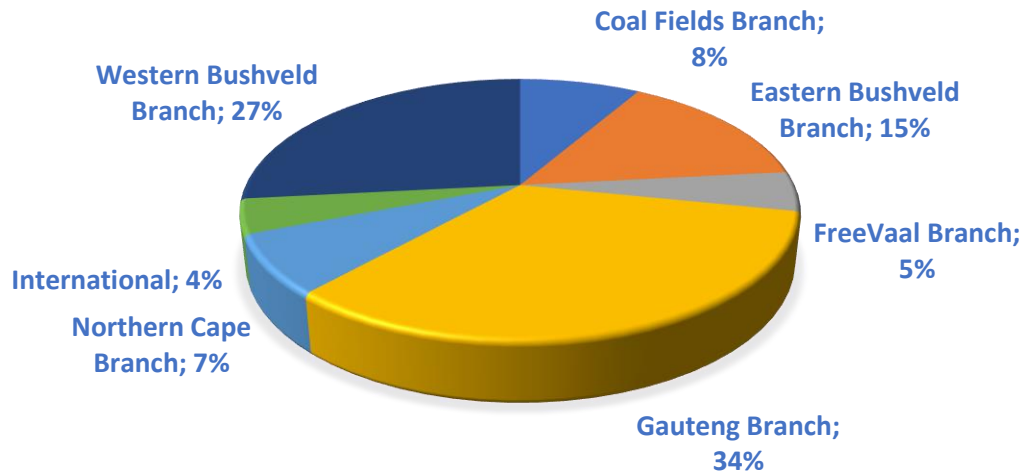
SANIRE Membership 2020-2024



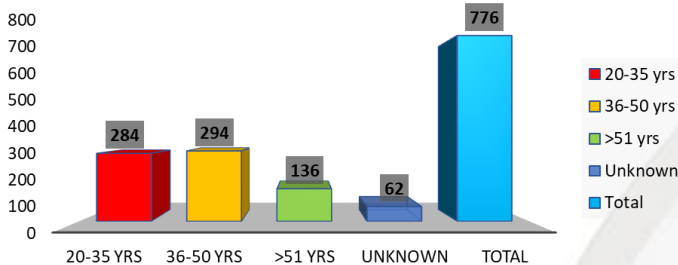
SANIRE Membership YTD



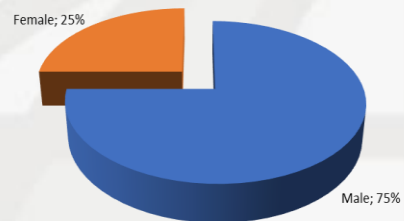
Branch Ratio (July 2024)



SANIRE Member age Demographics July 2024



SANIRE Male - Female Ratio (July 2024)



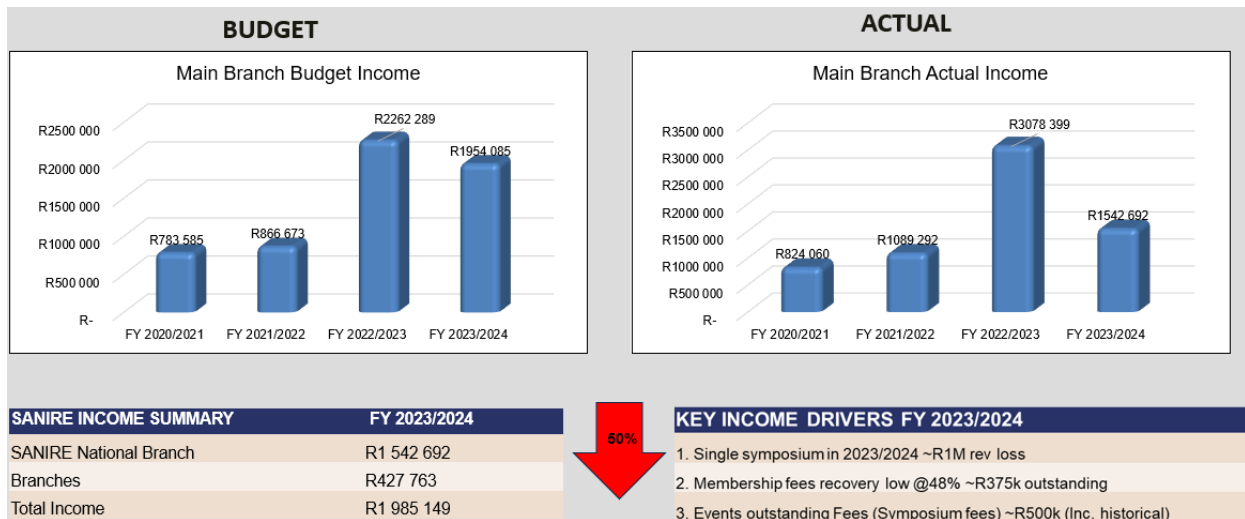
5.2 Finance

Mr. Mashile mentioned that the Institute made a surplus for the financial year. He mentioned that membership invoices will be sent to individuals and if there are companies paying for individuals, can request for a consolidated invoice. Sifiso reported that the SANIRE administration has changed from MPAS to SAIMM and there are good results this far.

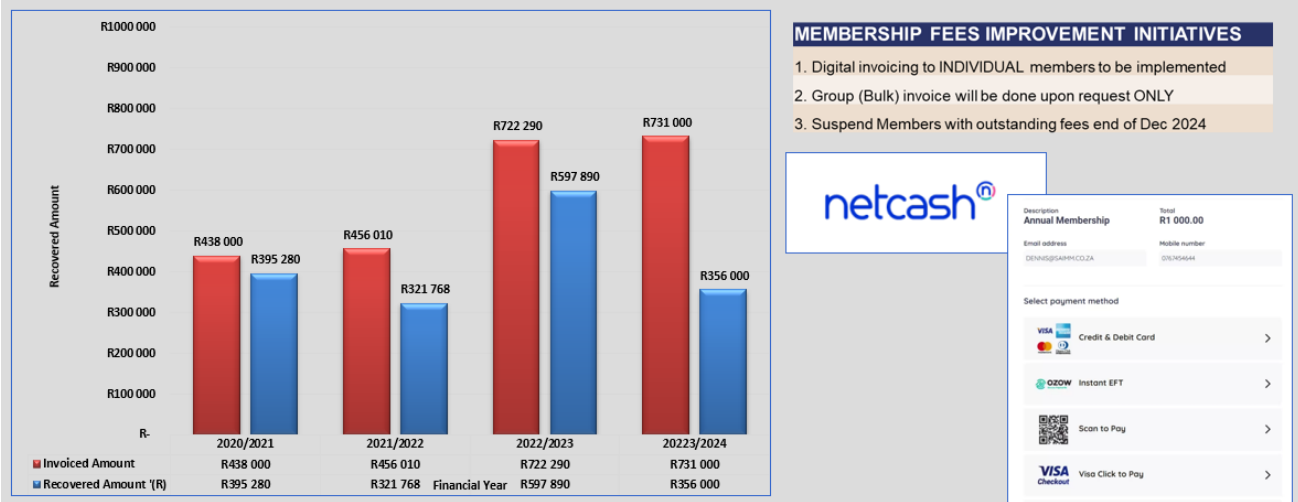
It was reported that the membership fees recovery is very low for this financial and to improve, invoices will be sent directly to members and payments can be paid online.

Mr. Mashile mentioned that SANIRE will be registering for VAT, and communication will be sent to members to take note of the VAT added to their membership fees. He highlighted that membership fees will increase to R1300.00. The members who attended voted for the proposed fees increase and the majority accepted.

FY2023/2024: Income



FY 2023/2024 Membership Overall Recovery Rate = 48%



Budget FY2024/2025

FY2024/2025 Budget			Budget notes
2024 Expenses	Budget 2024/2025		
Administration			
SAIMM, admin costs	R	586 376.05	Based on 7% escalation
Third party audit	R	31 050.00	Left it at last year's budget
* Marketing (SANIRE Branded Gifts)	R	-	
Courier and handling fees	R	1 210.68	Left it at last year's budget
Bank charges	R	2 336.88	Based on 7% escalation
ISRM member fees	R	88 622.50	Based on 8 Euros per Member (~R160/ member for 500 members)
* Travel grant (ISRM Symp, Sal&Ortl awards)	R	290 000.00	Left it at last year's budget
Meetings and Functions	R	-	
- Bosberraad	R	43 000.20	Left it at last year's budget
- Banquet	R	300 000.00	Left it at last year's budget
- AGM	R	78 172.06	2024 AGM costs ~R65k
Golf day/ Fund raising event	R	260 000.00	Planned at break-even (aim is to make profit)
- Council Meetings	R	31 072.80	
- RockBowl Symposium 2025	R	-	Will form part of symposium
- Symposium 2024	R	488 401.50	Only one Symposium planned for Calendar year 2025
* - Other Workshops	R	-	
* Awards	R	6 420.00	Aligned with previous figures +inflation
Practical Exams	R	-	
- SCO Practicals	R	31 780.07	
- RE Practicals	R	25 000.00	RMC Prac venue sometimes a challenge- in no mining company
Other	R	-	
* Website hosting and Development	R	100 000.00	
Other	R	-	
Total	R	2 363 442.74	

Budget FY2024/2025			Budget notes
FY2024/2025 Budget			
2024 Expenses	Budget 2024/2025		
Income	Budget		
Member fees (49% recovery)	R	492 050.00	Based on a 50% recovery (No VAT)
Symposium 2025	R	950 000.00	Planned at break-even
Banquet	R	323 489.16	Planned at break-even
Rockbowl	R	-	Planned with Symposium
SCO & RE exams			
- SCO Prac Exam 2024	R	71 000.00	
- RE Prac Exam 2024	R	40 000.00	
Donations (exhibitions etc.)			
Golf day	R	260 000.00	Planned at break-even
News letter (RockTalk adverts)	R	50 000.00	Left it at last year's budget
Other (Interest from Savings account)		R40 000	
Merchandise & book sales	R	5 000.00	
Diary/ other projects	R	-	
Total	R	2 231 539.16	
Surplus/shortfall	-R	131 903.58	

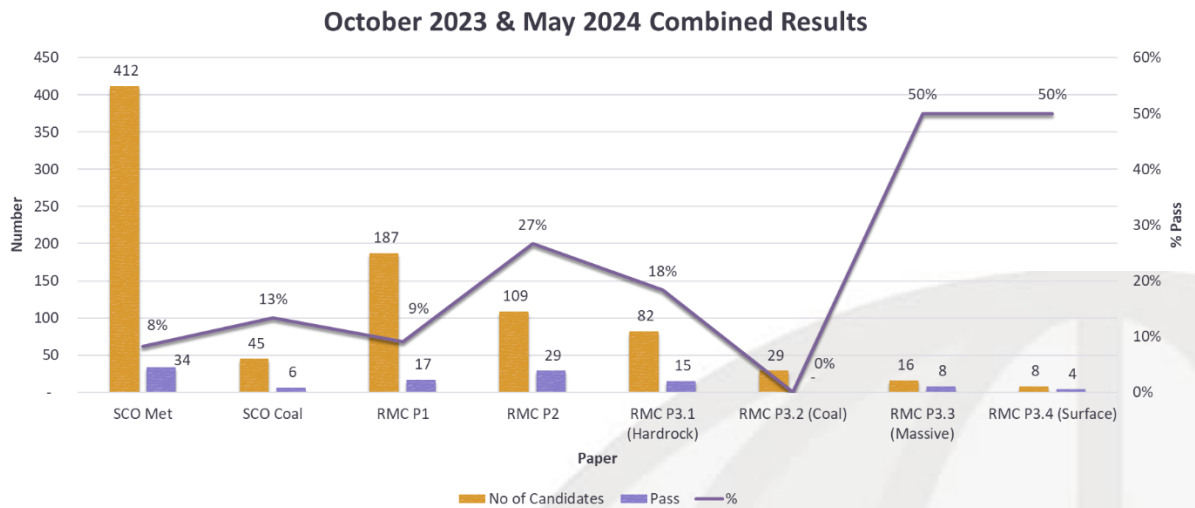
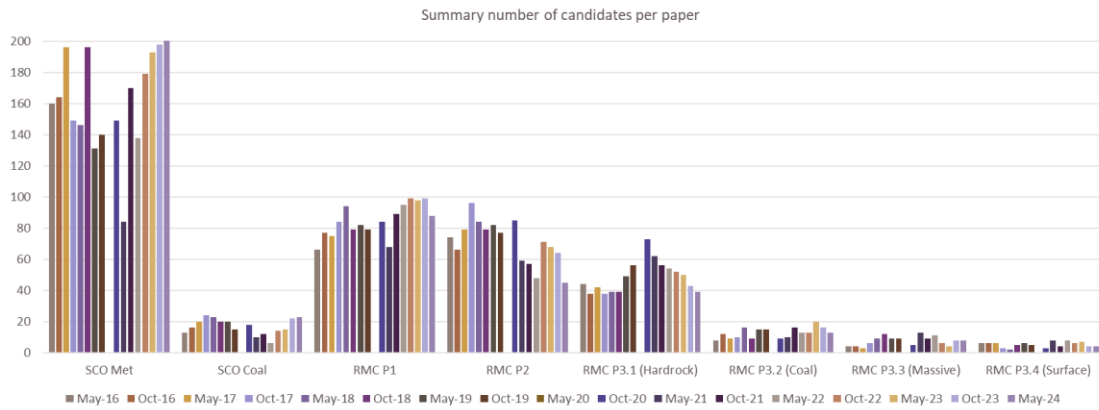
5.3 Education

Theory and Rock Engineering Practical Exam

Presented by: Thandile Dlokweni

Mr. Dlokweni thanked everyone involved in conducting the exams and for remaining professional in doing so. He mentioned that they had 880 candidates who wrote the theory exams with a 13% pass rate.

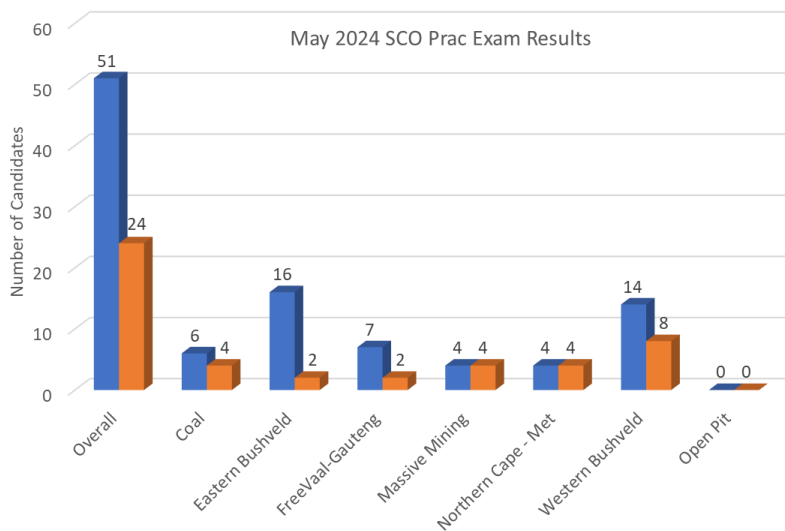
President: Mr. Kevin Le Bron
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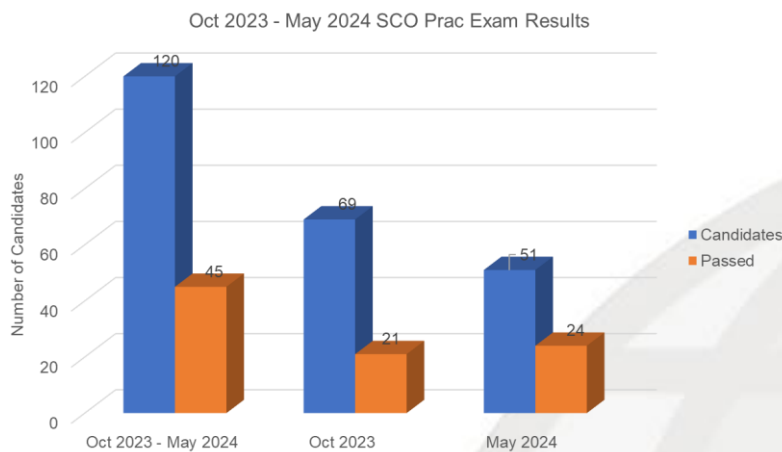
Strata Control Practical Portfolio Holder: Mr. Rofhiwa Phadagi

Mr. Phadagi mentioned that the overall pass rate was 30%. The number of candidates has dropped this year from around 70 candidates to 50 candidates. Mr. Phadagi also highlighted that the Examiners are taking long to release the results and that needs to improve.

He proposed that a Strata Control Officer with 2 papers can sit the exam. Mr. Joughin responded to say that SANIRE should be careful with that strategy as there are a lot of Rock Engineering certificates out there.



- 47% overall pass rate
- No branch with 0% pass rate
- Open Pit exam not conducted in the period.



- 38% overall pass rate in the last year.
- Pass rate increased by 17% in May 2024 compared to Oct 2023

Rock Engineering Practical Portfolio Holder: Mr. Thandile Dlokweni

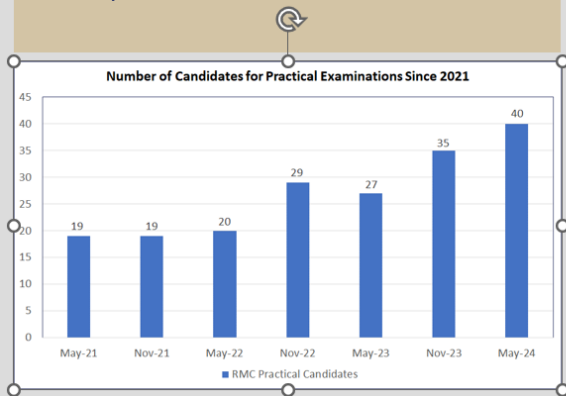
Mr. Dlokweni shared that in the Planning Portfolio, 5 out of 30 candidates passed the exam, reflecting a 17% improvement. He also mentioned that the Portfolio section performed slightly better than the Planning compared to the previous year, achieving a 33% pass rate.

He highlighted that plagiarism remains a concern, and the team is currently looking into governance measures to reduce this risk.

Rock Engineering Certificates Issued in July 2024

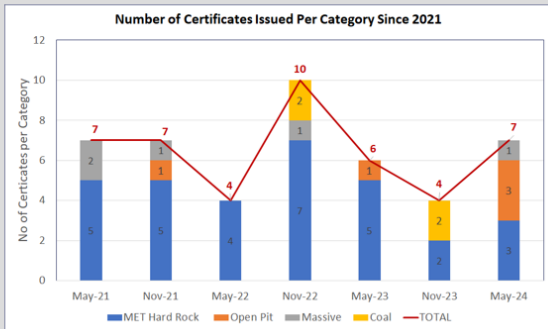
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A historic 40 x Candidates in the combined Planning and/or Portfolio Practical Exams for June/July 2024



Number of Tickets Issued – 7

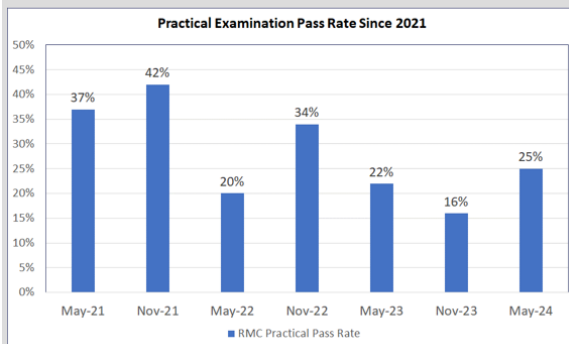
- 3 MET
- 3 OPEN PIT
- 1 MASSIVE



June/July 2024 Practical Examination Results

OVERALL PRACTICAL RESULTS

- 25% pass rate in recent exams
- Slight improvement compared to 2023
- Longstanding worrying trend since 2021



PLANNING EXAMINATION

- 5/30 passes, 17% compared to 15%, Nov 2023

PORTFOLIO EXAMINATION

- 11/33 passes, 33% compared to 17%, Nov 2023

Category	Planning			Portfolio		
	Candidates	Passed	Pass Rate	Candidates	Passed	Pass Rate
MET Hard Rock	21	3	14%	24	6	25%
Open Pit	2	2	100%	2	2	100%
Massive	6	0	0%	6	2	33%
Coal	1	0	0%	1	1	100%
TOTAL	30	5	17%	33	11	33%
Average Pass Rate					25%	

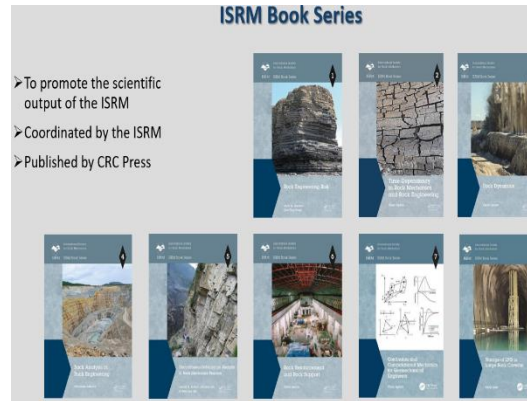
5.4 ISRM

Portfolio Holder: Mr. Jannie Maritz

Mr. Maritz introduced the (ISRM) to the AGM attendees. He mentioned the recent AGM that was held with 9300 individual members. He noted that two new commissions are expected to be approved at the upcoming AGM in India.

He shared that the ISRM has published two suggested methods textbooks, referred to as the blue and orange books which are compiled of documents which recommended practices for rock testing. A third volume, the White Book, is expected to be released in the coming weeks. These publications are available free of charge to ISRM members via the official website.

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Mr. Maritz highlighted the availability of quarterly online lectures and training courses for ISRM members. He also mentioned efforts to enhance accessibility through translation, noting that the Arabic Translation Committee's responsibilities have now been handed over to a Tunisian group. This team will manage the translation of English language video courses into Arabic to better support users in the Middle East.

Mr. Maritz addressed the future of education, indicating that progress is being made on the development of a Learning Management System. Although the initial focus is on rock engineering content but will still look at what is available strata control as well.

He emphasized that while there are costs associated with this platform, they are currently being covered by the manager. Going forward, SANIRE will be responsible for hosting expenses, and part of the R1300 membership fee will contribute toward maintaining member access to this educational content.

6 General

The President thanked members and guests for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

The President thanked the SANIRE Council and Administrator for all the assistance during the past year.

7 CLOSURE

With no further business to be discussed the meeting was closed.

Kevin Le Bron
President

Obakeng Rakumakoe
Vice President

President: Mr. Kevin Le Bron
Administrator: Ms. Prudence Ntumelang