

ROCK *talk*

Volume 11, Issue 1 | April 2025



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- Treasurer's Column
- Education Blog

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SANIRE

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ROCK ENGINEERING

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EDITOR



Fezekile Mosiane

SANIRE would like to hear from you. If you have any information or content you would like us to include in the next newsletter, please submit them via email to Fezekilem@Dwarsrivier.co.za and prudence@sanire.co.za. Remember to follow us on LinkedIn and Facebook for updates.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members

I hope this newsletter finds you well and informed about the recent developments within the South African mining industry and SANIRE. The past three months have been eventful and we are excited to share some highlights with you.

Some of the highlights are listed below:

- **22 February 2025**
SAIMM 130th Anniversary Banquet
- **28 March 2025**
FOGAP Day of Learning
- **May 2025**
MinCo SCC/RMC Examinations
- **16-20 June 2025**
ISRM International Symposium, Trondheim, Norway
- **21-23 July 2025**
AfriRock International Conference, Sun City
- **28 August 2025**
SANIRE Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- **October 2025**
MinCo SCC/RMC Examinations

The SAIMM 130th Anniversary Banquet was held at the Sandton ICC, with approximately 400 people in attendance. The event was hosted by the SAIMM President Dr. Elias Matinde. Photographs are presented below.

AfriRock 2025 Pioneering Progress: *The future of Rock Engineering* (an ECSA validated CPD activity). The goal of AfriRock 2025 is to provide an international forum for presenting and discussing the latest advancements in rock mechanics and geotechnical engineering.

I would like to appeal to all members to pay their membership fees timeously. The member benefits are numerous, ranging from the newly launched online SANIRE Academy, organising SANIRE conferences, organising and hosting of practical examinations, facilitation of setting and marking of theory examination papers, facilitation of technical events at branch level, facilitation of best/leading practice knowledge transfer, member attendance at reduced rates, facilitation of full-time tertiary student study bursary assistance, constant communication of latest events, etc. Without the member contributions, SANIRE would not be able to facilitate most of these benefits. I would like to thank the SANIRE members for their continued support, as well as our sponsors, and last but not least: the examiners, the national Council members, ISRM VP for Africa Mr. Jannie Maritz, branch committees, branch chairpersons, SAIMM President Dr. Elias Matinde and our administration team from SAIMM.

Kevin Le Bron
SANIRE President



SAIMM 130th Anniversary Banquet



SANIRE HONORARY

TREASURER QUARTERLY UPDATE

Dear SANIRE Members

As we begin 2025, I wish to extend my appreciation to the **391** members who are currently in good standing and have contributed a total of R373,950.00 in membership fees. Your continued commitment supports the operational sustainability and professional presence of SANIRE.

However, there remains a concern **340** members are not in good standing, with total outstanding fees amounting to R565,350.00. This is a marked improvement from **Q4 2024**, where **588** members had outstanding dues. We thank all who have responded since the last call to action.

In accordance with Section 7.4 of the SANIRE Constitution

- All subscriptions are due on the 1st of July and must be paid in advance.
- Members with unpaid subscriptions after the 31st of December are no longer in good standing and forfeit rights such as access to publications, notices, awards, and voting privileges.
- Suspension letters will be issued to members with outstanding fees pending submission of proof of payment in April 2025.
- Members whose fees remain unpaid after one year (i.e. post-June 2025) risk exclusion by Council resolution, removal from the membership register, and may be subject to entrance fees and additional Council-determined conditions if reapplying.

I urge all affected members to act swiftly to retain their professional affiliation and access to SANIRE benefits.

Please reach out to your Branch Chairperson or contact the SANIRE Secretariat at info@sanire.co.za for assistance.

Let us continue to build a strong, professional rock engineering community.

Regards,

S Mashile

SANIRE Honorary Treasurer

Outstanding Members by Category (as of Q1 2025)

- Associates: 273
- Members: 62
- Fellows: 1
- Retired Members: 3
- Retired Associate: 1



WE HAVE INCREASED THE ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPANIES WHO WOULD LIKE TO MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IN THE SANIRE NEWSLETTER. CONTACT US TODAY TO SECURE A SPACE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **ROCKtalk**

2024-2025 Advertising Rate Card (all sizes in mm)

Type of Advert	Height	Width	Rate
Front Cover	165 h	55 w	R4000.00
Full Page (A4)	297 h	210 w	R8000.00
Half Page Horizontal	148 h	210 w	R2800.00
Third Page Horizontal	99 h	210 w	R2400.00
Square	60 h	60 w	R1000.00

BOOK YOUR SPACE: info@sanire.co.za

VIEW THE LATEST ISSUE OF **ROCKtalk**
www.sanire.co.za

EDUCATION BLOG

SANIRE FOGAP SKILLS INITIATIVE

Dear SANIRE Members

The SANIRE FoGAP Education Programme is gaining traction and I am excited to share with you the current status.

Latest Updates

The **Fall of Ground Action Plan (FoGAP) Education Programme**, a collaboration between **SANIRE, Minerals Council South Africa, and Flex Online**, continues to drive progress in **digital skills development for Rock Engineering professionals**. Key highlights include:

- **SANIRE Academy Launch** – The platform is live, offering structured learning pathways for Rock Engineering practitioners.
- **Pathways for Learning** – Depending on your Rock Engineer Education Level, you have the ability to browse and select the appropriate 'learning pathway' that you would like to embark on. Currently, there are three pathways available:
 - Strata Control Observer
 - Strata Control Practitioner
 - Geotechnical Engineering Practitioner

- **Upcoming Learning Pathways** – Work is progressing on the Frontline Supervisor Pathway and Practitioner in Practice Pathway.
- **Accredited Training Development** – The currently available learning pathways contain the learning content that members need to study towards their professional development journeys, but not yet any formal assessment and structured qualification requirements to obtain these qualifications. SANIRE is currently developing the qualification and digital toolsets to enable a fully digital, accredited qualification framework and platform.
- **Digital Learning Advancements** – Interactive learning methods, competency-based assessments, and portfolio tracking are currently being developed and integrated as part of the accredited training development.

With a strong focus on scalability, accessibility, and quality the FoGAP initiative is leading the way in modernising Rock Engineering education. Stay tuned for more updates and enrolment details!

Members are encouraged to send feedback on their experience on the platform as we aim to make this a one-stop shop for learning and development.

Petrie Wessels
MincoSA Exams

Getting Started

Below is a step-by-step guide to access the platform and set up your learning journey

Register

- 1 You will receive an email to your email address, as registered on the SANIRE database, notifying you of your enrolment into courses on the SANIRE learning platform. Please monitor your 'spam' folder if you don't see this email in your inbox. An example of this email below:

You have been enrolled in 1. Rock Engineering Introduction on SANIRE

 no-reply=flexonline.io@mg.flexonline.io <no-reply=flexonline.io@mg.flexonline.io> on behalf of
SANIRE <no-reply@flexonline.io> [Unsubscribe](#)
To: [REDACTED]



You have been enrolled in 1. Rock Engineering Introduction

You have been enrolled in 1. Rock Engineering Introduction at SANIRE. This course will now appear on your SANIRE dashboard.

[Click here to Finish Registration](#)

Once you have registered and activated your account, you will see 1. Rock Engineering Introduction listed on your dashboard.

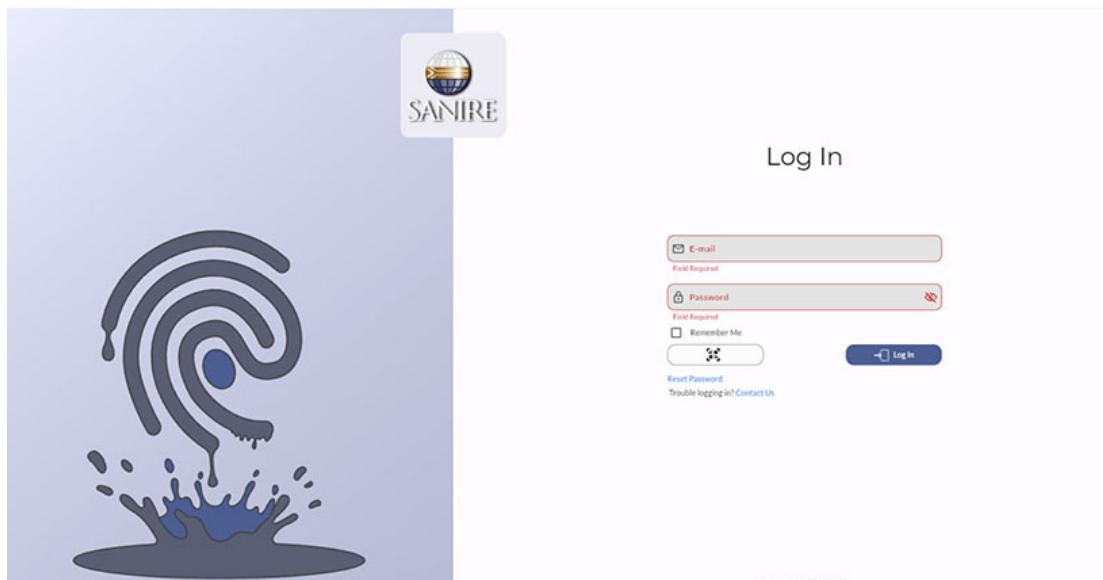
- 2 Click on the 'Click here to Finish Registration' button to complete your profile on the platform and activate your account. We will receive a second email from the platform to activate your account.
- 3 Once you have activated your account, you will be able to log into the platform. Once logged in, navigate to the 'Browse' section to select your learning pathway that you can enroll in.
- 4 Set up the SANIRE Academy on your phone/tablet so that you can learn on the go! Turn the page for detailed instructions.

Already Registered?

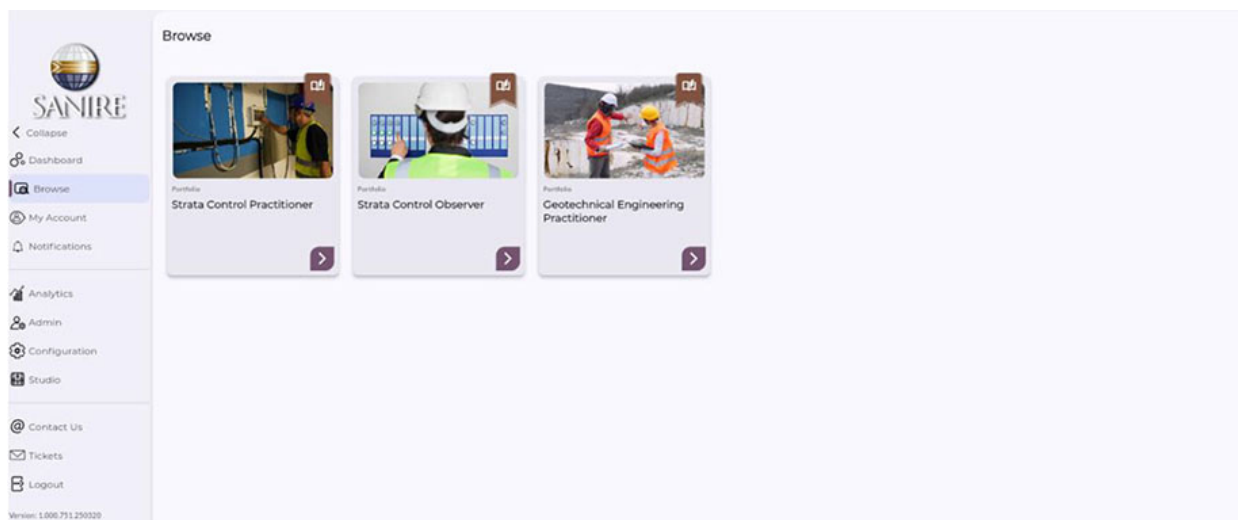
Follow these guidelines to access the SANIRE Academy and continue your learning.

Platform

- 1 Access the SANIRE Academy by clicking on the following link, or typing it into your browser:
<https://lms.retc.flexonline.io/>



- 2 Access the platform with the email address as captured in the SANIRE database and enter your password as created when you registered on the platform. If you have forgotten your password, click on the 'Reset Password' link and follow the instructions to reset your password.
- 3 Once logged in, navigate to the 'Browse' section to select your learning pathway that you can enroll in.



Learn on any device!

The SANIRE Academy platform is available on the web or mobile application. Follow the steps below based on your selection:

Internet Browser

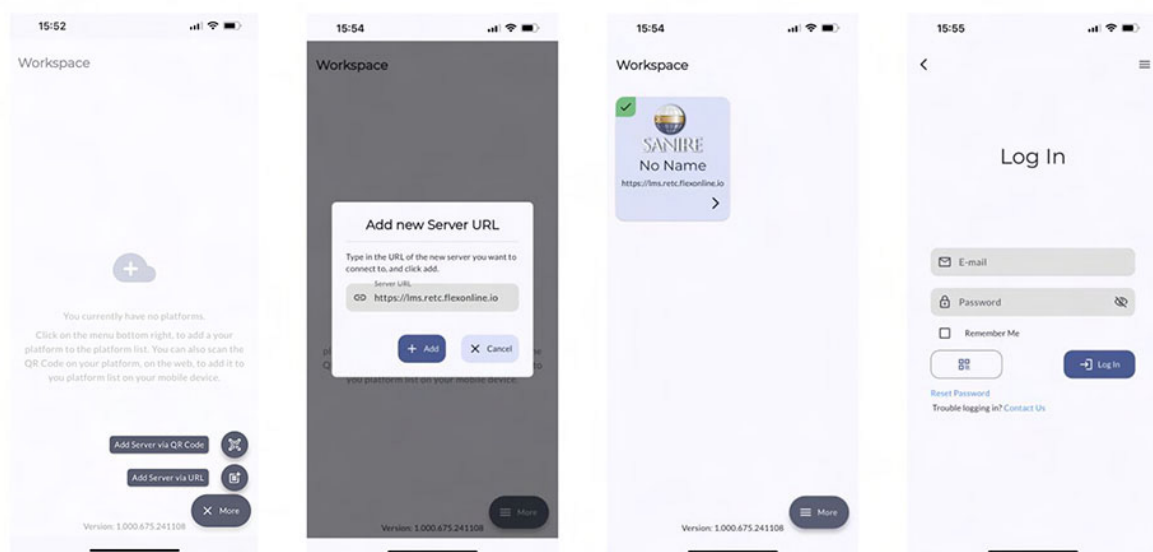
- 1 On your preferred internet browser (Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge etc.) enter the following link - <https://lms.retc.flexonline.io>
- 2 Enter your login details and enjoy your learning experience!

Mobile Application Setup

- 1 Download the Flex Mobile App from the [Google Play Store](#) and [Apple App Store](#).



- 2 Once downloaded, open the Flex LMS app and on the bottom right menu, click on 'Add server via URL'. Type the following URL – '<https://lms.retc.flexonline.io>' and click on 'Add'. Click on the SANIRE platform, enter your login details and enjoy your learning experience!



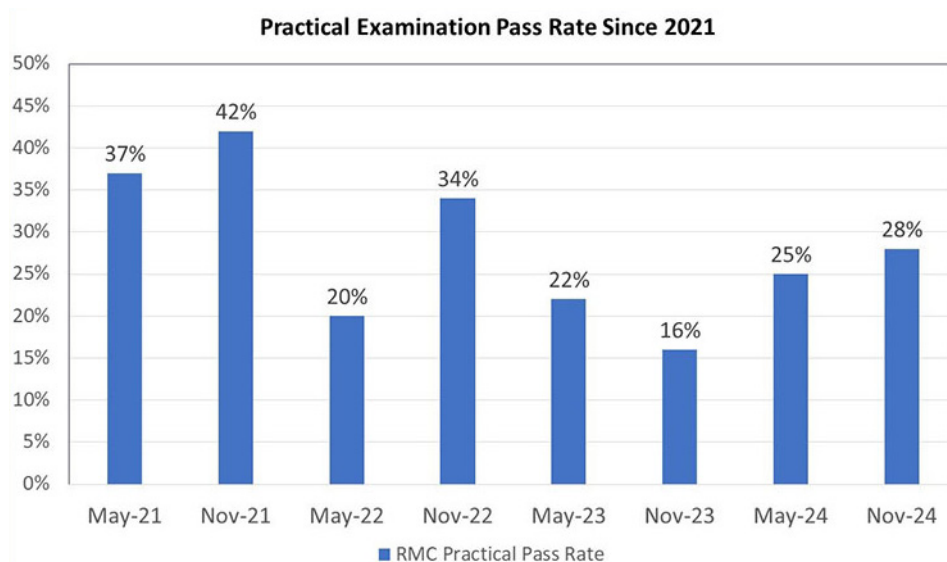
Rock Engineering Certificate Practical Examination

I am pleased to share another momentous achievement that marks a significant milestone in Rock Engineering Certificate Practical Examinations and Tickets. 43 candidates took part in the Planning and/or Portfolio Practical Examinations in November 2024, an increase from 40 candidates in July 2024 and recent years. I'm also excited to announce that 10 Rock Mechanics Certificates were issued in November 2024, which is the highest number since November 2022. Congratulations to all the new Ticket Holders which include 6 Met Hard Rock, 2 Coal and 2 Massive Mining.

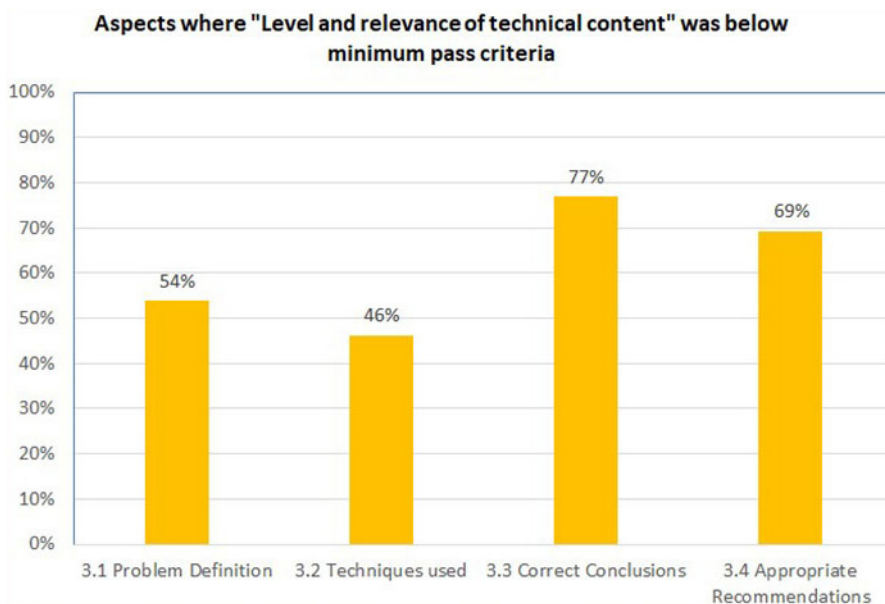


There is a challenge and it is one we must mitigate

Despite the above mentioned achievements, the pass rate is persistently low, standing at 28% in November 2024 and has been consistent over the past four years. The low conversion rate from Candidacy to Rock Engineering Certificate Ticket Holders is a major industry hurdle and inevitably creates a succession planning vacuum with downstream risks years from now. It is not an easy solution; however, we must be honest and say a coordinated industry effort is required from governing bodies, employers and education to mitigate these risks.



Examiners' reflections on portfolio submissions indicate that, beyond the technical content (which accounts for 80% of the assessment), over 50% of the submitted portfolios have often fallen short in the areas of Problem Definition, Correct Conclusions and Appropriate Recommendations. Addressing these components through the provision of supervision, coaching, and mentoring is a low-hanging fruit because they form the basis and initial stage of producing a successful portfolio report.



Looking Ahead, One Location and Date for Practical Examinations

Due to COVID-19, it is now common practice to hold separate and distinct dates for the Planning and Portfolio examinations for the various mining methods. A proposal to return to the pre-2020 practice of holding the exams in one location on the same day, has been approved by the Council due to logistical issues and to coordinate the schedules of examiners, moderators, and applicants. The next Planning and Portfolio examinations will be hosted on Friday, 6 June 2025 at the University of Pretoria.

Wrapping up

In closing, I would like to recognise the remarkable efforts and commitment of all the Planning and Portfolio Examiners/Moderators, who have devoted their time and worked diligently and professionally throughout the various assessments in November 2024. Lastly, I would like to thank Goldfields South Deep and Groundwork Consulting for providing the locations for the November 2024 Massive Mining and Met Hard Rock Examinations.

Thandile Dlokweni
SANIRE Council, Rock Engineering Practical Exams



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