

ROCK *talk*

Volume 11, Issue 4 | December 2025



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1. SANIRE WEBSITE

- ➔ Visit www.sanire.co.za to apply for membership.

2. APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP

- ➔ On the SANIRE website click on **JOIN SANIRE** under the QUICK LINKS TAB to create a profile.

3. CREATE A PROFILE

- ➔ Complete all your personal details and click on **PROCEED**. Wait to receive your login details.

4. LOGIN DETAILS

- ➔ The login details, including your username and password will be sent to your email. Login to the **MyMembership portal** to complete your profile.

5. MYMEMBERSHIP PORTAL

- ➔ Once you have logged in, click on the **Become a Member tab** and follow the prompts to complete your application.

6. PROPOSER AND SECONDER

- ➔ For a Membership application you will be required to add the name and membership number of a proposer and seconder, who must be members of SANIRE. Contact: prudence@sanire.co.za if you require assistance.

7. APPLICATION FEEDBACK

- ➔ Once you have completed the application process the Administrator will review your application and provide feedback.

SANIRE Membership Application Guidelines



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members

With the year coming to end we looked back at the year to measure how has the Institution fared in delivering to the member and industries where our members are practicing. Our reflection is guided by the organization's objectives, which are to:

1. Encouraging interest and education in Rock Engineering.
2. Maintaining professional practice and high ethical standards within the industry.
3. Promoting networking, collaboration, and information exchange among professionals.
4. Identifying, promoting, and facilitating research in Rock Engineering

There have been great highlights across the four objectives, from the launch of the SANIRE Academy to the successful Afrirock conference and many networking and learning events across the branches. In these highlights, SANIRE has managed to create platforms promoting the Rock Engineering profession and make it a viable career option for those with passion for engineering, and unfortunately for also those who will pursue the career at all costs.

Demand for rock engineering skills in the South African mining industry has remained high over the past two decades, and the ongoing focus on improving safety is expected to sustain this strong demand. The irony is that the drive for a safer mining industry has seen the emergency of unethical practices and behaviours. Over the past few years there have been a numerous incidents of leaked exam paper for the Rock Mechanics Certificate. It goes without saying that anyone who engages in such conduct should not be allowed to practice engineering. Particular where many lives depends on their decision making and ethical conduct.

Rock Engineering is one of the most complex engineering discipline due the variability of the materials being managed and the constantly changing environment. Currently the Rock Mechanics Certificate issued by the Minerals Council South Africa is considered a minimum certification to be considered a competent person to have input into mine design and planning [MHSA: 22.14.1(8)]

The input of a Rock Engineer into a the safe operation of the mine includes amongst others

- The assessment of rock masses and stress to maintain integrity of the excavations.
- Designing and selection of appropriate rock mass support systems.

- Monitoring, identifying and mitigating geotechnical hazards.
- Optimizing extraction methods to minimize waste and maximize ore recovery.
- Consider and minimizing environmental impact in the selection of mining methods and support materials used in design.
- A complete Rock Engineering promotes efficiency and sustainable mining.

To be able to conduct the above mentioned functions requires in-depth appreciation of the rock mechanics and engineering principles. The Rock Mechanics Certificates aims to give the appreciation to the rock mechanics to practice Rock Engineering. Cheating to obtain the certificate implies one is not capable to independently fulfil the aforementioned functions of a Rock Engineer. More concern is the ethical behaviour of those who have obtained the certificate through such conduct. Ethics are the foundation of any profession, especially where people rely on your knowledge for their safety and wellbeing.

Ethics in the engineering profession are crucial as information has to be used to solve complex problems and at time develop novel solution. Maintaining high ethical standards ensures that in conducting business or rendering service the following are considered:

- Safety and wellness: People rely on the decisions made by engineer and trust in their knowledge and expertise to keep them safe in the execution of work. An ethical engineer need to have this in mind as their decisions might not always be questioned due to the level of trust put onto them.
- Professional integrity: High ethical standard promotes honesty, transparency, accountability and fairness. Ensuring that all stakeholder in are treated with fairness and this includes colleagues clients and the broader community. This may include colleagues, clients, broader community and preventing discrimination, corruption and exploitation. This further builds trust in your professionalism and the confidence that you will uphold the laws at all time.

SANIRE promotes high ethical standards and professionalism and support members by providing learning platform and events to gain necessary knowledge to obtain certifications. SANIRE condemns unethical behaviour and dissociates with any persons involved in leaking of exam papers. I encourage ethical members to report such incidents when they come across them to uphold the profession of Rock Engineering.

Obakeng Rakumakoe
SANIRE President

SANIRE HONORARY TREASURER QUARTERLY UPDATE

Dear SANIRE Members

SANIRE Treasury Update – Q2 FY 2025/2026

It is with great pleasure to write my first article in the newsletter as a SANIRE newly elected Treasurer 2025/2027. As per usual mandate, I am here to fully serve SANIRE and its members, supporting the president to deliver the goals set for the new term. We have begun the second quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year; we would like to provide an update on membership invoicing and payments. To date, 230 Associate Members, 114 Members, and 8 Fellows have been invoiced. Of these, 40 Associates, 34 Members, and 7 Fellows have already paid their subscriptions. We plead and urge members to settle their fees. We extend our sincere gratitude to those who have already renewed their membership for their continued support and contribution.

We remind all members that, in line with the SANIRE Constitution, membership fees are due by **31 December** each year. Members whose subscriptions remain unpaid beyond this date will not be considered in good standing and will not be entitled to receive notices, publications, or exercise any rights and privileges of membership. Furthermore, members whose subscriptions remain unpaid for one year may, by resolution of Council, be excluded from the Institute.

Your commitment to paying fees on time is vital in sustaining SANIRE's mission to serve the Rock Engineering community. Thank you once again to all who have renewed promptly, and we encourage those with outstanding balances to settle them before the due date to remain in good standing.

Treasury Tips: Navigating a Strong Rand

Investment strategy implications

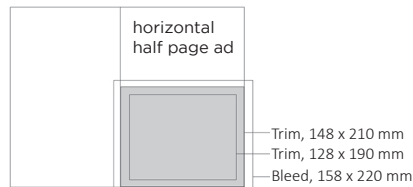
- In a strong-rand environment, investing in local fixed-income or money-market instruments may become more attractive relative to foreign alternatives.

Kind regards

Glorious Nkosi
Honorary Treasurer

SANIRE ROCKtalk Advertising Rate Card 2025-2026

Front cover	Trim: 230 h x 210 w Type: 170 h x 190 w
Full page	Trim: 297 h x 210 w (A4)
Inside front cover	Type: 277 h x 190 w
Inside back cover	Bleed: 307 h x 220 w
Outside back cover	(bleed allowance 5 mm top, bottom, side)
Half page horizontal	Trim: 148 h x 210 w Type: 128 h x 190 w Bleed: 158 h x 220 w
Third page horizontal	Trim: 99 h x 210 w Type: 79 h x 190 w
Square page	Trim: 60 h x 60 w Type: 50 h x 50 w



Should the advert be intended to go to the edge of the page, text and images (those that do not bleed off the page) must fit into the type area, and the artwork must be extended an extra 5 mm (bleed) beyond the trim size to ensure that, when the page is trimmed, text isn't cut off and the artwork indeed goes to the edge of the page. If the advertiser does not want the ad to run up to the edge of the page, the entire ad must fit into the type area.

2025-2026 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

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The stewardship of the new SANIRE Journal, that will be led by Dr. Richard Masethe as the chairperson of Communication and Publication portfolio, marks a significant stride toward establishing a publication of international credibility and long-term scientific impact. The journal is being developed with a clear vision: to achieve an impact factor by consistently producing focused research of high quality, strong ethical foundation, and unquestionable scientific rigor.

Its foundation is built on deliberate structures designed to support excellence. These include secure digital systems for managing submissions, sustainable operational resourcing, and most importantly the formation of a multidisciplinary Editorial and Advisory Committee capable of upholding confidence in the journal's governance, peer-review policies, and review standards. The emphasis is on quality over quantity; SANIRE recognises that meaningful citations arise from rigorous, relevant, and well-reviewed research rather than volume alone.

To ensure academic credibility, the journal will implement a transparent and robust peer-review system, supported by clear publication ethics and professional editorial processes. Attention to formatting standards, layout integrity, and open scholarly accessibility will further strengthen reader trust and research visibility.

SANIRE's commitment to a fully open-access model, free to both authors and readers, reflects its belief that unrestricted knowledge dissemination is essential for advancing scientific understanding particularly in Rock Engineering and Rock Mechanics, where evidence-based insight directly supports safer mining environments.

By aligning rigorous standards with sustainable practices, the SANIRE Journal will position itself as a future benchmark publication the one built on quality, ethical responsibility, and a collective commitment to continuous improvement.

Dr. Masethe's approach recognises that building a respected journal parallels the quest for zero harm- both demands patience, disciplined execution, and a collective dedication to long-term excellence.



Dr. Richard Masethe

Communications and Publications Committee



ANNUAL OFFICE CLOSURE

Our offices will be closed from

15 December 2025 and will reopen on 2 January 2026.

As this is the only period when most of our team can take leave, some staff will be on leave between 15 December and 12 January.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

SANIRE BRANCH Contributions

Eastern Bushveld Branch

Greetings from the Eastern Bushveld Branch.

SANIRE Golf & Spa Day – A Memorable Day Despite the Weather

3 October | Highland Gate Estate

On the 3rd of October, SANIRE hosted its annual Golf & Spa Day at the picturesque Highland Gate Estate. Although the weather brought cold winds and a definite chill to the air, it did little to dampen spirits. Members arrived with great enthusiasm, and the day unfolded into a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable experience for everyone who attended. Golfers braved the crisp, windy course with determination and good humour. Friendly competition, impressive shots, and plenty of laughter filled the fairways, proving yet again

that the SANIRE community thrives no matter the conditions. The challenging weather even added its own excitement, making every swing and putt more rewarding.

While the golfers faced the elements, the women in rock engineering were treated to something special, a day of relaxation and indulgence. Peaceful settings, and rejuvenating treatments provided the perfect escape from the cold, allowing them to unwind and enjoy well-deserved pampering. The spa experience was a highlight of the event and deeply appreciated by all who attended.

The day concluded with a delicious dinner, conversation and prize-giving, bringing everyone together to celebrate a successful event. Despite the chill, the atmosphere remained warm, friendly and full of SANIRE pride.

A sincere thank you goes out to all our sponsors for making this day possible. Your continued support allows us to host events that bring our community together and recognise the people who make a difference in our profession.

Kind Regards

Easavani Wessels

Eastern Bushveld Branch Chairperson





UPCOMING EVENTS

<https://www.tunirock2026.com/>



<https://armarocks.org/tucson-2026-symposium/>

60TH US ROCK MECHANICS / GEOMECHANICS SYMPOSIUM

21-24 June 2026, Tucson, Arizona



<https://eurock2026.com/>



<https://www.slopestability2026.com/en>



<https://www.ec-convention.com/ARMS14/>





SANIRE

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF ROCK ENGINEERING