

Introduction

This issue discusses the outcome of the ANC's conference and the new Presidents vision as well as some of SACAA business matters.

Kind regards

Mark Hunter

President's Message

2018 will start off with the SACAA running at full speed. The Ash Conference on the 22 February is something to look forward to. If you feel inclined to get involved, please contact Mark Hunter. We need bodies on the day to cover all the tasks at hand.

Thanks to Mark Hunter and the Mancom for the work done last year. A massive amount of ash is continuously being dumped and the pressure on us to increase the utilisation thereof remains. With that I wish all our members a prosperous 2018 and see you at the conference.

Mark Hovy

❖ SACAA Council meeting dates for 2018

As per usual the Council meetings commence at 13h00 followed by a technical talk at 15h00. Please diarise the following dates so that we can stimulate the Ash discussions and social chats.

- ❖ 14 February 2018 – this meeting will take place at the Concrete Association
- ❖ 09 May 2018
- ❖ 15 August 2018 – AGM
- ❖ 14 November 2018

SACAA is also planning to have two regional events this year. Watch out for these events and communication will be sent out well in advance.

❖ SACAA Ash Conference 2018

SACAA in association with Eskom will be hosting the Ash Conference on 22 February 2018 at the Eskom Megawatt Park Auditorium. The invitations have gone out, so please get your applications in, as it is going to be massive for new business development initiatives. We have assembled 10 speakers with a range of topics including some exhibition stands.

On 23 February 2018, we have arranged for a site visit to various site in the Vaal Triangle, starting at Lethabo Power Station. The details will be sent to the delegates that have indicated this option of the conference.

Please get your registrations in early.

❖ **How Ramaphosa plans to fix SA's beleaguered economy**

After winning a bruising battle for control of the ANC, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa now faces an even more daunting task: rebuilding an economy battered by years of misrule, corruption and the appointment of incompetent officials. Ramaphosa has pledged to reignite growth, rebuild investor confidence and tackle a 28% unemployment rate. He'll be the ANC's presidential candidate in the 2019 elections, but could take over running the country even sooner should President Jacob Zuma make an early exit. Here's what he plans to do:

Create at least 1 million jobs within five years

Jobs will become the centerpiece of government policy. Special economic zones will be established, and tax reforms and other incentives introduced to encourage manufacturers to hire. The government will also repair its relationship with the mining industry and provide it with greater policy certainty in a bid to persuade them to take on more workers. A youth employment program will be scaled up to provide 1 million paid internships to unemployed people within three years.

Prioritise growth and investment

The government will target 3% economic growth next year, up from about 0.7% this year, and 5% by 2023. It will take urgent measures to repair investor confidence, including improving institutional stability, restoring the credibility of the criminal-justice system and demonstrating that the state has the political will to turn the country's finances around.

Contain state debt and spending

Ramaphosa will seek to ensure the government avoids an unsustainable debt trap that would place it at the mercy of its external creditors and limit its policy options. He'll urge it to exercise fiscal discipline to ensure resources are used for development, rather than to service debt or implement populist projects.

Give the black majority a bigger state in the economy

The transfer of ownership and control of the economy to black South Africans will be accelerated under Ramaphosa's plan. The government will investigate how to make black economic empowerment more effective and sustainable, and ensure communities and workers derive greater benefit. It will also promote competition in the banking industry to broaden access to financing and consider establishing a new fund backed by investors, lenders and private companies to provide backing to small and start-up businesses.

Reduce the cost of doing business

Regulations for small businesses will be reviewed to make them less onerous. Energy prices will be more effectively regulated, port tariffs will be reviewed and infrastructure will be improved. Spending on new roads, power stations, ports and other capital projects will be boosted to R1.5trn trillion rand over the next five years. A presidential panel will drive the implementation of large projects, reduce costs and root out corruption.

Improve the education system

The plan would get the government to work with teacher unions to improve the quality of schooling, especially in townships and rural areas. Teachers will be given additional training and support. It may be made compulsory for students to study mathematics and science until they complete school. The state would also take steps to provide free tertiary education to the poor. Improve the management of state companies State companies must be properly governed, managed and operated for the benefit of the public, and suitable boards and executives with the appropriate skills and experience should be appointed immediately. The firms should consider co-investing with private companies or forming strategic partnerships with them to improve their balance sheets and ability to deliver services. The government will consider forming a company to manage all its investments in state-owned enterprises.

Clamp down on graft

A judicial commission of inquiry will be established to investigate allegations that public institutions have been looted and that private companies and individuals have gained undue influence over the state. Law-enforcement agencies will be strengthened, and critical state institutions will be rebuilt. Officials who have facilitated or been involved in graft will be immediately be removed from their posts and face prosecution. Stolen funds will be recovered and deposited in a special fund that will be used for youth training and employment.

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SACAA and its members can contribute vastly towards these Government objectives being achieved.

❖ **New regulations on Waste?**

SACAA is still waiting with abated breath on the outcome of the Draft Regulations, where public comments were solicited, during 2017. This together with the Government's Phakisa Initiative on utilising the various waste streams to create jobs and business opportunities, bodes well for ash utilisation to assist in this regard. SACAA will constantly engage with the DEA colleagues to foster a cohesive relationship for the benefit of a cleaner and better environment for South Africa

❖ **SACAA Subscriptions**

Just a reminder that the invoices have been issued during September 2017 for the SACAA membership subscriptions. Many thanks to all of those that have paid already, it is appreciated. Reminders have been sent to those outstanding during December 2017, just in case some have been missed in the busy schedules.