

THE MEDIUM (since 2010) FOR QUICK ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE SACAA

## INTRODUCTION

Again, SACAA has attempted to inform and share relevant Ash related matters for your perusal.

- ❖ Membership news
- ❖ South African unemployment situation
- ❖ Feedback on the WOCA Conference

Kind regards

*Mark Hunter*

SACAA GM

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Membership** – Welcome to Arno Stephen from Stephens Vervoer who has joined SACAA as an ordinary member. Hope you find your interactions with SACAA members fruitful and the networking enlightening.

**Retirement** – Walter Wirth advised that he is retiring from PPC at the end of May 2019 after a long career in the cement industry. Walter has been a SACAA member for 10 years, so Walter on behalf of SACAA we would like to wish you a healthy retirement and hope you can now tick off all those things on your to do list.

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## *What's on?*

### **Kusile site Visit - 18 June 2019**

The Kusile power station project, which is located near the existing Kendal power station, in the Nkangala district of Mpumalanga, will comprise six units, each rated at an 800 MW installed capacity for a total capacity of 4 800 MW. Once completed, Kusile will be the fourth-largest coal-fired power station in the world.

The power station will be the first in South Africa to install flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD) – a state-of-the-art technology used to remove oxides of sulphur, such as sulphur dioxide, from exhaust flue gases in power plants that burn coal or oil. This technology is fitted as an atmospheric emission abatement technology, in line with current international practice, to ensure compliance with air-quality standards, especially since the power station is located in a priority air shed area. The by-product from the FDG will be synthetic gypsum, which as a waste has a commercial value.

**Unfortunately bookings are full for this round.**

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Our Website for all the hosting of information and links on ash [www.coalash.co.za](http://www.coalash.co.za)

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## SOUTH AFRICA'S UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

### South African Unemployment rate rises to 27.6 % in Q1

14TH MAY 2019

BY: TASNEEM BULBULIA  
CREAMER MEDIA REPORTER

South Africa's unemployment rate increased by 0.5 of a percentage point to 27.6 % in the first quarter of this year, Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA's) latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) shows.

The increase in the unemployment rate is attributable to a decline of **237 000** in the number of people in employment and an increase of 62 000 in the number of people who were unemployed between the fourth quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of this year.

The South African working age population increased by 149 000 in the period under review, compared with the fourth quarter of 2018. The labour force decreased by 176 000.

The results further indicate that the number of discouraged work seekers increased by 156 000 and the "other not economically active" population by 169 000, resulting in the net increase of 325 000 in the number of those who were not economically active.

In a statement on Tuesday, Investec said the weakening of the country's economic fundamentals and institutional strength at a number of its key institutions had contributed to depressed investor sentiment and weakened economic growth.

The company said job losses would serve to aggravate the financial pressure many households were already experiencing.

However, it also noted that an increase in policy and political certainty post the recent elections would, coupled with the mending of structural inefficiencies in the economy, boost confidence levels, driving fixed investment and, therefore, also sustainable employment.

Meanwhile, North-West University Business School economist Professor Raymond Parsons commented that although the rise in unemployment was widely expected, it serves as a further wake-up call about the country's economy in the post-election period.

He posited that the worsening unemployment situation is owed majorly to Eskom load-shedding and its negative impact on the economy during the quarter; as well as to some extent to a slowing global economy.

In light of the employment outlook, he emphasised the need for new urgency in the commitments made at the Jobs Summit in October last year and particularly the role of the Presidential Jobs Committee tasked with monitoring progress towards the target set of 275 000 jobs yearly.

However, he indicated that previous well-meaning endeavours had fallen short, and unless overall growth prospects are greatly strengthened, these useful micro measures to intensify job creation will only have a minimal impact.

Therefore, he highlighted the need for the country to break out of its current 'low growth trap' of about 1% and get onto a higher growth path.

According to the QLFS, a decline in employment was observed in all sectors – the formal sector, informal sector, agriculture and private households – during the quarter under review.

The net loss of 237 000 in the number of people in employment was mainly driven by the construction sector, with 142 000, followed by finance with 94 000, community and social services with 50 000, private households with 31 000, mining with 20 000 and agriculture with 12 000.

Investec indicated that the construction sector, which recorded the largest quarterly loss, had muted fixed investment spend, underpinned by weak business confidence levels, which hindered its growth.

Employment gains were recorded in the transport sector, with 59 000, trade with 25 000, utilities with 16 000 and manufacturing with 14 000.

Quarter-on-quarter, the percentage of young persons aged 15 to 24 years who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) increased by 2.1 percentage points to 33.2 %, or about 3.4-million people.

Investec lamented that youth unemployment remained dispiritingly high and that it was a priority area for government. Therefore, it noted that the income eligibility thresholds for the employment tax incentive scheme were increased in the 2019 Budget, with Finance Minister Tito Mboweni having highlighted that “jobs for 1.1-million young people are supported by this programme”.

Additionally, Investec emphasised that education remains key for inclusive growth and job creation, with learning and culture allocated the largest portion of government spending in the national budget.

According to the QLFS, of the 20.3-million young people aged 15 to 34 years, 40.7 % were NEETs – an increase of 1.8 percentage points compared with the fourth quarter of 2018.

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## FEEDBACK FROM WOCA CONFERENCE

The 2019 World of Coal Ash (WoCA) conference (13-16 May) was held in downtown St. Louis (USA), at the historical Union Station building. With a record 1075 attendees, this year's WoCA was marked as the biggest ever. Speakers from all over the world (from as far as Australia, the UK, Kazakhstan, India and South Africa) provided a well-rounded global perspective on coal ash and related issues. South Africa was well represented by attendees from the Department of Environmental Affairs, the University of Western Cape (UWC), and the University of Johannesburg (UJ). UWC and UJ both had presenters, and UJ attendees were also co-authors on a paper that have **won the student poster of the conference award**.

Anirban Basu, chairman and CEO of the Sage Policy Group, Inc., and David Harris, chairman of the Asian Coal Ash Association, were the plenary speakers on Day 1. Mr. Basu gave a lively talk on the global economy and made some interesting remarks on current and future job markets. He jokingly blamed the shockingly high unemployment rate under young males on the "live with your parents and play video games all day" mentality. Mr. Harris combined his plenary talk with a very well attended presentation pertaining to "Global Aspects on Coal Combustion Products (CPP)". Some key statistics that he highlighted include the global 1221.9 Mt of CCPs that are produced annually and the 677.65 Mt that is being re-used (55 % utilisation rate). He also remarked that India has an important role to play in the future ash market and should be watched with interest.

Other issues addressed included "Beneficiation and Processing", "Groundwater and Environment", "Landfill and Pond Issues", "CCP Storage and Management", "Cement and Concrete", "Regulatory Issues", "Rare Earth Elements", and "Emerging Technologies". From these sessions, two schools of thought were noticed. Those who are for the utilisation of ash, and those who are arguing that coal ash should be eliminated completely by the encapsulation of all ash ponds and landfill. All proceedings papers and presentations will be made available soon, and can be accessed at <http://www.flyash.info/>.

Networking plays an important role in WoCA, and this year was no exception. Ample opportunity existed in this regard with a welcoming reception at Union Station, an off-site reception at Ballpark Village (with viewing of an energetic big screen game of ice hockey!), and 114 exhibitors from across the world showcasing their products, businesses, and ideas.

Preparations are already underway for the 2021 WOCA (17-21 May) to be held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, and it is promised to be a fun filled event. To quote the organisers: "Save your meeting date and make plans to play in NKY!" See you there!

*Attendees from the University of Johannesburg would like to thank SACAA for their financial contribution. What an experience! – Nikki Wagner and Charlotte Badenhorst.*



*With over a 100 exhibitors, networking opportunities were ample.*



*Presentations were of the best quality, with speakers presenting on a variety of ash topics.*



*The Gateway Arch is the main tourist attraction in St. Louis, and, from the top, provided a breath-taking view.*

The editor would like to thank both Nikki and Charlotte for the feedback and  
congrats on the award!



## LOCAL CONFERENCE

### SACAA Coal Ash Conference 2019

Johannesburg (Sandton: Sasol Place)

14 &15 August 2019

### Accelerating Ash Beneficiation

Collaboration of stakeholders across the value chain with particular emphasis on the  
Phakisa Initiative opportunities

Please register for this conference early - the booking form is available on our website



SACAA 2019 Ash  
Conference Invitatio

## SACAA DIARY

### DATES FOR 2019

- 7 August 2019 – SACAA AGM
- 14 &15 August 2019 – SACAA Ash Conference
- 13 November 2019 – Council Meeting and Technical Talk

Please share any news, activities or articles that you feel will be interesting to the members.  
ALL FOR NOW ...

Regards

*SACAA Manca*