

Obituary: Badie Badenhorst

Gerhardus Paulus Badenhorst passed away on 2nd December, 1989. Badie, as he was known to all, will be missed by his many friends and colleagues, and will be remembered by all who knew him as a warm-hearted person who was totally dedicated to the safety and health of the workers in the mining industry.

Badie was born in Frankfort in the north-eastern Orange Free State on 26th March, 1924. After matriculating at the Standerton High School in 1942, he started his mining career as a clerk at Marievale Gold Mine in 1943. Later that year, he joined the Government Miners Training School (now CMTC) and obtained his diploma with distinction during 1945. He worked at ERPM in various capacities as an official before being granted a bursary to study mining engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand. After obtaining a B.Sc. degree in mining engineering in 1950, he returned to ERPM.

On 31st October, 1953, he joined the Mines Department (now known as the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs), where he started work in the Mine Air Quality Section of the Branch of the Government Mining Engineer. He served in the Heidelberg, Welkom, Dundee, and Klerksdorp inspectorates before being promoted to the post of Chief Inspector of Mines, Heidelberg in 1972.

During this period he obtained Mine Managers' certificates both for metalliferous and for coal mines, and

also obtained a B Juris degree through Unisa.

On 1st June, 1976, Badie was promoted to Deputy Government Mining Engineer and, on the retirement of Viv Barnes on 31st July 1982, he was promoted to Government Mining Engineer.

After almost 35 years service with the Department, he retired on 30th April, 1988.

He will be remembered, among his many achievements during his period as Government Mining Engineer, for the leading role he took in the establishment of the coal-dust testing facility at Kloppersbos, which bears his name, and the introduction of self-contained self-rescuers into coal mines.

Badie was a Fellow of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and served as Honorary Vice President in his capacity as Government Mining Engineer. He was also a life member of the Institute of Quarrying.

He married Catharina Margaretha Bantjes on 10th December, 1949, and they were blessed with three sons. As a true family man, he enjoyed nothing more than having his family, especially his grandchildren, gathered around him on every possible occasion.

After he retired, he became actively involved in farming in the Standerton area, which he pursued with his normal enthusiasm until his death.

