

SAIMM Branch Chairmen



**Democratic Republic of
Congo Branch**
Susa Maleba

Susa Maleba graduated from the University of Lubumbashi, DRC, with a BSc Eng. (Mining) and completed a BSc (Hons) in Mining Engineering, specializing in Mining Environment, at Pretoria University. He is currently Country Manager/Mining Engineer for SRK Consulting in the DRC.

Susa has more than 10 years' experience in mining design, mine ventilation, and mine planning. His expertise includes:

- Underground mine design, layout, and scheduling
- Mine ventilation and refrigeration
- Design, optimization, production scheduling, and feasibility studies for open pit operations
- Mine environmental control and occupational hygiene
- Environmental and social impact assessments/audits
- Project management. ◆



Johannesburg Branch
Ian Ashmole

Ian has been a member of the SAIMM Johannesburg Branch committee since 2009, was elected Vice Chairman in 2011, and has been Chairman since 2012. He also represents the SAIMM as an observer on the Council of the Geological Society of South Africa.

Ian started in the mining industry as a learner official with Rand Mines in 1985, and graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering in 1989. He worked at Durban Roodepoort Deep, Douglas Colliery, and Harmony Gold Mine before leaving Rand Mines in 1993 to take up the position of mine manager of a small gold mine on the East Rand.

Ian became involved in the dimension stone mining industry in 1994, when he joined Kudu Granite as Group Mining Engineer, with a mandate of transforming the company's traditional quarry operations into modern professionally-run mines through the application of geological knowledge, formal mine planning, new technology and methods, and professional management techniques. By 1996, the company's operations were recognized in the industry as being on a par with the best run operations in Europe, and the standards developed at Kudu were a major factor in the acquisition of Kudu by the Marlin Group in 1997. The health and safety and environmental performance of the Rustenburg Division of Marlin, where Ian was the General Manager from 2001 to 2005, was recognized by both the DME and environmental pressure groups as being among the best in the South African mining industry. In 2005, Ian became Technical Director of the Marlin Group, with responsibility for the operation of all quarries in southern Africa and exploration in Africa, as well as consulting work for the group's operations in Brazil.

In 2008, Ian left the Marlin Group to establish an independent consultancy. While his initial focus was mainly, but not exclusively, in the dimension stone sector, he has subsequently consulted in the gold, uranium, platinum, chrome, and industrial minerals sectors. Ian is a generalist, and while his technical expertise is valued in feasibility and due diligence work, he also provides project and operational management assistance, and is widely experienced in the fields of health and safety, environmental management, and mineral rights.

Ian has travelled extensively in Africa, South America, Europe, and the USA during the course of his career. Ian is a keen runner, having completed five Comrades Marathons, trail runner and trail run course designer, and mountain biker. ◆

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Namibian Branch
Nikowa Namate

Nikowa Namate gained his Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Malawi in 1986, and began his career with the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources, where he was responsible for the development of appropriate technologies for small-scale miners. He gained his BSc (Honours) in Mining Engineering at the University of Zim in 1994, and took up the position of Mining Engineer at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Malawi. His responsibilities included heading the Mine Safety Inspectorate Division, designing mineral development projects and programmes for promotional purposes, and running the information/statistics office and the Mining Commissioner's secretariat. He was also special adviser to the Minister on mineral rights and other mineral-related issues, and headed the SADC's gemstone trade working group.

At the end of 1998, Nikowa moved to the Ministry of Labour as Occupational Health and Safety Officer. Here, he carried out investigations of industrial accidents, presented safety training seminars and workshops, and conducted environmental impact assessments for various industries.

In 2001, Nikowa took up a position as part-time lecturer at the University of Namibia, where he presented lectures to second-year engineering students and helped develop a mining and metallurgical engineering curriculum in collaboration with staff from the Universities of the Witwatersrand in South Africa and Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique. He also lectured at the Polytechnic of Namibia.

Nikowa is currently lecturer and Deputy Head of the Mining and Process Engineering Department at the Polytechnic of Namibia, where he presents undergraduate-level engineering courses in materials science, rock mechanics, mining law and licencing, mine design, and materials handling technology, and is also completing a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering.

Nikowa is a member and Certified Energy Auditor of the Association of Energy Engineers, with capabilities that include conducting energy audits for organizations and institutions, as well as individuals – a crucial attribute in the mining sector in this era of energy challenges. He is also a member of the Engineering Council of Namibia and of the SAIMM. ♦



Western Cape Branch
Christie Dorfling

Christie matriculated from the Danie Pienaar Technical High School in Uitenhage, and graduated from the University of Stellenbosch with a BEng Chemical Engineering (with Mineral Processing) in 2005. He joined the Measurement and Control Division of Mintek, where he was involved in implementing software for the advanced control of mineral extraction processes. The work included conducting feasibility studies, developing control strategies, and evaluating the performance of different control systems. From February 2006 to September 2007, he was based at the Mintek Technical Office in Perth, Australia, where he was involved with process control projects at a number of gold and base metal operations in Australasia.

In 2007, Christie was awarded a FirstRand/Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship to undertake postgraduate studies at Cambridge University in the UK, where he gained an MPhil in Advanced Chemical Engineering. On his return to South Africa he took up the post of lecturer in the Department of Process Engineering at the University of Stellenbosch, and was awarded a PhD (Extractive Metallurgical Engineering) in 2012.

Christie is currently Senior Lecturer and Programme Coordinator in the Department of Process Engineering at Stellenbosch, where he teaches introductory chemical engineering modules and supervises students for their final-year laboratory projects. His research projects include the characterization of the leaching behaviour of base metals and precious metals, and the investigation of solvent extraction, ion exchange, and precipitation processes for the improvement of metal refining processes. ♦

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Pretoria Branch

Natasia Naude

Natasia has a PhD in Metallurgical Engineering (Minerals Processing) from the University of Stellenbosch. She is a registered Professional Engineer with ECSA. She started her career at Foskor, Phalaborwa, as an engineer-in-training. From September 1993 to February 2009 she was appointed as lecturer at Tshwane University of Technology (Technikon Pretoria). In March 2009 she joined the University of Pretoria, where she is currently the group leader of the Minerals Processing Group. ♦



Zambian Branch

Henry Zimba

Education Background

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| 1972: | Completed primary school education | 1990: | Promoted to a Graduate Metallurgist (Grade G1) After graduating from the University of Zambia |
| 1977: | Completed secondary school education | 1994: | Promoted to Senior Investigations Metallurgist (Grade G11) |
| 1977– | Attended compulsory Zambia | 1995: | Attachment to Anglo America Research Laboratories and Mintek in South Africa (October–December 1995) |
| 1978: | National service military training (December 1977–June 1978) | 1996: | Acted as Superintendent, Metallurgical Projects at Nchanga from Technical Services in Kalulushi (March 1996) |
| 1978: | Enrolled at the Zambia Institute of Technology (ZIT), now the Copperbelt University (CBU), for advanced Technicians certificate course (July 1978) | 1997: | Promoted to assistant Concentrator Superintendent at Nchanga Concentrator |
| 1981: | Completed Technician course at ZIT and joined the Zambian mining industry at the Research and Development Department (R&D) of NCCM and RCM (September 1981) | 1998: | Transferred from Nchanga Concentrator to Nkana Concentrator. (November 1998) |
| 1982– | Sponsored by the Zambian Mining Industry to | 2000: | Joined Mopani Copper Mines upon privatization of ZCCM at Nkana (April 2000) |
| 1983: | do a Diploma course in Mine Metallurgy at ZIT (June 1982–June 1983) | 2001: | Acted as Concentrator Superintendent at Nkana (April 2001) |
| 1985– | Sponsored by the Zambia Mining Industry (ZCCM) do a Bachelor in Mineral Sciences (BMin Sc) degree course at the University of Zambia (UNZA) which I completed successfully with a merit (October 1985–December 1990). | 2001: | Moved from Nkana to Mufulira Concentrator on request by Manager Metallurgical, Mufulira (July 2001) |
| 1990: | | 2001: | Acted as Mufulira Concentrator Superintendent (September 2001) |
| | | 2003:- | Worked at Chambeshi |
| | | 2006: | Concentrator of Non-Ferrous Corporation Africa Mining (NFCA) as an Assistant Concentrator Superintendent (June 2003–July 2006) |
| | | 2006: | Recruited from NFCA by KCM, Nchanga Concentrator |
| | | 2006: | Promoted to Plant Manager Technical at Nchanga Concentrator of Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) in Chingola (December 2006). ♦ |

Employment history

- 1981: Joined the Zambian Mining Industry at the then Research and Development Department (R & D) of the then NCCM and RCM as a metallurgical Technician (Grade G3). My job involved operational problem solving for mining and other related industries through research and development (September 1981)
- 1983: Promoted to Metallurgical Technologist (Grade G2). After completing a one-year Diploma course at ZIT (June 1983)

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Zimbabwean Branch
Elias Matinde

Elias Matinde is Director of the Metallurgical Research Institute, Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC) of Zimbabwe.

He gained his BSc (Hons) Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Zimbabwe in 2002, and worked as an R&D metallurgist at SIRDC. He relocated to Japan in 2007, where he held various teaching and research positions in industry and academia, and obtained a PhD in Metallurgical Engineering from Tohoku University, Sendai, in 2009.

Elias is passionate about developing technical and innovation capabilities in the extractive and manufacturing sectors. His particular research interests include sustainable ironmaking technologies, emission considerations in iron- and steelmaking processes, process flow sheet development in the processing of complex and refractory base and precious metals ores, the design and optimization of comminution circuits, and technical innovation and entrepreneurial development in sustainable minerals resources development

Elias is a peer reviewer for the Journal of Zimbabwean Studies; Science, Technology and Health, a Technical Committee Member (Mining) for the National Manpower Advisory Council, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Government of Zimbabwe, and a member of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe. ♦



Zululand Branch
Christo Mienie

Christo was born on 18 November 1963 in Vereeniging and matriculated in 1981.

He obtained his Dip Tech (T5) in Metallurgical Engineering from the Vaal Triangle Technikon. He worked at Iscor Vanderbijlpark on blast furnaces production for a year, then moved to the Research and Development in Pretoria where he worked in the Process Metallurgy Department for 4 years. His area of focus was iron manufacturing, with particular interest in the evaluation and characterization of iron, coal, and coke for the blast furnace, direct reduction, and the newly developed Corex- process.

During 1992, Christo accepted a work offering from Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), a heavy mineral sands operations jointly owned by Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton at the time. He started in the Development Metallurgy Section and his responsibilities included flow sheet development, process optimization, and evaluating new technologies.

He gained valuable metallurgical and production experience over the next 14 years at various RBM plants, including the roaster, char plant, iron processing, slag processing, and the smelter. His metallurgical responsibilities included increasing prime grade slag and pig iron production, furnace rebuilds, working in conjunction with the Marketing Department to establish new markets and customers, and the introduction of best practices in the process metallurgical field.

His HR responsibilities included the management, training, and development of metallurgists. He completed his MDP through the University of Durban Westville during 1997.

Christo obtained valuable experience with regards to business restructuring ('right-sizing') while being the team leader responsible for the SHEQ and Technical Departments.

He joined Spectrum Technical (Pty) Ltd in 2006 as a Director and Shareholder – his current position. Consulting to clients included plant feasibility studies, flow sheet design, process equipment selection and supply, plant commissioning, troubleshooting, and cost analyses in mainly the heavy minerals sands, iron ore, ferro-metals, and coal industries.

Christo is married to Marietjie, and the couple have two boys – Francois and Christo (junior). ♦