



SOUTH AFRICAN
ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

27th ANNUAL REPORT

I April 2024 - 31 March 2025

Mr TC Madikane – President

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South African Academy of Engineering
27th Annual Report
1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025
President: TC Madikane

I. INTRODUCTION

The past year marked a period of smooth transition and renewed energy for the Academy, following the election of a new Executive Committee and the welcoming of new Fellows. As we navigated the year, SAAE remained committed to its mission actively contributing to engineering excellence through partnerships, participation in global forums like CAETS, and collaborative work with ASSAf.

Despite ongoing financial constraints, the Academy maintained a strong presence and continued to deliver value through expert panel outputs, high-level engagements, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Our resilience and relevance are a testament to the dedication of our Fellows and the continued support of our strategic partners.

We extend our sincere thanks to ASSAf for their unwavering support, including covering the CAETS membership fee and offering office space, which continues to ease the administrative burden and enables us to focus on impact. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ASSAf symbolises our commitment of the collaboration between the academies

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 2024–2026 Executive Committee took office in May 2024. The following Fellows were elected:

1. Mr TC Madikane (President)
2. Mr Felix Reinders (Vice-President)
3. Prof Edward Boje
4. Prof Ian Jandrell
5. Mr Werner Jerling
6. Mr Vishaal Lutchman
7. Prof Pilate Moyo
8. Prof Pathmanathan Naidoo
9. Mr Bryan Perrie
10. Dr Pine Pienaar

In August 2024 the Executive Committee resolved to co-opt Fellow Malani Padayachee Saman to the Committee. She accepted the invitation.

The following Executive Committee meetings were held during the year:

- 120th Meeting – 7 May 2024 (Zoom)
- 121st Meeting – 13 August 2024 (Zoom)
- 122nd Meeting – 28 January 2025 (in-person at ASSAf, Pretoria)
- 123rd Meeting - 13 May 2025 (Zoom)

All Exco members serve on a voluntary basis, and their commitment is deeply appreciated.

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 27th Annual General Meeting was held via electronic communication on 27 June 2024, with twenty percent of the Fellows participating. The Annual Report and audited Financial Statements were accepted, and the following new Fellows were elected:

1. Prof Raj Naidoo
2. Prof Adeshola Ilemobade
3. Mr Errol Kerst
4. Dr Barend Van Wyk

4. MEMBERSHIP

Newly elected Fellows during the reporting period are listed under the AGM section.

5. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ACADEMIES OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES (CAETS)

5.1. CAETS Annual Meeting 2024 – Helsinki, Finland

The Academy was represented by Vice-President Felix Reinders and Exco member Dr Pine Pienaar at the CAETS Annual Meeting in Helsinki from 1–4 July 2024, themed Carbon Neutral Technologies and Society. Sessions explored energy, transport, construction, and food engineering in pursuit of a sustainable future.

5.2. CAETS Annual Meeting 2025 – Brisbane, Australia

The upcoming CAETS Meeting will take place in Brisbane, Australia from 8–11 September 2025, under the theme Shaping a Sustainable Global Future.

5.3. CAETS Communication Prize

SAAE submitted an entry in the 2024 CAETS Communications Competition – the STEMulator by proSET which received an honorable mention. For the 2025 competition, SAAE launched a national call in December 2024, inviting Fellows,

students, and early-career researchers to participate. The deadline for in-country entries was 15 April 2025.

5.4. CAETS Communication and Liaison Committee

SAAE actively participated in quarterly virtual meetings of the CAETS Communication Committee. In December 2024, Dr Karen Wagner (Acatech, Germany) presented on international communication strategy. In March 2025, SAAE was invited to present its own communication practices at the next quarterly meeting.

6. EXPERT PANELS

The following Expert Panels met regularly throughout the year, producing evidence-based contributions to public discourse and policy:

6.1. Energy Panel:

The Energy Panel met monthly throughout the reporting period (April 2024 – March 2025). The group continued its work on developing position statements and supporting the national Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process. Two of our panel members were nominated to serve on the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's peer review panel, affirming the trust placed in SAAE's technical expertise.

The Panel's work remains focused on the longer-term goal of contributing to the national net-zero strategy by 2050, with an emphasis on the practical, scalable implementation of clean energy pathways.

6.2. Transport Panel:

The Transport Expert Panel was reconstituted in October 2024 under the leadership of Fellow Vishaal Lutchman. Since then, it has begun shaping its focus areas and has also engaged the Transnet National Ports Authority to explore potential collaboration.

Such engagements reflect the Academy's growing relevance and its role in providing strategic thought leadership in the transport sector.

6.3. Water Panel:

The Water Panel reconvened in September 2024 and continued its collaborative work with ASSAf, including preparing inputs for a joint webinar on pumped storage hydropower and its role in energy security. Fellows from this panel also contributed to ASSAf's 2024 Consensus Study, further highlighting the value of interdisciplinary and institutional partnerships.

These Panels remain a cornerstone of SAAE's mission to inform public policy through sound engineering insight and independent analysis.

Notable activities include preparations for a joint ASSAf/SAAE webinar on Pumped Storage Hydropower, with SAAE Fellows contributing to ASSAf's Consensus Study on the subject.

7. PUBLIC LECTURES

Hendrik van der Bijl Memorial Lecture

Presented in partnership with the University of Pretoria on 10 October 2024 by Mr Greg Solomon, CEO of McDonald's SA. Attended by 115 guests, the lecture focused on leadership, transformation, and growth in business and engineering.

8. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The report of the Independent Auditor, Greenpen Audit Inc., confirms that the financial position of the South African Academy of Engineering as at 31 March 2025 is satisfactory. The annual financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Academy and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Academy's constitution.

The financial statements reflect a net surplus of R14,352 for the 2024/25 financial year, which compares favourably with the previous year's net deficit of R7,720. The total income for the year, derived primarily from registration and membership fees, amounted to R213,600, up from R198,600 in 2023/24. The Academy also received interest income of R12,972 on its bank balances, down slightly from R15,553 in the previous year.

Operating expenses were managed prudently and amounted to R212,220, reflecting a slight decrease from R221,873 the year before. Major cost areas included consulting services, attendance at CAETS meetings, administration fees, and the hosting of the annual lecture. The cash position improved modestly, with cash and cash equivalents rising to R216,430 by year-end, from R206,970 the previous year.

A key support element remains the contribution by ASSAf, which funded the Academy's CAETS membership fee and provided office facilities. The balance of retained income at year-end stood at R247,183, indicating a stable reserve position sufficient to cover the Academy's core operational costs, primarily administrative and membership-related, for at least one full year.

The Executive Committee has reviewed the Academy's cash flow forecast for the year to 31 March 2026, and based on current reserves and conservative projections, is satisfied that the Academy has or will have access to adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

9. CONCLUDING REMARKS

This reporting period marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Academy under my leadership as President. It has been a privilege to step into this role and to work alongside a dedicated Executive Committee, Fellows, and strategic partners who share a common commitment to advancing engineering in South Africa.

Despite the constraints that often accompany voluntary, non-profit organisations, SAAE has continued to demonstrate resilience, relevance, and reach. Through the work of our expert panels, participation in global platforms like CAETS, and meaningful collaborations with ASSAf, we are actively fulfilling our mandate to provide independent, evidence-based input to policy and practice.

Looking ahead, we are excited by the opportunities on the horizon including further expansion of our expert panels, greater participation in international engineering dialogues, and deeper engagement with the public and private sectors on matters of national importance.

I would like to thank every Fellow who has contributed in ways big and small this year, and express my sincere appreciation to ASSAf, whose partnership and support continue to enable our operations and ambitions.

The Academy remains steadfast in its vision: To promote the technological welfare of the nation by marshalling the knowledge and insights of eminent members of the South African engineering profession, elected by their peers, and to be a source of expert advice on matters pertaining to global competitiveness and quality of life for the nation.

Lastly, it is my pleasure to acknowledge the administrative support provided by Mrs Heleen Duffey as the secretary to the Academy. Her institutional knowledge is valuable to running of the Academy.



Fellow TC Madikane

President, South African Academy of Engineering

14 June 2025