



IMASA Newsletter



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1

2007 AGM

The annual conference was preceded by the Annual General Meeting of members.

2

CONFERENCE 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

The 2007 Conference was hosted by the North West Branch from 5 to 8 June 2007 at Dikhololo near Brits.

4

NIC NEWS

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2007 AGM

In terms of the Constitution, the following matters should be considered by the AGM:

- The appointment of Auditors;
- The membership fee for the next year;
- Proposed amendments to the Constitution;
- Approve the institute's financial statements;
- The appointment of sub-committees;
- Election of the President;
 - The Deputy President;
 - The Secretary General;
 - The Treasurer General.

The AGM is also the occasion where the President delivers his annual report on the activities of the Institute during the past year.

By attending the AGM and participating in the election/voting process, members have a say in the management and policy decisions of the institute.

At the 2007 Annual General Meeting the following resolutions were adopted:

1. Messrs LdP (West Coast) Incorporated were appointed as Auditors for 2007.
2. Membership fees for 2008 are as follows:

Professional, special (external) and associate members	– R145.00
Student members	- R121.00
3. The Constitution has been amended by deleting Clause 8.8 in order to allow both the President and the Deputy President to be from the same branch.
4. The following members were elected in their respective offices:

a. President	Francois Allers	Gauteng
b. Deputy President	Selby Gibbs	Gauteng
c. Secretary General	Priscilla Thene	Gauteng
d. Treasurer General	Andre Coetzee	Western Cape

An important decision has been adopted by the AGM regarding certain qualifications for members before being nominated and elected for any of the offices at national level.

The qualification requirements are as follows:

President	Professional membership for at least two years; plus being a member of the NIC for at least two years.
Deputy President	Professional membership for at least two years; plus being a member of the NIC for at least one year.
Secretary General	Professional membership for at least two years; plus being a member of the NIC OR branch Secretary for at least one year.
Treasurer General	Professional membership for at least two years; plus being a member of the NIC OR branch Treasurer for at least one year.

The proposed certification program for municipal administrators, developed in close partnership with the International Institute for Municipal Clerks (IIMC), but custom made for South African practitioners, is another innovative step taken.

It is clear that professionalism is necessary in local government. A professional is an individual who brings certain skills to the workplace. It is a person whose values, skills, goals and practices openly exhibit his/her attitude towards professionalism. IMASA strongly believes that professionalism in local government can only be achieved through education and it is one of the key focus areas to create education programs and opportunities for members. The IIMC is the leading training and information association for Municipal Clerks in the USA and has established the Master Municipal Clerk Academy as part of their activities. Ria Heitbrink, a past President of IMASA and chairperson of the Education, Training and Development Committee, has been elected to serve on the Education Committee of the IIMC. Valuable discussions have been held with the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority and Universities to ensure that the certification programme will be developed within the context of the South African legislation, local government needs and the national Qualifications framework.

AGM MINUTES

The complete minutes of the AGM's can be downloaded from the website under Resolutions>AGM Minutes.

The 2007 Conference was hosted by the North West Branch from 5 to 8 June 2007 at Dikhololo near Brits.

Conference 2007 highlights

Again, the one stop venue was superb and the delegates from all over South Africa thoroughly enjoyed it.

The following topics were addressed:

The motivational speaker was Gary the Only and his topic was "Is there life before death". He asked the question whether we are living or just breathing and said that important advice to our kids must be not to be cruel to the earth, family and friends. He also stressed the fact that important things need to be done first every day that will leave one with more time for urgent matters. The definition of success is to live just like you wanted and planned to live.

The key note address was delivered by Mr Monnapula Johnny Motlogelwa, Acting Deputy Director General of Developmental Local Government and Housing in the North West Province with the topic "Local Government in South Africa". He stressed the fact that we as municipal administrators need to do things faster and differently to the benefit of all communities in our areas. Despite resounding victories and accolades, we are still faced by various challenges, for example the creation of sustainable jobs at our respective localities, and the fight against HIV/AIDS which poses a serious threat on skills and the economy. Integrating local economic development and poverty alleviation is not an easy task. It is bedeviled by the historical and generic tension often inherent in the economic growth-development and equity-efficiency debates. However, this need not be a major issue, because the appropriate macro-economic framework has been established to enable local governments to pursue a people-centered approach that addresses the vulnerabilities and social exclusion associated with poverty. We are however humbled and assured by the fact that these challenges are being continuously handled by the municipalities in coop-

erative governance with other spheres of government. There is constant monitoring of local government performance in order to effectively deal with these challenges. Significantly, the traditional local government functions have been regularly assessed and reviewed.

He concluded by saying that all local government practitioners must respond to these challenges collectively with the sole aim of improving our ability to do things differently and optimizing our impact as illustrated in the Setswana expression that says "morota nosi ga a epe mosima", which means we need to move and act more collectively.

Adv Eric Louw of Eric H Louw Attorneys delivered a paper on delegated powers. During the course of his presentation he discussed the stipulations of the Constitution, the Systems Act and the MFMA relevant to delegations.

Rev Motlalepula Chabaku, a member of Parliament, delivered a highly inspirational paper on effective leadership. She said we are all Africans, either by choice or by birth and we must focus on what we have in common. We are all special, all have gifts to share and God wants to use us as ordinary people to serve our communities the best we can. She made an urgent plea that Councillors and municipal administrators must make sure that communities bring back the necessary moral standards into the ordinary lives of all citizens. She used the illustration of a hand with 5 fingers to stress the importance of the 5 principles that need to guide every decision, namely honesty, purity, unselfishness, love/God guided and people centered. With these principles enemies can be turned into friends. She also said that we must take care not to be academic giants, but remain moral dwarfs.

Martie Cloete of Bigen Africa, one of the main sponsors of the conference, introduced all delegates to the services rendered by this company, namely a project and programme management company that provides engineering solutions moulded by the development of viable and sustainable human and natural environments. According to her, the social economic development services offered by Bigen Africa Consulting Engineers are what sets them apart from other consulting firms.

After lunch, Adv Shriley Misser, a senior state law advisor for legislation and constitutional development from the department Justice and Constitutional Development delivered a very informative paper on the Implementation of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act.

Johan van Zyl, a labour law specialist from SALGA spoke on two topics, namely the performance management system referred to in Chapter 6 of the Municipal Systems Act and Section 57 contracts, also in accordance with the stipulations of the Municipal Systems Act.

A gala dinner was held in the evening where the President and Deputy President of IMASA were inaugurated and a group of Marimba dancers entertained all delegates and guests.

The first speaker on Friday 8 June 2007 was Prof Zibi from the North West University on the topic "Your rights as an Employee". The issue of the rights of employees is captured in the Declaration of Philadelphia and was adopted by the International Labour Conference and is now part of the ILO Constitution. Prof Zibi stressed the fact that the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996, lays the foundation for all legislation that governs labour relations in South Africa, and pertaining to the rights of employers and employees, with special reference to Section 23. He also discussed the Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995 as amended, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act 75 of 1997, the Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998, and the Code of Good Practice on key aspects of HIV/aids and employment.

Adv Jurie Vorster, the District Legal Advisor of the North West Province, spoke on the Shared Services Module. He explained that a Legal Task Team (LTT) was constituted. On this forum all legal advisors from the District and Local Municipalities, the Department of Local Government and Housing, as well as the Treasury in the North West Province, SALGA (National and Provincial) are represented. The main mandate and objectives of the LTT are to draft/review generic policies and by-laws, to provide ad hoc legal comments and act on priorities as identified by each Council. This shared services model pools scarce resources and utilizes in-house expertise in an inclusive, transparent, focused and sharing manner which produces products that are the fruits of more than one fertile mind, for the benefit of all member municipalities, truly a product by the municipalities for the municipalities in a very cost effective manner.

The last speaker of the day was Prof Theo Venter, a political analyst of the North West University on the topic of transformation. He started with the definition of transformation meaning changer, bend or turn. In 500 BC Heraclitus said that the only constant is change. Today change has contradictory meanings, namely internal or external change. People do not resist change, people resist being changed. Transformation if complex and involves human beings, it requires experience and reorientation. Transformation takes time, more than we usually anticipate. It does not have a final script, but demands a process. South Africa reflects a large number of polarities, but has managed to prevent them from destructing the State or the process of nation-building. South Africa is still at odds with itself and has not yet resolved its domestic issues, such as race, language, symbols, names and land. All countries going through extended transitions experience social ills such as crime and corruption. All advanced developing countries share skewed economic development with pockets of immense wealth and pockets of incredible poverty.

(Acknowledgment - Western Cape)



The NIC inspecting conference facilities

NEXT IMASA CONFERENCE

2008 will be a celebration year for IMASA because it will be 10 years since the founding conference. The 2008 Conference will be hosted by the Kwazulu Natal Branch and will be held in Durban. The date will be determined by the NIC but will in all probability be during June 2008. Make sure to attend this special event.

NIC news

One of the key focus areas of the NIC is to establish branches in Provinces where no branch exist and to re-activate existing branches which appear not to be active anymore.

The first exercise of this nature will take place on 11 October 2007 in Nelspruit.

On the membership list are 27 names listed as members. However, the branch does not participate in IMASA affairs and is not represented on the NIC.

A workshop on Report writing and minute taking will be held at Nelspruit on 11 October 2007. This educational session will be presented by the NIC at no cost to the Council or the individual. Interested persons in Mpumalanga are encouraged to attend this session which is aimed at improving skills.

During the session, the Communication, Marketing and Recruitment Subcommittee of the NIC will establish a branch and facilitate the appointment of a branch Mancom.

This program will be extended to the Eastern Cape early in 2008. It is planned to visit Port Elizabeth on 1 February 2008 and repeat the workshop and branch establishment .

FINANCE

An unqualified Audit Report for 2006 has been received. The NIC will consider this report at its meeting to be held on 12 October 2007. A copy of this report will be circulated to branches after that date.

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Workshops

The following workshops will be held in the near future. Members are encouraged to attend.

<i>North West</i> Cherel van Rensburg (018 406 8312)	5 October 2007 9 November 2007	Mmabatho Potchefstroom	Delegated powers, report writing and minute taking.
<i>Western Cape</i> Elrina Versfeld (021 850 4107)	2 November 2007 9 November 2007 16 November 2007	Mooreesburg Bellville George	Report writing, minute taking and office admin.
<i>Gauteng</i> Mandy Ndzungu (011 456 0135)	28 September 2007	Centurion	Basic statutory framework for service agreements and some practical considerations for compiling such agreements. National Credit Act.

Many of us follow our conscience as we follow a wheelbarrow. We push it in the direction we want it to go.
- Billy Graham