

Etile

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"To undertake a journey"

Connecting the Road Transport World in Durban



Welcome to the relaunch of *Etile*, the newsletter of the South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL). This new look *Etile* is published to coincide with the XXIInd PIARC World Road Congress, which we are honoured to host in Durban this month.

The World Road Congress represents four years of planning and organising. SANRAL is very proud of its association with PIARC. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our delegates coming from the four corners of the world and they can be assured of a memorable World Road Congress, the first of the new millennium.

Approximately 48 Ministers holding portfolios relating to the transport industry have confirmed their attendance at the International Convention Centre and around 2000 other delegates have also registered to attend. Underpinning the Congress is the exhibition, intended to provide suppliers to the road construction, engineering, technology and safety industries with a

platform to market their products and services. The response from exhibitors has been outstanding and we wish them well in their marketing endeavours.

"Connecting the World" is the theme of this year's conference, and we certainly hope that the networking opportunities offered at the sessions and various social events will go a long way towards shortening the distance between our decision makers and practitioners in the field of road transport infrastructure.

All our delegates, whether they represent government, the civil and contracting sector, educational and research institutions or suppliers will be guaranteed the latest information on trends in the sector. The sessions will give participants an overview of policies, technical developments and new innovations within the context of sustainable development.

The technical tours will allow our delegates to experience first hand some of the road transport developments in South Africa, particularly around Durban. They will also give our visitors the opportunity to see a very small part of our beautiful country.

It just remains for me to wish all our delegates and exhibitors an enjoyable and successful Congress and we look forward to interacting with you during your visit.

Nazir Alli
CEO – SANRAL



AIPCR 2003 PIARC Durban • Connecting the World
XXII WORLD ROAD CONGRESS
XXII^e Congrès mondial de la Route

Editorial

SANRAL is committed to poverty alleviation and this issue focuses on two of our recent projects in this regard, i.e. the Hammanskraal Pedestrian Bridge and the Amadiba Road Project.

Our Making Inroads column takes a look at female engineers at SANRAL and discusses some of their experiences in a traditionally male environment.

2003 highlights include the opening of the Baobab Toll Plaza, the 15th anniversary of the Huguenot Tunnel and the long-awaited completion of The Nelson Mandela Bridge.

New Address for SANRAL

In April this year, SANRAL moved to new offices in Hatfield, Pretoria. The new contact details are:
The South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL)
Physical address: Ditsela Place, 1204 Park Street, Hatfield 0083, South Africa
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SANRAL

Vision

Mission

Core Values

Vision

To be recognised as a world leader in the provision of a superior primary road network in southern Africa.

Mission

We are a commercially driven organisation committed to achieving its vision for the economic benefit of the southern African community through:

- a highly motivated and professional team;
- state of the art technology;
- proficient service providers; and
- promoting the user pay principle.

Core Values

- We will always act with integrity.
- We are committed to service excellence.
- Our people are our most valued asset.
- We subscribe to participative management.
- We will be pro-active to the needs of our customers and other stakeholders.

Technology Transfer

The technology transfer programme is a nation-wide effort financed jointly by the South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL) and the United States Federal Highway Administration (FHA), as a result of a co-operative agreement outlining the transfer and exchange of transportation technology between the two countries.

Etile is published three times per annum by the SANRAL, as part of the co-operative programme with the FHA.

Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations presented in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the South African National Roads Agency or the Federal Highway Administration.

Submissions of original or pre-published, non-righted material are invited, but should not contain endorsements of proprietary or commercial items. Materials without a source will not be considered for publication. Electronic copies are available from the SANRAL website. To receive a printed version, contact:

Connie Nel
Editor

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CREATING WEALTH
THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE

Overview of SANRAL

Rural Development and Pedestrian Safety

- Amadiba Road
- Handover of Hammanskraal Pedestrian Bridge

Making Inroads

- Engineering on the Gender Agenda

SANRAL News

- Opening of Baobab Plaza
- Huguenot Tunnel turns 15
- Romance of Cape Mountain Passes
- Nelson Mandela Bridge

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SANRAL Celebrates its 5th Anniversary

The South African National Roads Agency Ltd was formed in 1998 under an Act of Parliament to plan, construct and maintain South Africa's national road network. As a corporate off-shoot of the Department of Transport, SANRAL carries out its tasks through its head office in Pretoria and four regional offices in Pietermaritzburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria. Currently, SANRAL is responsible for 9200km of national road, of which about 1800km is tolled.

Last year, the company published its 10-year strategy, *Horizon 2010*, which outlined its key objectives in terms of addressing safety, securing funding, expanding the network, against a background of creating jobs and having due concern for the environment. The document also details the performance management framework within which SANRAL can be benchmarked, with a view to increasing the country's global competitiveness.

The issue of tolling, unfortunately, remains a contentious one in South Africa and is the subject of much public debate. This is not unique to South Africa. However, as stated by SANRAL's Chairman in the latest annual report, "We have an obligation to preserve the assets of our country, but we have not embarked on a tolling crusade. The major part of our road network still remains non-tolled, the benefits of which are reaped by our road users."

To date, the private sector has played a significant role in helping to bring new roads to South Africa, such as the N3, N4 Platinum and the M4 Maputo Development Corridor. However, SANRAL also successfully seeks finance from other

sources, such as a recent bond issue, backed by a sovereign guarantee, which raised R340 million - demonstrating the money markets' confidence in the stability of our government and the capability of SANRAL to deliver roads.

SANRAL celebrated its fifth anniversary in April 2003 and it has come a long way since its formation in 1998. The company has had a significant impact on large-scale infrastructure investment in South Africa during that time, which has resulted in a world-class national road network, whilst addressing the issue of much-needed job creation, the transfer of skills, the development of entrepreneurs and the promotion of affirmable business enterprises.



SANRAL's new Head Office in Hatfield, Pretoria



Rural Development

Amadiba Road



Amadiba Road, a 40km long gravel road in the eastern corner of the Eastern Cape, is the result of a labour-based project, with the emphasis on empowering the local community. The construction of the road was requested by a rural community with no real roads, which needed access to the nearest towns of Port Edward and Bizana. The road would also contribute to making the area more accessible for economic opportunities, such as tourism. The area is characterized by unspoilt natural beauty and plant life, being in the Pondoland Centre of Endemism, so special care had to be taken not to affect the environment.

Community involvement in this project was paramount. All the work was undertaken by unskilled or semi-skilled community members, including the building of the bridge. Construction management was entrusted to selected local community members who with training had developed to the stage where they could undertake such works in their own right as contractors. The project was overseen by a steering committee comprising members of the local community, the Amadiba Coastal Community Development Association, the Mbizana municipality, SANRAL and the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The work included the rehabilitation of 27.3km of road and erosion control, the upgrading of a 14km track and road approach repairs and protection measures to the existing bridge over the Mzamba River, as well as the construction of a single lane vented wash-over drift some 40 metres in length at the Mnyameni River. The labour force was drawn from a core group

of candidates put forward by the local community and was formed into six teams of five people, mostly two men and three women. Much of the required construction work was carried out by hand, except for the haulage of gravel, which was awarded to local providers of tractors, trailers or trucks. Part of the employees' training covered project management skills. Construction began in January 2002 and will be completed in October 2003.

This project forms part of the holistic development of community-based tourism in the Wild Coast Region and the need to create coherent tourist routes. Not only will this project improve local access to stimulate development and create as many jobs as economically viable, it will also encourage the development of more sustainable methods of road construction and maintenance.

The near-completion of the project has already resulted in a number of benefits, such as improved access to healthcare facilities and schools; opening up opportunities for agricultural produce to wider geographical markets; mobility for inhabitants (often stranded when the road was inaccessible) and reducing negative environmental impact where new tracks were created by road users avoiding impassable sections of the old road.

Yet another project has been successfully completed thanks to the intervention of the poverty alleviation programme, managed by SANRAL.



Handover of Hammanskraal Pedestrian Bridge

SANRAL was proud to officially hand over the Hammanskraal Pedestrian Bridge in Gauteng earlier this year to the local authority, Moretele Gardens Municipality.

The N1/Hammanskraal Pedestrian Safety project was an initiative involving the various spheres of government, together with the local community, to tackle the road safety related problems faced by local residents in the Hammanskraal area.

Owing to the high number of incidents resulting in death and injury of pedestrians while crossing the N1 highway between Marokolong and Moretele Gardens settlements, a process of extensive public participation with local residents was implemented to find a solution to the problem.

At a total cost of R11 million funded by the government partners, the following interventions were implemented:

- An award winning pedestrian bridge at Moretele Gardens over the N1;
- An 8km brick wall running along the highway from the N1/Hammanskraal Interchange to the Northern boundary of Ramotse and to the Northern boundary of Moretele Gardens;
- The upgrade of one of the existing subways to improve safety through vandal-proof lighting, storm water drainage and a level walkway.

During the construction phase the project provided employment for approximately 250 people, at its peak, from the Hammanskraal area, amounting to R1,5 million being paid in salaries. The use of



local contractors and suppliers resulted in R1,6 million being awarded in contracts. Further skills training in the order of R143 000 was also provided.

At the official handover, Mr Nazir Alli, CEO of SANRAL outlined some of the aims of the Department of Transport's Road to Safety Strategy and said: "I note with great admiration the achievement of the role players in the N1/Hammanskraal Pedestrian Safety Project, because all of you have in fact created an exemplary model which other communities can follow."



Making Inroads

Engineering on the Gender Agenda

When the Gender Working Group presented its recommendations to the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development in 1995, a key finding was that not all members of society had shared in the benefits of scientific and technological development as implemented in the previous 30 years. The Group found that women had been neglected in this respect and that women continue to be almost entirely overlooked in science and technology development and transfer.

Not so at the South African National Roads Agency Limited! Five enterprising female engineers, Joanna Kowalska, Logashri Sewnarain, Petronella Theron, Lausanne Kruger and Imelda Julies are making inroads in a traditionally male environment.

Besides having their careers in engineering in common, all are in agreement that when it comes to working in an assumed male profession, any difficulties which might arise, do so (as they do in all walks of life) merely because of differences in personality and that it is one's knowledge, experience and expertise that count in gaining respect – and not one's gender.

Equality and Equity - Equal and Different



Logashri Sewnarain
Eastern Region

"Nothing is unachievable if you put your mind and heart to it."

Logashri holds a BSc in Civil Engineering and is currently studying for her

Masters Degree in Construction Project Management.

Main Activities: Project Manager

- Recently involved with project management i.e. bridge rehabilitation contracts and road signs rehabilitation contract.
- Currently involved with pavement rehabilitation contracts and the routine road maintenance of the North Coast CTROM.

"I love the everyday challenges, no two days ever being the same, and I am always learning something new and interesting."



Joanna Kowalska
Northern Region

"As with any other profession, you have to have a keen interest and enjoy what you are doing."

Engineering was always her first choice of career and she holds a Masters Degree from the Polytechnic of Lublin, Poland.

Main Activities: Project Manager

- Routine road maintenance and toll operations.
- Currently involved in Incident Management Systems which she is set on implementing on all our roads.

"I enjoy working out of the office and the rewards are great in that you can see the effects of your work immediately."



Petronella Theron
Western Region

"It doesn't matter what you do, it's all about the passion you have for your work."

Civil Engineering was her second career choice after completing her BSc in Physiology and Genetics at Stellenbosch University. She holds a B Eng (Civil) degree and is pursuing her Masters Degree in Pavement Engineering. Perhaps her memories of being marooned in the wet winter months on the farm where she grew up swayed her into changing to civil engineering.

Main Activities: Team Leader

- Materials will be her main activity.
- Current project is a road safety audit on the N1 sections 1–12, utilising her skills in geometric design and pavement materials.

"I enjoy working in the outdoors and being able to make a difference in people's lives."



Lausanne Kruger
Northern Region

"Engineering is a great profession for women; the trick is to realize your unique potential within engineering."

Her father is an engineer and he motivated

her, primarily because of the lack of female engineers. She studied at the Polytechnic of Namibia, gaining a Diploma in Civil Engineering.

Main Activities: Project Manager:

- Currently involved in her first project with the Operations and Maintenance section, handling all the applications for tourist facility signs in the Northern Region.

"I find it rewarding working to provide people with the necessary services and to improve their lives. Seeing a beautiful road

where there was nothing but dirt and bush before provides a feeling of achievement."



Imelda Julius
Western Region

Imelda's highest qualification is a National Higher Diploma in Civil Engineering.

Main Activities: Civil Technician
The management of the Incident Management System (IMS), as well as providing the training to the emergency services in the Western Region. She manages the administration of all accident-claims and participates in road safety audits.

Project management of rural development projects and compliance of Health and Safety policies and standards on all the regional projects also form part of her area of responsibility.

SANRAL News

Opening of Baobab Plaza



The Baobab Mainline Toll Plaza, situated on the N1 Great North Toll Road, 55km north of Louis Trichardt, was opened to traffic in June this year. Managed by the SANRAL, Intertoll Africa (Pty) has been appointed as the toll operator, responsible for all operations and the collection of tolls.

Huguenot Tunnel turns 15

The Huguenot Toll Tunnel celebrated its 15th anniversary in March 2003. Back in 1984, at R202 million, the tunnel was the largest and most costly single project undertaken by the SA Roads Board (predecessor to SANRAL). Before the tunnel was opened, road users made use of two mountain passes, the Bains' Kloof Pass and

the Du Toit's Kloof Pass, which were particularly treacherous during the Cape winter months when rain, swirling mist, occasional snow and slow moving traffic contributed to hazardous road conditions. The Huguenot Tunnel is 3913m long and shortens the journey between Cape Town and Worcester by 11km and eliminates a rise and fall of 400m over the old pass, resulting in a 15 minute reduction in travelling time. The tunnel handles on average 8500 vehicles per day, peaking to 12 000 during school holidays.

SANRAL Board Members

Whilst on the subject of gender equality, SANRAL is proud to have on its board Professor Cheryl Potgieter and Ms Nontobeko Ntsinde, both appointed in 2002.



Prof. Cheryl Potgieter

Professor Potgieter holds a PhD in Psychology from the University of the Western Cape, specializing in gender studies, on which she has published a number of papers and books. She is

currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Pretoria. Professor Potgieter chairs SANRAL's Remuneration Committee.



Ms Nontobeko Ntsinde

Ms Ntsinde comes from a legal and financial background. Her B Proc Degree was gained at the University of Fort Hare. She also has an MBA from Wits Business School and a Certificate in Treasury Management from Unisa. Ms Ntsinde provides management consultancy services, with a particular emphasis on developing small businesses. She chairs SANRAL's Audit Committee and serves on the Assets and Liabilities Committee.

Romance of Cape Mountain Passes

On the subject of mountain passes, Graham Ross, retired civil engineer, has written a book about mountain passes in the Cape and the 'padmakers' (road builders) of yesteryear. This book is a must-read for anyone passionate about their profession.

The Nelson Mandela Bridge



SANRAL, together with the Department of Transport, Blue IQ (the Gauteng development arm of the Gauteng Provincial Government) and the Johannesburg Development Agency, completed the Nelson Mandela Bridge in the heart of Johannesburg.

The Bridge was opened by the great man himself in July and the opening was marked by a fun-run through the streets of the City of Johannesburg. To commemorate the Bridge, SANRAL has published a coffee-table book, illustrating old and new Johannesburg, with a section on the design, engineering and construction of the Bridge



"Having this magnificent bridge named after me makes me feel very humble indeed. I accept this honour not just for myself, but for everyone who was involved in our struggle for freedom." – Nelson Mandela