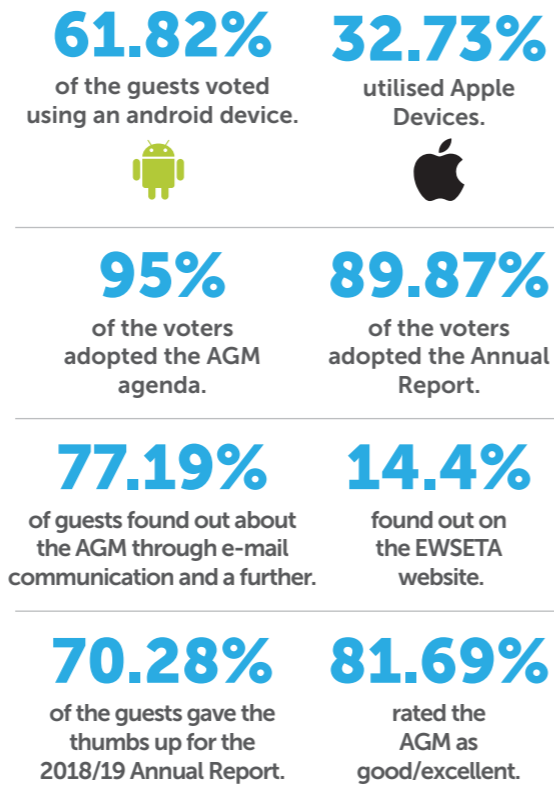


AGM 2019

The EWSETA AGM held on 8 November 2019 at Randpark Golf Club in Johannesburg hosted over 200 EWSETA stakeholders. The theme of the 2018/19 Annual Report 'Smarter Thinking – Greater Impact' was carried through to the event.

The Chairman of the EWSETA Accounting Authority, Frans Baleni, took this one step further and used his presentation to focus on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the implications of 4IR and technology on the energy and water sector.

On the subject of technology, a smartphone-based voting and interaction platform was used to communicate with guests. The system proved to be extremely useful and produced 'real time' information that has since been analysed by the EWSETA and will inform future events.



To reduce excess paper, the EWSETA produced a 2018/19 financial and performance overview and a resounding **87.5%** of guests rated the move as good/excellent.

// **Guests were asked to use one word that described how they felt about the EWSETA at the end of the AGM and the top four words were 'great' 'hopeful' 'positive' 'promising'** //



Quick Q & A

At the AGM, guests were invited to submit questions using the electronic interaction system and whilst some of the questions could be answered at the event, there were just too many to deal with on the day.

In fact, there are too many to deal with here, which is why we are addressing a few of them using the EWSETA Chronicle and a consolidated list of questions and answers will shortly be available on the EWSETA website.

As part of Stakeholder Management, has the EWSETA invested time to engage their levy paying organisations to ensure strategic alignment with the view to improve on the 74% performance?

We have intensified our stakeholder engagement initiatives over the past few years and are definitely seeing the returns, not only in the increase in the number of WSP/ATR submissions annually, but in the increase in performance against our APP targets. Initiatives include direct one-on-one meetings with strategic partners; speaker participation and capacity building sessions at various leading sector events and conferences across the country; participation as a member in sector-driven forums such as the Water Services Sector Leadership Group (WSSLG) and the Department of Energy's Human Resource Development Forum; and CEO visits to our employers and training providers.

In addition, there are Skills Development Facilitator roadshows aimed primarily at levy-paying employers where, amongst others, relevant officials are capacitated on the Mandatory Grant (MG) policies and procedures and on how to complete the MG applications forms.

The administration of inter-SETA transfers has also been improved and handled electronically, which has improved the turn-around times. We have also realised tremendous value in collaborative partnerships that are based on clear objectives aligned with EWSETA strategic objectives. It is for this reason that we encourage partnerships with EWSETA on employer-initiated strategic interventions.

What is the EWSETA going to do in the next round of online WSP submissions to make sure that the system does not crash due to overload ?

EWSETA has reviewed our system logs which have indicated no downtime of the system during the 2019 WSP/ATR submission period. However, due to the volume of submissions internet line speeds will be impacted. We have now upgraded the internet line speed as well as added more resources on the server itself. We trust that for this 2020 WSP/ATR submission period stakeholders will be able to load their submission with minimal challenge. As always, EWSETA is here to support any way we can.

Where fly by nights are known, how do we report that?

EWSETA has a Fraud Hotline service that will enable all internal and external stakeholders to report anonymously on any unethical and dishonest conduct. The Tollfree Hotline Number: 0800 611 205 or you can email ewseta@tip-offs.com Website: www.tip-offs.com FreeFax: 0800 00 77 88 FreePost: KZN 138, Umhlanga Rocks, 4320

IPP's are based in rural and peri-urban communities. What initiatives are EWSETA implementing to provide access to skills and qualifications in line with the industry in these under - developed communities?

Currently, 60% of projects are biased towards rural and peri-urban communities where we implement various learning programmes. We are currently engaging the Renewable Energy Association Bodies and SARATEC that we anticipate will assist to respond to the sector rural development strategy.

What is the role of Provincial Regional Offices as it would appear that these offices only work as 'post offices' as they refer matters to Head Office all the time.

The role of provincial offices is to facilitate the functions of the EWSETA particularly implementation of projects, monitoring of projects, preparation of payments etc. It should be noted that certain review processes are undertaken by middle and executive management before approvals.

We are in the process of developing a provincial operations model that will serve to better define the role of our provincial offices, in an effort to provide a more effective service to our provincial stakeholders.



Grade 8 Learner Shines in Poetry Competition



Seen in the photograph here from left to right are Ms Ledimo Mashishi, Frans Baleni, Chairman of the EWSETA Board, Boitumelo Serumula and Mpho Moolapele, Acting CEO for the EWSETA.

In February 2019, the EWSETA travelled to several provinces as part of the Rural2Rural Career Guidance Roadshow that enabled the EWSETA to deliver valuable career guidance to young learners in rural parts of the country. In October 2019, learners from the schools visited were invited to submit poems about either the energy or water sector.

Boitumelo Serumula from Utsane High School in Hammanskraal, North-West Province, emerged as the overall winner in the competition for her touching and powerful poem on water.

Boitumelo Serumula, accompanied by her creative writing teacher, Ms Ledimo Mashishi, attended the EWSETA AGM on Friday, 8 November 2019 to read the poem she had written to guests at the AGM.

The standing ovation Boitumelo received was well deserved. Boitumelo received R1000 as the author of the winning poem, and Utsane High School too received R1000.

WATER

A drop of water
A drop of water, So sweet,
As tears of happiness, a drop of honey,
Brings joy to the mind,

A drop of water, so bitter,
As tears of agony, a heart breaking cry,
Brings pain to the mind,
A drop of water, so harmful
In the form of a flood, a harmful storm

Brings fear to the mind,
A drop of water, so precious,
For a plant to survive, water in desert,
Brings comfort to the mind

A drop of water, so beautiful,
As a dew drop, a single pearl,
Brings expression to the mind.

Note from a Stakeholder

Dear Candice | Editor

This is just a short note of congratulations and appreciation for the stories shared in your newsletter.

I'm particularly (and personally) touched by Boitumelo Serumula's poem. I happen to have sat with her and her teacher at the AGM and during lunch as we talked, discovered that we are from the same area in Hammanskraal!! - a community that has been living/struggling with an acute water crisis for years. So the poem got me all sorts of emotional, and I was pleased to see the creative use of education in expressing challenges of our times.

I shared Boitumelo's poem with a friend, Mak Manaka, who is an established and celebrated poet and felt I had to write to let you know just how brilliant it is even noted by renowned poets.

If possible please pass the message of thanks to both Boitumelo and Ms Mashishi. And all the best with the school education campaign, and thank you for sharing the great news with us as partners and stakeholders (Wits University and myself as citizen).

Lebogang Ngwatle
Wits University

