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## **SARF AGM Report – 2022**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for me to report back and to paint a picture of the state of SARF as an organization as events unfolded in the year 2022.

### **External situation**

The beginning of the year 2022 promised to be a good year as the South Africa was starting to show some improvement in business activities due to low numbers of people impacted by Covid 19 pandemic.

Department of Transport shared a list project in the pipeline for 2022 and going forward, this further intensified that the economy was opening.

Geopolitics took the center stage, in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, stalling all the progress made in coping with the pandemic. This has resulted in disruption in the supply chain industry globally, where we saw an increase in prices and shortage of supply in material.

Added to external factors South Africa is facing an unstable supply of energy (ie. Electricity) affecting all sectors of our industries including transportation industry.

### **Operations and courses**

SARF continued to offer the training in virtual interaction whilst increasing the in person (F2F) courses.

In August we had reported that about 80% of our planned 71 virtual courses we offered this year and attended by 1090 delegates

Two new courses were offered attended by about 35 delegates; other new courses are to be introduced next year.

SARF continue to sponsor students by offering grants. 25 grants with a value of R275 000 have been awarded

SARF courses are also promoted by the IRF Geneva to countries beyond SA

### **IRF membership and support.**

We continue to form and maintain cooperation with international bodies.

We agreed to maintain the dual membership with both IRF Geneva and Washington.

IRF Geneva elected Mr Anouan Benazzouz as the president for a two year term, and we enjoy good relations with IRF Geneva. Our past president Phill Hendricks is an active participant and now we also have introduced Melanie to Susanna as the SARF representative on the IRF Innovation Committee.

Phil had a good discussion on the possible areas which we could look at as SATC/SARF and IRF Geneva.

Based on the exciting discussions with Susanna and Mr Anouar Benazzouz (Director General of Moroccan Highways (Autoroutes du Maroc) and the first African President taking the helm of IRF) there are these areas we could look at:

- **Big data in transport** – this could take the form of a focused session, workshop, panel discussions – Topics could be broad including – big data in transport, major areas of production, sourcing, and key issues in analysis. Could also consider issues such as regulatory frameworks including data privacy for location data. The President of the IRF is keen to attend SATC and Morocco is doing some interesting things in this area. Imagine that IRF could share interesting case studies and bring out some expert speakers.
- **Road safety** – perennial (RECURRING) issue but an area to possibly explore – from focussed sessions, panel discussions etc.
- **Climate change issues** – shared session - adapting our transport systems to withstand expected climate impacts and sharing some of the latest assessment tools, cost-effective engineering measures and technologies.

Also look at establishing a SATC Youth Chapter for Africa in line with the IRF's Young Professionals Summit.

SARF took a decision to keep its membership with **IRF Washington** due to the fact that IRF (Washington) offer webinars and training for which SARF members can benefit from at a cost of R37000 to the organization translated into R100 per member. Also IRF Washington has appointed a new president in Dr Bill Sowell

## **SARF/IRF/PIARC Conference**

After extensive planning and preparation, the SARF together with its partners IRF/PIARC held a successful 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Africa this Nov in Cape Town.

The theme of the conference was, "Stimulating Growth and Trade on the Continent"

The conference was attended by 500 Delegates who came from 33 Countries attended, enabling the success were the 41 Exhibition Stands sold, which were manned 112 people at the Exhibition stands. This was a three day conference and all attended qualified to be CPD Points and or a Certificate of attendance.

Various topics were covered focusing on, Roads and Financing; Road Safety; Rural Roads; Innovation and Capacity Development.

## **Finances:**

SARF reached 98% of the 2021/22 Budgeted YTD financial target. SARF posted a R43 953 Surplus which has exceeded the YTD Budget surplus of R9 900.

We started the new financial on a positive note with more subscriptions to our courses

## **Optimizing SARF structure:**

After a final report from GAPPS a decision was taken to have strategic session that would align our goals to the future needs of SARF.

The Strategic session presented by Yieldgroup consulting took place at Kempton Park in May 2022 and was attended by council member. It was attended both physical and virtual by a total of council members.

The outcome was a template that SARF should adopt and use but it had lots of short coming. A decision was taken that we should further work on the Business plan.

## **Membership**

The organization membership continues to grow, 51 New members joined SARF. SARF formed a new SARF Central Region which incorporates Freestate, Northwest and Northern Cape Provinces. This was through persistence of Basil and Jabu that this region was formed.

This indicate that SARF has a role to play in the whole of South Africa and as a brand, many progressive municipalities and institutions would be happy to associate with.

## **Accreditations**

I happy to inform you that SARF is now a verified ECSA CPD Service Provider, this means that we can now verify our own courses, seminars and conferences.

SARF is also registered as an ECSA CPD Licencing body which allows us to apply for CPD accreditation on behalf of other industry bodies.

## **Impact program**

SARF continues to evolve and is always looking at ways to positive contribute to the societies and the industry at large. Basil sent a proposal on a **Project:** Upskilling female Civil Engineers in local South African Municipalities. The Royal Academy of Engineering in the UK has awarded the fundsto train about 75 females

And more than 90 persons currently stands to benefit.

## **Finally**

All eyes are on Department of Energy and Mineral Resources due to the energy crisis we are facing but once the problem could be resolved or loadshedding become a normality. The next focus would on our quality of our Roads.

It is now the perfect time for this industry to work on dealing with the pothole on our road through periodic maintenance and SARF can contribute a great deal in the fight against the potholes as the expertise and knowledge lies within its membership.

I would like to thank the Exco, Council and the Regions for the amount of work you put in, to make SARF a successful organization not forgetting our Head Office staff and management for their commitment.

Thank you all.

With the December holidays around the corner, I would like to wish you all a Safe and Wonderful Festive Season.

I thank you