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Message from the CEO – Celebrating and empowering women

Most of you already know that the ASB is an all-women organisation. All the ladies in the “A team” are amazing – and not only for their contributions to the work of the ASB.

As we celebrate women this month, I want to emphasise the importance of women empowering themselves. While empowerment comes in many forms, one of the greatest forms of empowerment is education. Education is one of the best investments we can make in ourselves as women. And it is in education where two ladies in the A Team are doing phenomenal work.

Let’s start with Siyasanga Nondlazi. Siya is our newest recruit. She joined us in June 2023 as a standard-setter. She holds an Honours degree in Accounting and is a Registered Government Auditor. She recently completed her CIMA Advanced Diploma in Management Accounting, bringing her one step closer to qualifying as a Chartered Global Management Accountant.

And then to Julianne Vissie. Julianne is our Office Administrator which means she is the lady that makes everything happen at the ASB. Julianne has been with us for ten years and made the decision earlier this year to start a qualification that will lead her to becoming an Accounting Technician. To date, she has done exceptionally well and we look forward to supporting her on her professional journey.

At the ASB, we are fortunate to work in an organisation that promotes professionalisation, lifelong learning, and empowering women. We hope during Women’s month that other organisations and teams will take the time to invest in their greatest assets.

Latest developments in the IPSASB’s tangible natural resources project

The IPSASB continued its deliberations on developing an Exposure Draft (ED) that sets out the accounting for tangible natural resources. A tangible natural resource is an item that is naturally occurring and embodies service potential, such as water and living resources.

The ED proposes that tangible natural resources in the scope of other IPSAS will be accounted for using those IPSAS. For example, a forest meets the definition of a natural resource. When an entity manages the growth of the forest to enhance or stabilise the quality of the trees in the forest to harvest the felled trees (agricultural produce) for wood or timber, the forest is a biological asset within the scope of IPSAS 27 on *Agriculture*. As the tangible natural resource is in the scope of another IPSAS, it is not accounted for in the ED.

Natural resources that will be accounted for in the ED are those that are controlled by an entity and primarily held for conservation. Conservation means that the entity actively manages and protects the natural resources from degradation.

Actions agreed by the IPSASB at its June meeting

The IPSASB agreed that only tangible natural resources that are held for service delivery are within the project scope, as tangible natural resources that generate economic benefits are expected to be in the scope of other IPSAS.

The IPSASB also agreed that further clarification is required to distinguish tangible natural resources held for conservation from heritage property, plant and equipment. Heritage property, plant and equipment is accounted for using IPSAS 45 on *Property, Plant and Equipment*.

The topics for which implementation guidance and illustrative examples will be developed were also agreed.

When will the ED be issued for comment?

The IPSASB plans to approve the ED at its September 2024 meeting.

For further developments on the project, you can subscribe to the ASB's newsletter, or follow the IPSASB's Natural Resources project on [Natural Resources | IPSASB](#).

Meet the ASB Board – Ms. Alice Muller



Ms. Muller is a seasoned chartered accountant and business leader with more than 20 years of executive experience in driving operational excellence. She currently holds the position Head of Portfolio: Audit Support at the AGSA, a role she considers a career highlight as it provides her with the opportunity to spearhead a variety of unique units that support and enable the organisation to deliver on its core mandate. These include the technical audit support unit, the unit responsible for reporting and methodology, a newly established unit of audit risk intelligence as well as the Material Irregularity unit.

Being challenged gives Alice a sense of accomplishment, and she credits the AGSA for providing her with many growth opportunities. One most notably, was the opportunity to lead the implementation of the amended mandate of the AGSA by ensuring that both the internal and external environments were prepared to give effect to the new powers of the organisation.

Alice's career spans just over two decades at the AGSA where she joined as an audit manager in 2000 and continued to advance her career over the years. She says that she remains motivated and energised by the ongoing difference the organisation is making in the country, one conversation or decision at a time, and lives by the motto "I will matter no matter what".

Her career began at Deloitte where she completed her articles to qualify as a chartered accountant and worked a further seven years as an audit manager responsible for audits in the mining industry. She eventually joined a small firm when Deloitte withdrew from the Free State and took over the local clients.

Alice enjoys public speaking and empowerment. She is a strong believer in passion as the driving force for good in one's life and those of others. "If you find your passion, life is easier. It's easier to wake up in the morning and go about the business of serving those less fortunate than you".

Access more information about the ASB Board [here](#).

Meet the ASB Board – Mr. Aziz Hardien



Mr. Hardien was appointed to the ASB Board in January 2024.

He has over two decades of experience in the public sector, practising as a chartered accountant in the public sector since 2003. He has held various management roles, including being one of the first black CA(SA)'s at the Auditor General's office in 2003.

In his current role at the Western Cape Provincial Government, he guides CFOs of 60 institutions in accounting and auditing matters. He has also served on multiple committees, including top management, in the areas of supply chain management, governance, enterprise risk management and human resource development.

Throughout his career, he has consistently demonstrated his ability to work effectively at all levels of an organization, applying his passion and service delivery mindset to every aspect of his work. He has implemented innovative methodologies in auditing and has trained staff to think differently and innovatively about auditing and business solutions. His experience in the ICT space has also equipped him to find innovative solutions to complex problems.

Mr. Hardien is known for his ability to build strong relationships and find workable solutions to business challenges. His motto, "adapt or die," reflects his commitment to staying agile and responsive in a constantly evolving environment.

Mr. Hardien is one of five new Board members at the ASB. Access more information about the ASB Board [here](#).



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Accounting Standards Board

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