

South African Institute of Physics

NPO Registration Number: 130-172 NPO

<http://www.saip.org.za/>

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Date: 12 May 2017

Dear Member,

Vote on Changes to Constitution and By-Laws

Background

In February 2015 the SAIP became registered as a Professional Body with SAQA. SAIP introduced the Professional Physicist (**Pr.Phys**) designation. This designation is the fastest growing category of membership for the SAIP. Within 2 years of its introduction, it has grown to over 200 professional physicists registered with the SAIP.

Pr.Phys designation mainly caters for physicists with postgraduate degrees in physics.

During the mid-term review of the SAIP Professional Body registration, a recommendation was made by SAQA that SAIP must establish a lower level professional designation subordinate to the Pr.Phys. This will be in line with NFQ goals to broaden the skills and training base. Currently, SAIP professional designation only caters for those with at least a degree in physics and is predominantly taken up by applicants with MSc and PhDs in Physics. However, there are technicians with physics related qualifications such as certificates and diplomas who can be professional members of the SAIP and benefit from membership in this way.

As a result, the SAIP would like to propose the introduction of a professional designation to cater for technicians in applied areas of physics i.e. Physical Science and Industrial Technicians such as Radiation Protection, Vacuum Technology, Instrumentation and Calibration, Non-Destructive Testing, Nuclear Science, etc.

Professional Industrial and Physical Science Technologists (Pr.PhysTECH), as the title suggests, assist senior scientists (Pr.Phys) and engineers by collecting, managing, analysing, and interpreting a wide array of physical science information. They apply physics-based scientific-methods, techniques, concepts and principles in testing, measurement, monitoring, design, and installation of equipment, products, and processes.

In addition, the country currently has a shortage of skills in this area such that the current Government Gazette on Critical Skills has a category for Physical Science and Engineering Science Technicians. Over and above this the physics community in South Africa must strengthen its collaboration with industry and increase physics footprint in industrial development just like the first world, the SAIP views the Professional Industrial and Physical Science Technologist (Pr.PhysTECH) as one of the methods through which the physics community will forge stronger relationships with both industry and universities of technology.

Other Council Members

Prof. A. Matthews (Treasurer – UKZN), Prof. F. Scholtz (President- Elect NITheP), Prof. S. H. Connell(UJ),
Dr. M. Diale (UP), Prof. P. Woudt (UCT) Mr. Z. Ngcobo (iThemba), Prof. A. Muronga (UJ), Prof. K. Muller-Nedebeck (US),
Prof. T. Konrad (UKZN), Prof. I. Basson (UNISA), Dr. S. Ramaila (UJ)

Physical Address

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Circulation of Draft Changes to Membership

In line with the constitution the draft changes must be circulated 2 months before the AGM at which voting on the changes will take place. The SAIP circulated the proposed changes to membership through email on 6 May 2017. The proposed changes were also posted on the SAIP website on the same date.

Please visit the SAIP website <http://www.saip.org.za/index.php/news-and-events/other-events/415-establishment-of-professional-industrial-and-physical-science-technologist-pr-phystech-designation>

Please note that the proposed changes are highlighted in yellow text with track changes

The vote will take place by secret ballot using the SAIP Voting System. Results will be announced at the AGM to be held on 7 July 2017 at University of Stellenbosch.

Yours sincerely



Prof. M.L. Chithambo, **Honorary Secretary**

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Please to login to the SAIP OMS System and cast your vote on or before **07 July 2017**.

- 1) Go to the SAIP Online Membership System <http://www.saip.org.za/index.php/component/users/>
- 2) Use your last login details (If you have forgotten login details just enter your email address then click on either : **Forgot your password?** Or **Forgot your username?**)
- 3) Under **User Menu** on your left-hand side click on "**SAIP Voting System**"
- 4) Under Category Select "**All**" Click on "**SAIP Constitution 2017**"
- 5) Click on arrows next to your choice to vote in agreement or against constitutional and by-law changes.

If you have any problem logging in or voting please email : brian.masara@saip.org.za