

Chairman's speech at the AGM - Dr Maideyi Lydia Meck

I am pleased to welcome you all distinguished members of the geological fraternity to this year's annual general meeting of the Geological society of Zimbabwe. As I will be handing over chairmanship of the society to Mr Steve Duma, it is an opportune time to reflect on the achievements of the past 12 months and maybe reflect on the agenda for the year to come.

When I took up chairmanship a year ago I was afraid because I was not sure whether I would get the support that goes with the position but to my surprise both the executive committee and the membership went beyond what I expected. I appreciate all the support and continued commitment from the society. Due to the overwhelming support received the society managed to achieve most if not all the objectives set in February 2017.

In this speech I will give a brief update on the objectives set and the progress made on those objectives.

When we started the year, we set to update and reorganize our membership database. I am pleased to announce that the membership database has now been updated satisfactorily

We promised the society that we would identify key interested persons in each of the mining region to serve as regional co-ordinators to bring the Society and its activities closer to local geologists. During the year, Forbes Mugumbate and Collins Mwatahwa were identified to serve as regional coordinators for the North and the Southern region. They have become channels for information dissemination and are responsible for mobilizing activities (talks and trips) in their respective regions. In the southern region meetings have started and we expect the activities to increase. We are still to see what the Northern region will come up with.

We also promised to organise social functions order to give members a chance to interact, socialise and exchange ideas and updates on regional developments. The past year saw the first braai were members for the first time enjoyed a braai without paying. A first outside the usual events Macgregor and summer symposium. As the wise people say "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step" so that one braai is an indicator of miles of social functions in the making.

As a committee we also promised to try our best to strengthen our professional standing for the benefit of our members through collaboration with credible, global institutions that are in line with our shared vision. A professional body discussion was started and is going on. The society through the administrator now keeps a register for meeting and society activities for continuous development points (CDP) for our membership who need these in other professional bodies where they are affiliated to. The preparation for an international Conference proposed during the tenure of Brent Barber, has gained momentum with a good progress. A tentative date is now available and it remains for the incoming committee to take it to fruition.

During the year one of our objectives was to increase information dissemination to ensure inclusiveness and to publicise our activities to both members and non-members. The

society has made use of the Newsletter to achieving this goal. The website was continuously updated and is now more interactive and active and as such we have managed to capture a wider audience. The Honorary secretary and the administrator have commendably disseminated geological related news and events to the membership.

Sadly, though it was one of our objectives, we did not manage to maintain the number of field trips, talks and workshops to the level of the previous year. A deliberate move otherwise we would have gotten 100% of our objectives for the year which is illegal unless the paper has leaked.

Many thanks go to the committee members who were behind the success of the objectives. Thus I would like to thank this wonderful committee which comprised of Brent Barber, Ali Ait-Kaci, Kudzai Musiwa , Collins Mwatahwa, Andrew du Toit , Nevison Chikandiwa, Forbes Mugumbate, Julie Kuhn, Steven Duma, Ernest Mugandani, Houda Bouammar.

As I hand over to Mr Duma it is my sincere hope that the membership will give him the support that I received

Thank you!

Dr Maideyi Lydia Meck