

Toughing up to corruption: Aspasa

The Aggregate and Sand Producers Association of Southern Africa (Aspasa) has called on its members to help eradicate the scourge of corruption at all levels within the quarrying and construction industries.

“We are committed to ending corruption affecting our industry and appeal to any of our members who suspect dishonest dealings to take decisive action,” says Nico Pienaar, director of Aspasa.

Whether corruption is experienced at the point of mining minerals, or to procure business for the building of infrastructure or other large-scale projects, these dishonest business dealings put a strain on the country’s economy. It also has the potential to derail any meaningful efforts to build sustainable and competitive industries in future.

Aspasa is advising its members to report incidents of corruption to government oversight authorities directly, or to the association.

“Illegal mining is a major issue that we are dealing with and in instances where our members believe that corrupt dealings are hampering the course of justice we urge them to contact us so that we can initiate appropriate action.

“Where corrupt procurement of sand and stone for infrastructural or large-scale building projects is suspected,

we also recommend that our members take a stand and act against these people,” says Pienaar.

He adds that Aspasa continues to work closely with the Department of Mineral Resources, the Chamber of Mines and other mining-related action groups to stop illegally obtained sand and aggregates from entering into the market and to prevent corruption in that industry.

“As an association we want to set the groundwork to make it extremely difficult for anyone to be involved in corrupt dealings. That is why we need to join hands and become active members of the association and begin to act on behalf of everyone within our industry,” concludes Pienaar. ■



Nico Pienaar, director of the Aggregate and Sand Producers Association of Southern Africa