



GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF KENYA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

48TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

31st MARCH 2023

at

THE NAIROBI SERENA HOTEL

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My Dear Fellow Geologists, Members, Colleagues

Fellows of the Geological Society of Kenya,

Professional and Graduate Geologists, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is with profound pleasure that I welcome all of you members today, to this Annual General Meeting of the Geological Society of Kenya, being the 48th since GSK's registration on 15th February 1974. It is therefore my noble duty and pleasure to officiate in this year's AGM and share the President's report for the year ending December 2022.

I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for affording time to attend this meeting. Your presence is a great honour to the Society. It denotes your commitment and love for our society.

Before we proceed may I kindly request that you all arise and observe a moment of silence for our departed colleagues; the late Prof. Norbert Okiyo Oketch, Geol. Cyrus Muli, Geol. Joseph Onyango Mirobe and most recently Geol. Isaac Gichui Kimani

You may all be seated

In this meeting, we shall review the society's performance, its achievements and challenges and thereafter deliberate on necessary actions moving forward. Furthermore, we shall read our society's audited accounts as per the requirements of the law and our constitution.

HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights of our major events, challenges and opportunities for the year 2022:-

1. VISIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY

Dear members, our internal and external visibility remains a key responsibility we equally share. We have maintained as GC, the link with the exterior as well as interior stakeholders wherever opportunities arise. GSK has been active on social media sites such as Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn in reaching out to its members and to the public. We urge members to engage and help us use these media channels appropriately in advancing our agenda and visibility at the right time.

We hope that the new GC will find opportunities for members to engage in Twitter account take overs to educate the public after certain events and even have conversations on Twitter spaces while at the same time communicate to various professionals through LinkedIn.

I would like to reiterate that we are all ambassadors for geologists and it is in offering unreserved quality services that we can directly impact on the socio-economic development of our country and also positively reflect on our profession in the society. This remains the best way to market all of us. I urge each of us to vigorously make your mark in the marketplace, maintaining dignity, upholding the law and professional ethics and standards in your area of expertise.

2. MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Since the implementation of the GSK Membership Management System and its subsequent launch in October 2021, our records as of today account for **473** members total with only **219** who have accessed the portal and **254** who are yet to access the portal. We urge our members to access this portal to enable the society to update their records.

This system has automated the acquisition of certificates of good standing with the GSK for fully paid up members who when in need can immediately download the document when required. Further the system has made it possible for automated subscription reminders and payments, issuance of receipts and records management for all the members. We have seen membership subscription payments increase in the year 2022 to 2,728,114 the highest the collection the society has witnessed in the last 20 yrs. We attribute this to the timely invoicing, monthly reminders and the option to make partial payments of any balances. We thank you members for your diligence and cooperation in clearing past debts and helping GSK move to a more financially sustainable state. We are satisfied that as a GC we are leaving a legacy of a working digital system that can be quickly picked up by the next council to run its mandate.

2.1. Membership database management

We need to urge our members to use the MMS to advance details and information as well as catch up with on-going activities and opportunities, e.g. workshops, meetings, symposia, research and other topical issues relevant to our profession.

In case any of our members has difficulties in accessing their MMS, our office and our service provider is open to offer guidance and support to all our members,

2.2. Elections and Surveys

Using the MMS we are able to carry out an election for the first time, adhering strictly to the constitution with respect to regulations for transparency, secrecy, and compliance of our members to Section 4.4 of our Constitution. Similarly, the MMS may be easily utilized to raise members opinion on topical issues of common interest as well as monitoring of certain important parameters for appropriate forward planning of the society. We can aptly state that this is a solid foundation for a truly professionally operational professional society.

3. NETWORKING

As part of our objectives, GSK is on a continual basis, engaged to network with local and international organizations to optimize benefits to our professionals, academics and researchers in Geosciences. This past year we have finalized the process of admission to membership in IUGS [International Union of Geological Sciences]. The Geological Society of Kenya is now a confirmed member of the International Union of Geosciences[IUGS].

3.1. GSK Membership Subscription to IUGS

As per the resolution made in the last AGM, GSK was admitted as a member of the union and paid the annual subscription of USD 670. This membership directly benefits any Kenyan Geologist who is a member of GSK, and also any other geologist.

The GC has been engaged with the IUGS[International Union Of Geological Sciences] and late last year, the IUGS had planned to hold its Annual executive meeting here in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2023. We had embarked in making arrangements for the meeting until early January. However, these plans did not materialise due to challenges in making travel

arrangements to Kenya, as well as the Covid-19 spike that is loading in some member countries. The IUGS EC invited the GSK President and Secretary of the society to Belfast Ireland, for the executive meeting in February 2023.

I managed to travel but the Secretary could not travel due to the short notice and issues with acquisition of travel documents. I met the entire Board of the IUGS and the various committees. Furthermore I made a presentation of GSK and our history and activities in Kenya. From our engagement, we firmed up with the IUGS Executive Board that they shall have their 2024 meeting in Nairobi and we shall host the more than 200 delegates, principally geoscientist researchers and sector leaders from all over the world. This is the first time since inception of IUGS 74 years ago that they shall be hosted in Africa.

The Theme, which I proposed during the interaction and deliberation in putting the case for Kenya and Africa geo-scientific, must address the socio-economic problems in Africa, in order that this should attract from various stakeholders in the East African Region and Africa at large. This shall be a major event which we need to prepare adequately as it also has some cost implications.

The meeting would be an opportune moment for our members to interact with IUGS, as well as make proposals of our involvement in its activities moving forward. Some limited sponsorships are available for research and innovation among the thematic areas.

The following are the key areas our members should benefit from IUGS:-

1. Exposure to the global geoscience community.
2. Submit proposals for initiatives, task groups activities and commissions on diverse research issues, supported by IUGS funds.
3. Voting for officials of IUGS and other matters of the Union.
4. Support from IUGS for meetings/workshops/conference/short courses, organised to benefit young geoscientists/students.
5. Members can contribute to outreach activities of the IUGS
6. Receive an E-bulletin about IUGS activities and important information about geosciences/events/ etc. around the world.

We encourage our members and all geologists to visit the IUGS Website to seek information on the current and planned activities and opportunities and identify areas of interest and participate appropriately. In particular this would be useful for Universities and training institutions and industries promoting specific market oriented products.

4. LOBBYING AND APPOINTMENTS

In the last year, we have maintained a continuous lobbying for our members' appointments to various positions in both the public and private sector. Through APSEA, numerous announcements have been made for members to seek board nominations in cities and towns within the County Governments.

At national level various competitive opportunities have arisen for Boards and executive positions. We have encouraged our members to go for them. This propensity must be maintained in order to enable our members in the future.

We note that the last year was a rather slow one for many geologists and no significant appointments have been done, but we recognize the various internal advancement of our members in various government institutions:- MoPetroleum, MoM&BE, MoWSI, WRA, RCGWR, WWDAs, MoInfr and Transport, Ministry of Energy, KenGen, GDC, Public Universities and TVETs in the last year.

5. GC MEETINGS

The Governing Council has retained the culture of commitment to duty and advancing the members' cause. We have monthly virtual meetings, with an average of 90% attendance.

6. ADVOCACY ON ROLE OF GEOLOGISTS

We have sustained our push for the recognition of geologists in the marketplace, particularly in competition with engineers and other technical cadre with intersecting occupational market segments. In many instances, engineers continue to overlap geologists to our detriment. We have held meetings with various stakeholders: NCA, KENHA, KURA, NCC, CoG, in multi-stakeholder forums and will continue to do so in the push for equal grounds for geologists in the market. We however note that our is not an isolated problem, but a global one cutting through many professions. It is therefore important to take note that this is a lifetime undertaking by all geologists, supported by a robust legal framework which we have to pursue until fruition.

7. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PSC

Due to inordinate placement of our members in the public sector, we have continually engaged with the PSC over the employment and promotions of individuals as Geologists in disregard of the Geologists Registration Act, 1993. The engagement with the Public Service Commission and other employment authorities should be done seamlessly to ensure that anomalies are sorted out in good time to avoid unwarranted confrontation, tension and in the worst cases victimization of our members. We therefore request members voluntary actions in identifying such anomalies and report to the GC in a timely manner. Such information shall be treated with utmost confidentiality.

8. LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTION

As GSK, we continue to pursue legislative agenda. It has been a long journey which we have to tirelessly walk. The following key legislation are in progress:-

8.1. Senate Bill No. 17&23-2021 (our Geology Bill 2020)

Upon the second reading in the Senate, the Bill has delayed due to parliamentary changes on promulgation of the 12th parliament. Furthermore the Speaker of the National Assembly ruled that there must be reciprocation between the Senate and the NA. Consequently the Geology Bill must be read and passed in the NA in order to proceed for publication. I am advised that we have to pursue this process in the National Assembly for concurrence with the SENATE. I urge the incoming GC to make follow-up as a matter of priority.

8.2. Geosciences Bill

The Draft "Geosciences Bill" aims at revising the placement of our professionals in the key sectors of the economy and increase financing of capacity **building** in universities and Tertiary institutions. Equal to the National Assembly ruling, this Bill shall be pursued in the National Assembly through the NA Committee on Land and Environment and Natural Resources.

8.3. Mining (Amendment) Bill 2021

The Bill aims at changing the architecture of the Mining Act as is today. The geologists in the Ministry of Mining had not been consulted or involved in the crafting these amendments, although they would be seriously affected. Upon review by the GC and experts from the Mining sector, it was observed that some of the amendments proposed to this bill are repugnant to good order in our profession. GSK has addressed Parliament on this matter

and requested for full participation of geologists represented by GC as key stakeholders moving forward. We request our members and GC to be vigilant on these and other Bills and ordinances proposed by various authorities that have the potential to affect the geology practice in this country.

9. APSEA

GSK has sustained our corporate membership in APSEA and our GC continues to actively participate in APSEA through SGM, AGM, committee and Ordinary meetings. Through APSEA, we have shared experiences in the development of professional legislation. In addition our members have benefited by being invited for competitive appointments to become members of various boards. We encourage our members to continue submitting applications and expressing their interest upcoming vacancies to solicit for appointments.

Furthermore we have participated in the KPDF committee of the APSEA, addressing professional development and financing activities of our membership. In this respect several counties: Nairobi, Nakuru and Isiolo have been proposed for training for county government accounts department.

10. GSK SUB-COMMITTEES

The GSK sub-committees aligned to the key sectors of the economy have continued their activities albeit largely informally with only a few meetings. We need to strength the subcommittees in order to address major issues of interest. It is imperative that our members continue supporting and participating in the subcommittees. This year the hydrogeological sub-committee met and had a fruitful discussion on currently available geophysical and hydrogeological equipment and their application in groundwater investigations, drilling and monitoring, as well as issues that continue to affect work of our members in hydrogeology practice.

The GC continues supporting the sub committees in addressing sectoral issues and contributing to a GSK strategic plan.

11. CAPACITY BUILDING

The need for training to build capacity amongst geologists and create sustainable economic activities in and around geology cannot be over-emphasized. This is needed on continual basis in order to progressively fill the capacity gaps and match the industry requirements.

Our members continue to be involved in the development of the Competency Based Curriculum[CBC] in TVETs. This participation has had a positive impact in the SSAC.

We take note that last year The Technical University of Kenya carried out a curriculum assessment among our members to craft their upcoming degree courses in (i) Geology and Mining and (ii) Engineering Geology. We hail our colleagues involved in the crafting of these programs and hope that we can have more trained geologists in this sector.

We hope that our Education Programmes sub-committee can be ably set up to explore possible training opportunities for members through the CPD system that is long overdue for the society.

12. GEOACE

The GEOACE conference is tentatively scheduled for 11th - 13th October 2023 after several postponemet. The GC has held meetings to commence organization of this conference and also extended invitations to members to assist in the various committees.

We have also carried out interviews for potential marketers for the event as we need to raise ample funds for the conference. We hope that the members nominated in the various committees and structures put forward will assist in pushing the plans forward in a speedy manner. We request your unreserved support in terms of submission of papers, reviews, mobilization of financial support and attendance to make this event a success. In addition the GC should continue supporting this initiative and speed up the formation process including operational and financing strategies.

13. GEOLOGISTS REGISTRATION BOARD (GRB)

GSK has continued working closely with our regulatory authority, the GRB to address the key issues affecting our geologists. We have attended various occasions jointly where we have made presentations to raise awareness of the GSK as well as the functions of the GRB. Over the last year, GRB has registered several of our members. The working relationship between GSK and GRB should be strengthened particularly with respect to formulation of the CPD strategies in order to be legally admissible.

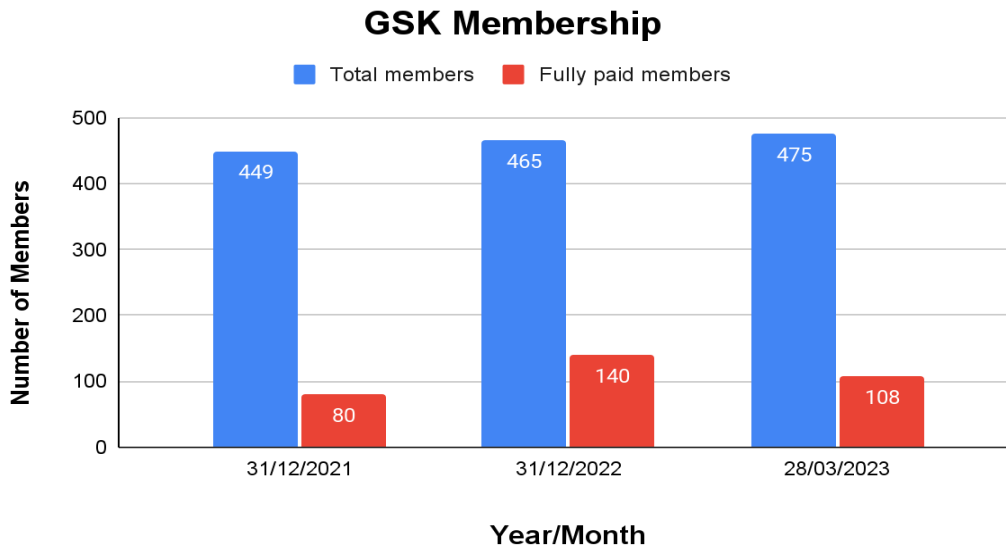
14. OTHER EVENTS

Our GC has participated pro-actively in several conferences and professional meetings as follows: -

- (i) Stakeholder meeting with WRA stakeholders on Nairobi aquifer and catchment management.
Attended by GSK President, Chrysanthus Gicheruh
- (ii) Meeting with WRA and the Mineral Rights Board[MRB] Chairman
Attended by The President GSK, Chrysanthus Gicheruh, the VicePresident, Secretary, Vice Secretary and Geol. Evans Masachi
- (iii) Stakeholder Validation forum for the proposed building regulations (National Building Code) 2022 and the regulatory impact statement in the National Building Code 2022 at the Bomas of Kenya.
Attended by GSK President, Chrysanthus Gicheruh, Geol. Hillary Koech and Geol. James Munene
- (iv) IEBC forum with APSEA, GSK and other institutions to discuss the role of professionals in the 2022 August general elections.
The key speaker: - Commissioner Prof. Abdi Guliye-The Chairperson
- (v) Attended by GSK Vice President GSK, Dr.Christine Omuombo and Geol. Hillary Koech
- (vi) APSEA GALA DINNER 2022
Attended by the GSK President, , Chrysanthus Gicheruh Secretary, Geol. Eliud Wamwangi, Geol. Chrispin Lupe, Geol. Edmund Makhanu and Geol. Tabitha Githinji.
- (vii) MEMBERS DAY: Attended by the GC members.

15. MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Active Members = Fully Paid Members data from GC Tenure 2021 - 2023



15.1. New Members

Between March 2022 and March 2023, GSK's new members total to: 25

10 Professional Members and 15 Graduate Members

15.2. Corporate Membership

In the year 2022, the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining renewed their subscription for corporate membership under the Silver Category - KSH 200,000

16. FINANCIALS

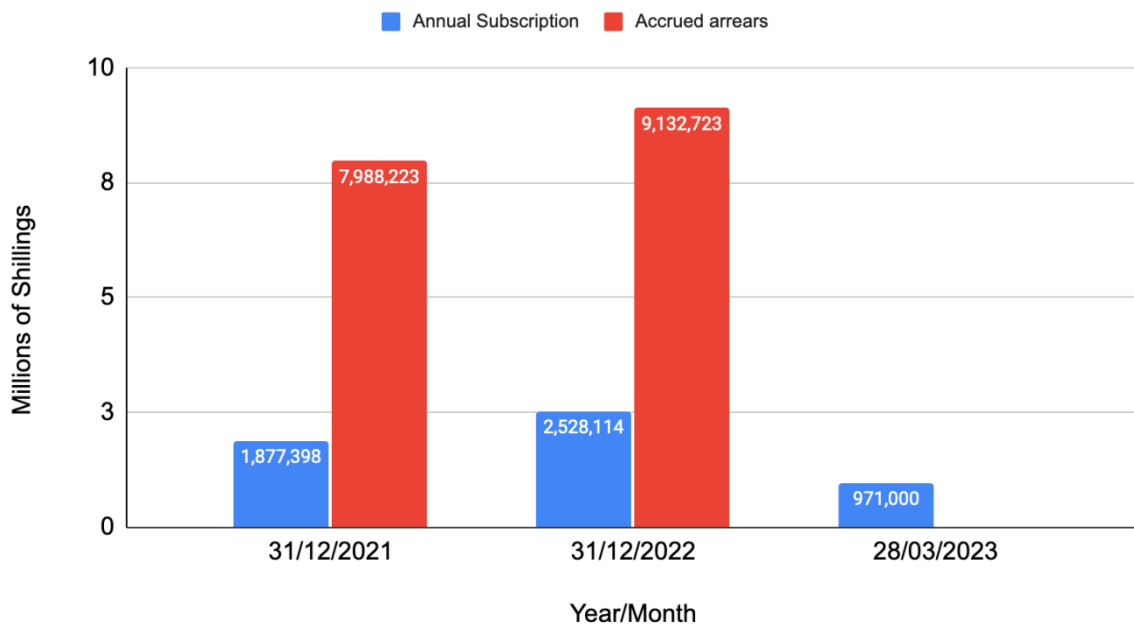
As you are able to discern from the Treasurer's report our summary financial status is as follows:-

Year	-	2022
Income (Kshs)	-	2,728,114.0
Expenditure (Kshs)	-	1,452,816.55,
Bank balance as at 31.12.2020	-	1,346,145.70

16.1. Income and accrued arrears for the GC tenure 2021 - 2023

Annual projected income if almost all members pay their subscriptions - approximately Ksh 3,300,000 per year. Current collection as of 2022 is two-thirds of this projected income. We thank Members for clearing arrears and being up to date in their records. We still need to engage with about 300 members who have accrued arrears and are still affiliated to the geology fraternity.

Annual Subscription Vs Accrued arrears



16.2. Corporate Members/Institutions and Contributions

In 2022 we got support from corporate institutions:- WRA, NOCK, Base Titanium, Rural Focus, Shanta Gold, KEWI and the MOPM paying subscriptions for our members employed in these institutions.

The institution's contributions for the year 2022 was KES 721,500 while individual contributions were KES 1,806,614.

17. GSK BANK ACCOUNT

In view of the high operation and maintenance costs of Bank Account in ABSA Bank, the GC decided to move our account from ABSA to a friendly low cost O&M for a corporate account. This move has enabled the society's account to operate at reasonable bank fees. In addition, the Bank we are engaging with the bank to support our members in their respective areas of interest. Members are advised to directly contact the Family Bank for own financial requirements though.

18. INSURANCE ISSUES

We have continued engaging insurance advisors on our members requirements on packaged products to address members' needs, e.g. PI, Life, WIBA, Group Insurance etc. The last interest was shown by Britam but they had proposed to meet with the GC to further understand the requirements. This line should be pursued to the end to explore the opportunities.

19. CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

- i) Unlicensed geologists continuing to masquerade as professional geologists. Such cases continue to be investigated by GSK to establish their veracity
- ii) Membership engagement in GSK affairs - the GC needs members' support for the success of the society. In this regard, we encourage members to fully commit to society activities and engage in physical, virtual, intellectual commitments for the society.

20. RESOLUTIONS

These are some of the proposed resolutions for 2023;

1. Admission of associate members

The following individuals made applications for Associate membership in the society. The Governing Council having reviewed their applications and finding them satisfactory, hereby proposes the following individuals for admission as Associate Members.

i. SEPTRINE KANAMWAI

II. JOHN ROBERT OGALO

In concluding my report, Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to thank the entire GSK membership of GSK and the geological fraternity for the tremendous, committed support to me as President during the year 2019 to 2023. I am indeed awed and grateful for the opportunity that you gave me to serve you.

To my GC members, I am grateful and greatly indebted for your excellent support, commitment and singular resolve to unreservedly serve GSK during a very difficult tenure orchestrated by COVID-19. It was indeed great pleasure working with each and every one of you.

I also thank our Auditor for doing a good job and for a decade of service to GSK.

To the incoming GC, we shall continue supporting you to settle in office and thereafter as the need arises. We wish you well and shall be available for consultation and outreach.

We look forward to your honest and deliberate contributions in our agenda this AGM.

Let me conclude my report by appreciating all of you once again for your deliberate attendance and participation during this AGM and ask for your persistence, patience and attention in raising pertinent issues and addressing questions.

Thank you all members for trusting me, together with the entire Governing Council, with the mandate to serve you as President of the Geological Society of Kenya.

I look forward to continue working together towards a complete transformation of the society.



Signed:

Date: 31st March 2023

**GEOL. CHRYSANTHUS MUCHORI GICHERUH, FGSK, MIAH
PRESIDENT, GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF KENYA**

THANK YOU