

AMEU TECHNICAL CONVENTION 2006

OPENING ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF AMEU, VALLY PADAYACHEE

ON MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2006

Cllr Molwele representing the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg

The Speaker of the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Ntigane

The MMC of the City of Johannesburg for Infrastructure and Services

Cllr Greef

Councillors from the various metros and munics

The City Manager of the City of Johannesburg, Mr Mavela Dlamini

Professor Ravi Nayagar, CEO of ECSA and our keynote speaker

Deputy President of the AMEU , Sandile Maphumulor from Etekwini Metro

Vice President of the AMEU, Sy Gourah from Buffalo City

The Acting Chairperson of the City Power Board, Mrs Getty Simelane

The Acting Managing Director of City Power, Silas Zimu

Distinguished and Honoured Guests

Sanbonani, Dumalang, Goeie More and a very good morning to you. I want to on behalf of the AMEU take this opportunity of extending to all of you a very warm and cordial welcome to this great city of Johannesburg. Lots of you have come from far and wide and it's a pleasure to inform you that for this year's Convention its been a record in terms of delegate registration and booking of exhibition space. I guess the latter is an indication of all us us trying to find solutions to the many problems and challenges facing us individually and collectively as an industry. Furthermore, we also this year had

the luxury of turning away papers because in essence we were kind of overscribed. Some of the criteria that the Papers Committee of the AMEU used included the need to give all stakeholders within our environment and industry e.g. government, suppliers, utilities, municipalities, consultants, etc an opportunity to present Our convention theme for this year as you know is **“Electricity Service Delivery – The Challenge”** . In carefully selecting this Theme the AMEU took cognizance of some of the following challenges:

- **The acceleration of electricity service delivery in a cost effective, efficient, effective and safe manner to all who need it especially the poorest of the poor**
- **The restructuring of the industry and especially with the impending creation of the RED’s (Regional Electricity Distributors)**
- **The provision of an adequate and “sound” physical asset infrastructure to deliver power to both existing and potential new customers in a sustainable and reliable manner**
- **Security and adequacy of generation power supply or capacity**
- **Demand side management and energy efficiency**
- **The growing shortage of relevant skills and competencies together with the associated training and development challenges**
- **The availability of much needed funding to cater for all the stated challenges**
- **The use of alternative and renewable energy resources within the distributed energy environment**
- **The use of various but relevant technologies to address the various challenges**

I am hoping that the papers that are being presented and the ensuing questions, discussions, etc will seek to address some (if not all) of the above challenges. The AMEU in its current 91st year of existence has always sought to provide assistance in the course of its various activities and interventions such as its seminars, publications, branch meetings, website, etc.

Vally Padayachee, AMEU TECH Conv 2006, Opening Speech

I hope you enjoy your stay in Johannesburg and look forward to personally meeting you during the Convention.

Vally Padayachee

President AMEU