



## THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 10/2020  
6 November 2020

### NEWSLETTER

Dear member

#### **CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE THATCHING INDUSTRY**

The enormous damage caused by the fires in the Free State as well as the hailstorm that hit the Kimberley area in particular was unfortunate and regrettable, but it also generated new business for thatching contractors.

An overview had to be given of the current state of the Thatching Industry in South Africa to the International Thatching Society during their zoom meeting and as a result our Administrative Officer contacted many of our members to find out what the state of affairs is in their respective areas.

It could be concluded that things are really not going so badly after the Covid-19 restrictions. Our members are doing particularly well in the Cape Province where many new thatched roofs are being built. Things are getting harder with others who especially have clients in the tourism industry such as hotels and lodges and who work across national borders that are being closed.

The competition of thatched roofs with especially Harvey tiles can usually be overcome when the cost difference is pointed out to clients. Also that Insurance companies still consider a thatched roof that has been covered with Harvey tiles as a traditional thatched roof and in many cases increase the premiums because at the time of a fire, the fire brigade due to the covering of the thatch, can not get to the the origin of the fire which results in many cases that the whole building with contents and all are destroyed. Lightning conductors (depends on the flash density of the area) must be installed in any case even if there are tiles on the roof.

#### **RECOGNITION OF THE TASA**

It is with absolute pleasure that we can truly say with certainty that the TASA is gaining ground by leaps and bounds in terms of recognition as an Association as well as our membership. Below is a letter received which, among other things, provides proof of this.

„Good day

On behalf of the Department of Architecture, I would be grateful if the following two publications could be made available to our department for learning and teaching purpose.

1. A Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa
2. Pros and Cons in the Thatching Industry

If these publications are in hard print, they can be mailed to:

Att.: Mr P da Costa  
Department of Architecture  
Steve Biko Campus, Block S5 Level 5  
Corner of Botanic Gardens and Steve Biko Roads



Durban  
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With thanks



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## CONCLUSION

The Thatching Industry in South Africa is doing very well and thatching contractors can make a very good living if they take care of their customers through excellent service delivery and craftsmanship.

With especially the contractors not doing so well, pretend to be members because it is required by many institutions and clients. But fortunately, the TASA office is approached for proof of membership and such are soon exposed.

We would therefore like to once again express our appreciation to our members who not only value their membership but also build and carry the TASA's name through their actions and service delivery. The essence of the matter is that the members who wrap their clients in the proverbial cotton wool are the members who are recommended by which business is generated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'André Friis'.

André Friis  
**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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