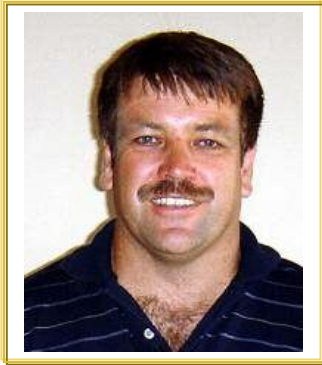




# THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 9/2007  
12 December 2007

## NEWSLETTER



**Abrie Visagie**  
**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

### 2007 IN OVERVIEW

With our second year in existence, we can again look back at a very successful year. Our source documents such as i.e. the Complaints Procedures are in place and found effective, but we also obtained representation on the SABS / SANS Technical Committee. In depth discussions are in vogue to establish an acceptable and workable Specification for the Thatching Industry. This is necessary as the SANS 10407:2006 (Thatched Roof Construction) Specification is going to be withdrawn by the SABS to be incorporated in the National Building Regulations i.e. SANS 10400.

A word of appreciation is expressed for the valuable contributions made by the Regional committees. In particular our members are thanked for their faithful support and participation. We have successfully sailed together on unknown waters and can now proceed forward confidently to achieve the goals and aims we set ourselves.

### VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION / CERTIFICATION

To address the need for accreditation / certification, negotiations with Mr. Abe Stears of SATAS are underway and guidelines will be established which will be for the scrutiny of members. The aim will be specifically for Thatchers building large roofs..

### TRAINING

Serious consideration is being given to the training of workers as well as workshops for Contractors regarding problems encountered with roof construction and the application of the SANS 10407 Specification requirements. On application for TASA membership, it is required that the Codes of Conduct and Ethics be signed which means that the prospective member undertakes to abide by the SANS 10407 Specification requirements. At the intended workshops and training sessions, information and advice regarding the latest construction and thatching methods, material used, etc. will be provided. It is observed that the lack of interaction among Thatchers and consequent isolation deprive them of the advantage to stay in contact with the latest developments.

A trained and available workforce will bring stability and faith in the Industry.

**The above workshops and training sessions will form part of the accreditation / certification process.**

### ELECTION OF NEW REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Election of new Regional committees will take place during February 2008.

**Mr. Abrie Visagie will visit each region. His aim is to meet all the important role players in the Thatching Industry. (TASA members and especially Thatchers who are not members yet).** Regional committees are requested to please identify these bona fide contractors and to provide contact info to the TASA office **not later than 15 January 2008.**

Regional committees are only at present established in the Western Cape, OFS, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Natal. The Northern Cape is included under the OFS.

Bona fide Thatchers are encouraged to draw together all contractors in their vicinities to establish Regional committees because distances are a problem. It is especially important now before elections take place. The advantage is that representation can be obtained on the National Committee. **Mr. Abrie Visagie (as outgoing National Chairman) will guide the meetings and elections. Timeous submission of info to the TASA office will ensure that the necessary arrangements will be in place for these visits.**

• **PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT:**

**Thatchers making themselves available for election to the Regional committees, are required to submit the following to the TASA office which must be in the possession of the office at least one week before the intended Regional meeting:**

- Completed membership application form
- Proof of payment of membership fees of R3 000 (cheques are not acceptable)
- Signed Codes of Conduct and Ethics

• **PLACE OF MEETING**

You are advised to select the venue for your intended meeting such that it will be neutral, in reach and acceptable to all Thatch contractors.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The second Annual General Meeting will take place in the Cape on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Detail of the meeting i.e. venue, transport, accommodation, etc. will be provided in the first Newsletter of 2008.

The meeting will reflect on the issue of whether TASA has positioned itself correctly and whether the Constitution needs to be adapted.

Discussion points are inter alia:

SANS 10407:2006	Codes of Conduct and Ethics
Membership	Constitution
Voluntary Accreditation/ Certification	Regional planning and activities
Training	Finances
Complaints Procedure	Marketing
Disciplinary actions	Contracts

A workshop will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March where photos will be displayed showing construction defects experienced in the Trade. Solutions to obviate these problems will be discussed. Guest speakers will be invited and info on the Trade in overseas countries and how it impacts on the RSA market will be some of the topics.

Too little time was scheduled for the 2007 Annual General Meeting. It was therefore decided to allocate a full morning for the **AGM on Saturday 8 March 2008.**

**COMPETITION**

The photo competition of last year was a great success and it was therefore decided to repeat the competition with the following categories:

- The most aesthetic structure (*provide address where built*)
- Largest (single) thatched roof (*provide address where built*)
- Funniest photo / video (*submit info*)

**Rules of the Competition are as follows:**

- Entries must be received by the TASA office not later than **22 February 2008**
- Only paid up members may participate
- Members may enter for more than one category
- The number of entrees are unlimited
- Adjudication will be done by those present at the Friday evening function
- All entries will be displayed
- Entries for the previous competition may not again be submitted

Prizes to be won will be made known at a later stage.

### **OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Members with outstanding fees for 2007 will not be eligible for renewal of membership for 2008 unless fees are paid up in full.

Membership for 2008 will only be obtained when the once off payment of the full amount of R3 000 is paid. **The facility for payment in installments has been cancelled.**

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Applications for new members are ratified by the Regional committee members only after receiving the completed Application for Membership form as well as proof of payment of the full amount of R3 000 and the signed Codes of Conduct and Ethics.

Temporary membership will be provided for a probation period of six months where after full membership will be given under the proviso that no complaints have been received during that period. The name of the new member will be added to the website membership list of TASA with a 'T' indicating temporary membership. Only after completion of the probation period will permanent membership be granted. A membership certificate as well as the registered trade mark of TASA on a CD will be issued to the new member for use on stationary and print material.

### **INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTEMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Agri-Africa has been appointed by the National Department of Agriculture to conduct an investigation into the status of 'industrial crops.' Thatch reed and thatch grass are included in the list. A questionnaire is attached and you are urgently requested to complete it and to return it to Agri-Africa. TASA supports the project as it will benefit the Trade.

### **BLESSINGS**

We wish you and your loved ones all the blessings of the Festive season and trust that 2008 will be the year of achievements accomplished.

Kind regards

**Abrie Visagie**

**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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