



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

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ABRIE VISAGIE
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

NEWSLETTER

NEW JOB OPPERTUNITIES

It is heartening to hear that job opportunities especially in Gauteng are on the increase. The tendency among the public to rather accept the cheapest quotation is still prevalent.

THE USE OF SISALATION AS A FIRE RETARDING AGENT

It has come to our attention that some contractors still make use of sisalation. This practice is obsolete and is not recommended as condensation seriously reduces the life span of the thatched roof.



The thatch thickness is tapered down dramatically to the ridge

No compaction

Contractors are still continuing with the practice of using bad quality and immature grass cut during the growing season. Using this inferior grass together with sisalation is a sure recipe for disaster as these roofs will not last. The protective layer against moist penetration has not been formed yet and is easy to detect because it breaks easily at the joints.

Complaints about roofs done under the above practices continue and maintenance work endeavoring to remove the rotting leaves and seed does not solve the problem as these roofs eventually start leaking.



The difference in quality of thatch grass



The thatch grass looks woolly

ROOFS BUILT WITHOUT APPROVED PLANS

The assistance of Mr Mike Hull (Structural and Civil Engineer) of Hull Consulting Engineers had to be called in to try and save a roof of a client who already paid up R220 000. The roof has been built without approved plans. No support structure was provided on the inside and the roof had to be supported inside as well as from the outside to prevent it from collapsing - this while the kingpost was still standing on the ground.

It is more disturbing to note that the building was built under the supervision of an Engineer. It supports the argument that very few Architects and Engineers are proficient in the design and building principles of pole constructions.

The above situations are an embarrassment for TASA and cause great harm to the Thatching Industry. Clients that are on the receiving end of such disasters will spread the word which in turn means a decline in the thatch construction market.



UNLAWFUL USE OF THE TASA LOGO

A Letter of Attorney has been submitted to contractors whose membership has been cancelled but are still using the registered trademark of the TASA as well as their old GSA number.

Action will be taken against offenders and TASA members and the public are urgently requested to advise when such abuse is noted. Most of the offenders are previous members whose membership was cancelled due to complaints received from clients. The photos speak for themselves.

THE USE OF THE TASA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

It has come to our attention that professional people are using the TASA membership number (GSA -----) as their professional registration number. Please note that the TASA membership number carries no authority and is only used to confirm the contractor's membership. It does not substitute any professional person's registration requirement.

CERTIFICATION OF TASA MEMBERS

Certification of TASA members is undertaken by SATAS and Thatch-it is the first member on which the process is applied during which any refinement will be done. Members requiring certification must submit their applications to the TASA office. SATAS will then be notified on condition that membership fees are fully paid up. It will make economic sense if members in an area will apply together. Expenses can then be shared.



Certified members will be identified by the SATAS registered certification mark.

UPDATED WEBSITE

The TASA website has been updated to enable videos to be published. This feature will be available from this week. Members are encouraged to submit photos, articles, videos etc. to the TASA office for publishing.

SUGGESTIONS TO ADVERTISE THE TASA AND TO BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Regional managements are requested to weigh up various possibilities to bring TASA under the attention of the general public; for example to join the TASA to a local Business Chamber. Most of these Business Chambers have websites and their members are allowed to publish their logos on the Chambers' websites. .

Please submit your proposals to TASA so that it can be considered for implementation.

An Example of a "Green Building" Thatched Roof?



Kind regards

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