



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 2/2019

22 February 2019

NEWSLETTER

Dear TASA member

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TASA is playing an increasingly important role in the Building Industry and there is a growing demand for TASA membership. Compared to other Associations, the TASA membership fees are competitive and the benefits that membership offers are completely overshadowing the fees. We trust that our members will recognize the importance of membership and that those fees which are still outstanding would soon be settled as the current financial year ends on 28 February 2019.

Please note that the TASA's banking information changed as indicated on the invoice.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Training seminars will play an important role in the marketing of the TASA and its members as it has become an absolute priority to school the public, municipal building inspectors, NHBRC professionals, insurance company inspectors, etc. regarding compliance with specification requirements for thatch roofs.

During a meeting with a representative of the NHBRC (which the NHBRC requested) the TASA committed itself to offering training seminars for NHBRC technical professionals as from April 2019 to inform them of specification requirements and what to look at during inspections.

Knowledge is power and by providing insight and knowledge to the public, contractors, and professionals, the TASA hopes to raise the standard of the Thatching Industry and to prevent client damage and loss. Membership of the TASA is constantly emphasized.

Some of TASA's members have indicated that they will be willing to engage in these training seminars.

TASA FACEBOOK PAGE

Our post "Knowledge is Power" had a post reach of 9 650 in ten days and 2 306 engagements. In only one day our post "The Art of Thatching" had a post reach of 2 827 and 615 engagements.

Inquiries regarding specification requirements are definitely increasing and the TASA's "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" as well as "The Pros and Cons in the Thatching Industry" is sent as far and wide as possible.

This newsletter is sent out together with these two articles which will be published in the Timber IQ magazine.

SAQA REGISTRATION : DIFFERENT DESIGNATIONS IN THE THATCHING INDUSTRY

The Thatching Industry is one of a few Trades that offer informal craftsmanship for a long period of time. There are a few phases' prospective thatchers and carpenters had to go through and the techniques are learned by working with thatchers and carpenters with many years of experience. This is now sorted out as outlined in our two articles "The Art of Thatching" and "The Backbone of a Thatched Roof"

What need to be clarified are the requirements that a Director Thatcher must meet. Should there be different categories - especially applicable to new applications - or is the SATAS inspection report adequate?

Example:

The path of a Director Thatcher (Business owner / Thatching Company)

A Director Thatcher starts by building small pole structures - for example 6 x 6 m on solid walls. Then as he gained experience he can build larger structures. He must be able to interpret approved plans and sort problems out. Such a Director Thatcher must also be able to present a SATAS' inspection report.

He can be registered in this designation, but may only erect roofs within the specified category, as per below and depending on his proven competencies:

- CATEGORY A - (High Risk): Very Complex roofs
- CATEGORY B - (Medium Risk): Complex Domestic and Simple Industrial and Commercial Roofs, including up to 10 meter spans
- CATEGORY C - (Low Risk): Simple Roofs up to and including 9 meter span with hips and valleys
- CATEGORY D – (Low Risk): Gable to Gable roofs (no hips or valleys) up to 6 meter span.

Our members' opinion on this will be greatly appreciated.

To address the problem of "bakkie builders" damaging the Thatching Industry, the NHBRC indicated that they could set up bursaries for a period of five years for people who want to be trained as carpenters and thatchers. These pupils are bound by a contract with the NHBRC and paid by them, while the apprenticeship takes place by joining a TASA member's business.

The standard and survival of our industry that is threatened by roofs being replaced with plastic tile and other roofing materials can be ensured if TASA and SAQA registration are made compulsory because training and inspection are required.

We would like to express our appreciation to all our members' help and assistance and we trust that this year, not only will the TASA go from strength to strength, but that every member will benefit from their TASA membership.

Kind regards



André Friis

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Thatchers Association of South Africa
Private Bag X 1015
LYTTELTON
0140

Fax 086 6409 151
Mobile 083 283 8429
Email address admin@sa-thatchers.co.za
Website www.sa-thatchers.co.za