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ECA(SA) – EAST / SOUTH CAPE REGIONAL NEWS

It was party time in East London as Sizakhale Contracting (Pty) Limited celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a glittering function on Friday 26 October 2007.

80 invited guests were transported to the beautiful Elizweni Resort in the Nahoon River Valley for the event. “Elizweni” is a Xhosa word which means “home in the countryside” and for a few precious hours guests could relax, away from the fast pace of the city life, enjoying the company of friends, sip cocktails under the African sky and enjoy excellent food.

A team of energetic fire dancers provided the early evening entertainment whereafter guests were taken on a journey, via a PowerPoint presentation, of the vision and mission of the company as well as its achievements since 1997.

The Sizakhale story started many years ago when Zeph Dlamini was employed as a labourer, pulling cables for Siemens at their site in Newcastle during 1976.

Zeph had just passed Standard 8 at Dr. Vilakazi High School in Soweto and he would travel widely from one site to another as a Siemens employee where he eventually became senior commercial clerk for the company at the SASOL 3 site in Secunda. His acceptance of the challenging position in human resources with the company during 1982 gave him vital experience, something which would be of great assistance to him in later years as he in the capacity of majority shareholder at the time, started the painful transformation process that saw Sizakhale progress from a 66% Siemens owned entity to a 100% independent company today.

Sadly Zeph Dlamini would not see the fruits of this hard work as he passed away in 2003 at the tender age of 45. Zeph did however achieve a remarkable personal milestone in his life by becoming the first black President of the ECA(SA) during 2001, a position he still held at the time of his untimely death.

The remaining shareholders in Sizakhale in consultation with Siemens, decided to carry on trading despite huge financial strain on them at the time Anthony Parker, a qualified accountant and reborn Christian was allocated a 20% share in the business. Selwynn Naicker, also a devout Christian, who started his career as a site clerk for Stocks Electrical in Kwazulu Natal, bought shares in the business, and Boesman Steenekamp was appointed in charge of projects in Gauteng, Mafeking and Vryburg.

The company was now adequately structured and in a position to start tendering for larger projects. The following contracts have since been successfully completed during the past few years.

- ❖ Electrification of Mdantsane Township outside East London.

- ❖ Electrification of railway line at Cato Ridge – KZN.

- ❖ Electrical upgrade – Zonderwater Prison.

- ❖ Sizakhale is also acting as a labour broker to Siemens, supplying labour to them for a contract in Pinetown – KZN.

The company is operating from offices in East London and currently employs almost 200 workers in 3 provinces in the county.

The company has forged strong partnerships with a number of clients and suppliers through hard work by a dynamic group of businessmen.

Anthony Parker believes their course is mapped for success and that you should be brave enough to try anything. "Seize the day" is the term he lives by and this he can only do with the direction and help of God his heavenly Father.

The ECA(SA) – East / South Cape is proud to have this electrical contractor among our esteemed members in East London.

We congratulate the company on their 10th Anniversary and wish them a wonderful and profitable future as they expand their business in the years to come.

LM Bowles