

JANUARY 2008 JANUARY 2008

**Electrical Contractors' Association (SA) – East / South Cape Region
Elektrotegniese Aannemersvereniging (SA) – Oos / Suid-Kaapstreek**

P.O. Box 7699 NEWTON PARK 6055 7699 NEWTON PARK 6500
Tel: (041) 363-1990 / Fax: (041) 363-1997 / E-mail: michelle@ecasa.co.za / Website: !! HYPERLINK
"http://www.ecasa.co.za" ¶ www.ecasa.co.za[±]

The management and staff of the ECA(SA) extends its congratulations to the following persons on their election as office bearers and committee members for 2008:-

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

Chairman:-

Arnold Whiteley – A. Whiteley Electrical

Vice – Chairman:-

Michael Straton – Straton Electrical

Committee members:-

Ti-Jean Nabal – Bay Electrical

Graham Clarke – G.C. Electrical

Cliffy Goosen – C & G Electrical

EAST LONDON BRANCH

Chairman:-

Wayne Nicholas – Electronique Electrical

Vice – Chairman:-

Gerhard Lemmer – Cwete Electrical

Committee members:-

Deon Vengadjellum – D-Light Electrical

Dumasani P Madalane – D.P. Madalane Electrical cc

SOUTH CAPE BRANCH

Chairman:-

Hannes Raubenheimer – Raubies Electrical

Vice – Chairman:-

Edwin Joshua – South Cape Electrical

Committee Member:-

Wayne Hodgson – Terayne Electrical

Congratulations also to Hannes Raubenheimer on his election as the East / South Cape delegate to attend meetings of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ECA.

We wish to thank Arnold Whiteley for many loyal years as our NEC delegate and for spending so much time away from his family and business whilst attending to ECA matters in Johannesburg.

VERIFICATION OF SAEWA STOP ORDER FORMS

When the South African Equity Workers' Association (SAEWA) recruits any of your employees as its members, they should send you a copy of the stop order form. You should then verify that it has been signed by the employee concerned, and ensure that he understands that you will be deducting the subscription from his wages.

The Electrical Bargaining Council appears to be amending your monthly invoices immediately it receives a copy of the stop order form from the Union, by moving the employee(s) concerned from the "ASF" column to the "SAEWA" column. In most instances this may not be noticed by you or the employee because the amount of the contribution is the same.

In view of the above, please check your Council invoices for the months of September, October and November to establish whether any such changes have taken place. If so, have you received a stop order form in respect of the particular employee(s) concerned, and was it signed by such employee(s)?

Should you find any instances where such changes have taken place and you have not received the necessary stop order form, and/or the signature is not that of the employee, PLEASE contact me immediately. Any such discrepancies will be investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome.

Your co-operation in this exercise will be appreciated.

JOHAN GROENEWALD VS THE MINISTER OF LABOUR

In November 2004 many electricians wrote the Installation Rules and Specialised Installation Rules examinations with the intention of being registered as accredited persons at one of those levels. However, many of those who were successful in passing the examination were subsequently disappointed when the Department of Labour (DOL) refused to register them on the grounds that the minimum theoretical qualifications had changed from 1 January 2005.

Prior to such date an applicant for registration as an Installation Electrician had to have a minimum of an N2 certificate which included electrical trade theory or electricians, mathematics, plus any two of electronics, applied science or technical drawing. This was then changed to an N3 certificate with mathematics, and either electrical trade theory or electro-technology, plus one other relevant subject.

Insofar as the registration for a Master Installation Electrician was concerned, the minimum theoretical qualification was changed from an N3 certificate to an N6 with electrotechnics being compulsory.

TRAINING

For the period 1 November 2003 to 31 March the ECA presented ESETA with 1251 learners and apprentices in order to assist ESETA in fulfilling its mandate to accelerate training and address the skills shortage in the Electrical Industry. To date only 14% of the 1251 candidates have qualified.

The ESETA Board refused to extend the ECA training contract as from 1 April 2007 resulting in no new contracts for learners or apprentices being registered after this date.

As a result training providers refused to conduct training after 1 April 2007 for learners / apprentices currently in the system unless ECA members agreed to pay cash for such training.

This situation has been rectified to a certain extent by the signing of a new training contract in October 2007 between ECA/ESETA, which provides for the training of 550 new apprentices.

The situation with regard to learners has not changed. ECA has now convinced the ESETA Exco that there were no grounds for many false and malicious statements made to discredit the ECA and its training.

The ECA Authority needs to approve the ECA proposal to train 600 – 1000 learners / apprentices in 2008. The ECA has not been able to obtain this approval at the ESETA meeting on 28/29 November 2007 despite putting in a tremendous amount of time and effort to prepare and present our training proposal to ESETA.

Our efforts at regional level to get ESETA officials to accept responsibility for their actions and to start providing an efficient administration back up has largely been frustrated in 2007.

We are positive though that 2008 will be the start of a new era as far as training in the Electrical Industry is concerned.

The ECA(SA) Training Manger, Cynthia Reynders is planning a meeting in Port Elizabeth during February / March 2008 to which all employers of learners / apprentices would be invited.

A number of members have enquired if they could arrange practical training for their learners / apprentices at Industries Education and Training Institute (IE &TI) in Port Elizabeth at their own cost whilst we are waiting for the Energy Seta to take a final decision on awarding a new training contract to the ECA.

In this regard members are informed that Craig Hendricks are prepared to offer this training on condition that the employer pays for such training.

The ECA is aware of the frustrations and anxieties experienced by employers, learners, apprentices and their parents due to the delay on the part of ESETA in extending the ECA training contract.

We express our sincere apologies to the current learners / apprentices in the system whose training programmes have been interrupted during 2007.

We wish to thank our members and the trainees for their patience and understanding during this very difficult time and trust that our training initiative would be back on tract in 2008.