

## **FREE STATE / NORTHERN CAPE REGIONAL NEWS**

It is imperative that the Bloemfontein office has to address the concerns of all our members and that they should be actively involved in the decision making processes of the Regional Executive Committee and the various Branches.

To ensure that all members are involved in the activities of the ECA, all members are invited to attend the Branch meetings where feedback will be given about such improved services such as labour relations, technical, marketing and contractual advice and assistance.

As the ECA is focused on the rendering an excellent service to all of its members, efforts have been made to determine the members' concerns, and to get their views on how a better service may be offered to them. I am an open minded person who is determined to actively focus on the advancement of the interests of all members.

I would like to thank Cliffy Davis, the Regional Chairperson, for the guidance and advice he has given to me as the Acting Regional Director in understanding the unique dynamics of this Region and to enable me to make positive changes.

The Bloemfontein office is now rendering the following services to its members -

1. Advice on technical, contractual, labour relations matters, as well as health and safety compliance.
2. Training courses on such subjects as certificates of compliance, estimating and tendering, chairing of disciplinary hearings will be presented on request, and subject to there being sufficient numbers.
3. Advice on proper labour relations practices, including the hiring of employees, retrenchments, dismissals, grievance procedures and other sensitive issues.

Although I am unfortunately unable to personally visit each member in this Region, given the vast area of the Free State and Northern Cape, I would dearly like to meet all of them at the various Branch meetings.

The dates of the next round of Branch meetings are as follows:

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Northern Free State Branch (Welkom)   | 12 March 2009 |
| Eastern Free State Branch (Bethlehem) | 19 March 2009 |
| Bloemfontein                          | 6 April 2009  |
| Northern Cape (Jan Kempdorp)          | 16 April 2009 |
| Upington                              | 21 April 2009 |

Andre Beytell  
Acting Regional Director