



Institute for Timber Construction

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Reporting Period March 2016 to February 2017 and activities until July 2017

I'm Mannie Piyackis, Chairman of the ITC-SA and, on behalf of the Board, I'd like to welcome you to our 45th Annual General Meeting.

I would like to particularly welcome all members for taking time under these difficult economic conditions to attend the AGM.

Meeting Format

As you are aware from the Notice of Meeting, there are four items of business to be discussed when we move into the formal part of the meeting.

The Year in Review

The year has not been without its challenges. The global financial situation remains uncertain, but South Africa has underperformed compared to other BRICS nations. South Africa's future economic growth will hopefully be put back on track after the ANC meeting in December and as long as the major International Finance Agencies do not put us on a negative economic forecast.

There is also, of course, in the wake of the 'no confidence' vote in parliament, a delicately balanced political situation domestically, and we are yet to see how this will play out in relation to the national reform agenda.

We are in a holding pattern in our economy, but not great. Everyone is cautious about the outlook. Fragile overseas markets still weigh on the broader economy, and the consumer is paying higher prices for almost every commodity, but, on a positive note we are being told to expect more rate cuts to come. Which I hope will stimulate the economy.

As for your Institute, it's been a very challenging period as of January this year with the inception of voluntary membership.

The ITC-SA has done some tremendous work in the past six months which I will report back shortly in detail under the ITC-SA activity report.

OPERATIONAL, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS REPORT

Timber Frame Housing

The Timber Frame Home construction industry has seen a steady decline of correctly constructed homes over the past couple of years. With un-regulated houses showing a dramatic increase in quantity which is a result of middle class clients seeking more affordable housing.

The continual below standard /quality timber frame houses that are being built has unfortunately sown seeds of doubt in the minds of the banking evaluators and financial lenders, which has resulted in a decline of financing of timber frame houses.

Directors:

E. Piyackis* (Chairman)
P. de Villiers (Deputy Chairman)
R.C. Adams, W. Van Wyk, W.B. Wekesa
L.J. Bekker, D.B. Hattingh, P.W. Bisset, W.J. Slabbert
*Greek

This problem is being addressed through the Workshops to the Financial Institutions (Valuers) and the promotion of the Certificate of Competence.

Western Cape

The year started off well with Fabricators and Erectors having a steady flow of work. As the year progressed it slowed down a bit with some Fabricators having a steady flow of work but others had some busy months and some not.

Site work has not been affected due to very little rain during the rainy season. Expected heavy rain fall during September may cause work to slow down.

South Eastern Cape

The region has experienced a mixed bag with regards to business activity over the past year.

The Port Elizabeth and East London Branches showing a decline of some 20% in single residential roofs but being supported by low cost housing and schools with an overall decline of 15%. The site made roofs using site application plates being the main competitor to the fabricators.

The Southern Cape Branch on the other hand has experienced an increase of 20% overall. Single residential, low cost housing, schools and clinics have all contributed to this increase. With the Western Cape Government indicating a sustained infrastructure spend and the attraction of the Garden Route this Branch is in a positive frame of mind.

KZN/Gauteng/Limpopo/Mpumalanga/Free State/North West

All the above provinces have been visited by Amanda over the past 6 months and key areas that need attention have been identified and are being addressed. The major issues are non-compliance of the Local Authority Building Inspectors, Erector Training and ITC-SA visibility in the different Regions.

With the above issues addressed, members are overall pleased with the activities and see the importance of an Industry Body.

The general feeling amongst Fabricator Members is that the membership should be compulsory in order to create a level playing field amongst all fabricator members. They generally do not have a problem with an input levy cost as a funding model for the ITC-SA.

The above areas of concern are being addressed through ITC-SA Workshops hosted across the country as well as identifying training providers in all Regions.

To further address the matter of non-compliance by the Local Authorities the ITC-SA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the South African Local Government **SALGA** (Disaster Prevention Department) who will jointly address the Local Authorities at the ITC-SA Workshops across the country.

To address the visibility the ITC-SA in the different Regions, the ITC-SA started by appointing Mr Nicky Naidu in the KZN Region (2nd largest Region) as of the 1st of September 2017. Nicky has an impressive CV and a long history of experience in the timber industry. Nicky was previously employed at the NHBRC.

The ITC-SA would like to appoint representatives in all Regions of the Country, however is restricted by financial constraints following the Voluntary Membership on the 1st of January 2017.

ACTIVITY REPORT

ITC-SA Workshops (CPD Registered):-

Local Authorities:

- Limpopo (120 attendees)
- Cape Town (250 attendees)
- Pietermaritzburg (31 August 2017 – 75 registrations)

-eThekwini Municipality in Durban (5 October 2017)

Financial Institutions:

- ABSA SA Valuers Cape Town (30 attendees)
- ABSA SA Valuers Gauteng (7 attendees)
- Nedbank – Banking Association of SA (BASA) Conference (29 July)
- Nedbank field trip to Truss Plant (Date TBA)
- Nedbank Workshop Durban (5 October 2017 – 120 registrations)

Presentation at NRCS Workshops in:-

- Durban 25 & 26 July 2017
- PE 1 & 2 August 2017
- Free State 27 & 28 September 017
- Gauteng 17 & 18 October 2017
- Cape Town 24 & 25 January 2018
- EL 23 & 24 February 2018
- Gauteng North February 2018
- Polokwane March 2018

Brochures (Print and Electronic)

- Fire Regulations
- Timber Frame Housing Brochure
- Site Made vs Prefab Trusses translations:
 - Zulu (KZN)
 - Xhosa (KZN)
 - Sesotho (Free State)
 - Setswana (North West)
 - English/Afrikaans

Fabricator Stamps

Each ITC-SA Fabricator received a stamp with the ITC-SA Logo, Fabricator Name, COC No and Date to be placed on the bottom chord of each truss, 1m from the heel. This is for the Home Owner, Inspectors, Engineers and Erectors to identify the Fabricators as ITC-SA registered and Accredited Members.

Inspectors may only use ITC-SA loading certificates to sign off trusses if the Fabricator is a member of the ITC-SA. If the Fabricator is not a member, the roof must be signed off on the Engineers stationery.

ITC-SA Annual Awards

It was agreed by the Board of Directors for the following reasons to hold the Timber Awards bi-annually:-

- constraints of economy
- annual sponsorship (economic factors)
- Timeline on projects exceed 12 month

Should the above circumstances change the decision will be revised to annually again.

MEMBERSHIP

	GAUT	LIM	MPA	N/W	FS	NC	S/EC	WC	KZN	TOTAL
FABRICATORS MEM	29	8	8	10	7	6	17	19	26	130
Non Fabricator Mem	37	2	7	9	0	0	6	7	15	83
SYSTEMS	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
ERECTORS	14	5	2	2	3	0	5	16	9	56
INSPECTORS	7	4	6	1	1	0	3	2	16	40
ENGINEERS	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	2	17
TIMBER ROOF TRUSS DESI	17	1	5	0	5	0	2	9	6	45
TIMBER FRAME BUILDERS	3	0	1	0	0	0	8	12	4	28
DECK BUILDERS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6
SUPPLIER MEMBERS	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	9	1	16
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HONORARY MEMBERS	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	14
PROFESSIONALS (ARCHIT)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	97	20	23	13	16	6	36	84	67	362

TRAINING

Estimator / Designer Basic & Intermediate Courses

There has been an overall lack of interest in the Basic & Intermediate Courses, however since the registration of the Timber Roof Truss Designer Designation with SAQA there has been a large increase in enrolments. Currently 27 students are enrolled for the June 2017 courses.

	ENROLLED	PASSED	FAILED
BASIC COURSE	26	19	7
INTERMEDIATE COURSE	4	3	1

The ITC-SA is in the process of developing an Advance Estimator / Designer Course and will keep members informed of the completion thereof.

Online Training Courses

The ITC-SA is currently developing online training courses using the existing publications i.e., Volume 1&2 as well as the Training DVD. This will be segmented with an assessment after each segment.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

The board thanks Ian Keevey (South/Eastern Cape), Graham Butler (Western Cape) and Jenni de Waal (Office Manager Cape Town) for the work ethic and team work especially through the voluntary membership phase.

A special thanks to Amanda Obbes (National Coordinator) for her sterling work, the Board recognizes and appreciate your dedicated efforts and enthusiasm in running the Institute.

I'm pleased to be able to report to you that there is a strong collegiate spirit among board members and we are working very well as a team. Board renewal is continuing, supported by a principled and effective nominations process, directed at securing highly talented and well- experienced Directors. Diversity is an important element in our nomination process.

In closing I thank the Board of Directors of the ITC-SA for all the valued time, effort and contributions for the betterment of our industry as a whole.

Thank you

E.Piyackis
Chairman (ITC-SA)