



# REPORT

## SASS NATIONAL CONFERENCE & 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23-24 JUNE 2023

### THEME: “EMBRACING CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION”

The 2023 SASS AGM was held in Durban at the Garden Court Southern Sun Marine Parade. The event was organized by the KZN planning committee and SASS EXCO, bringing members together, provide training and initiate dialogue on pertinent issues in the profession.



#### 1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23 JUNE 2023

##### SASS MANAGEMENT REPORTED ON THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS OF THE PAST YEAR:



Finances: Audited financial statements were presented and adopted, the annual budget was discussed and approved.

Rules Board engagement: Application was made for tariff increase and two applications were made for travel fee increase, which was approved and implemented on 19 June 2023. SASS submitted comments to the Rules Board on various proposed rule amendments and legislation over the past year.

Membership audit: Although not all members responded, valuable information was collated, for example the continuous need for training, request for better communication by SASS, assistance and representation at disciplinary hearings, etc.

Membership to SASS: Concerns were raised on lack of commitment by members and concerns about dual membership to other voluntary organizations and groups. Furthermore concerns were raised about poor meeting attendance and response to communication from SASS to its members.

Legal Committee activities: In the past year the SASS legal committee attended to the interpretation of new judgments and legislation, as well as the preparation of comments and responses on proposed regulation and rule amendments.

Consultative Forum: SASS members were continuously represented at this important forum and regular reports were provided to members by management. Highlights include the position of the Board on desk top investigations, review of the TOR (Terms of Reference) of the forum and Board levies, currently @ 1.5% of net income; 1% on Gross income is under consideration.



Discussion on Deputy Sheriffs misconduct: Reports were received on the need for disciplinary action against deputies and office staff who make themselves guilty of misconduct, only for the deputy to move to the next sheriff's office to continue with same actions. The assistance by the Board for sheriffs was suggested and the provisions of the Code of Conduct are to be implemented. Sheriffs were reminded to report acts of misconduct to the SABFS. If the deputy sheriff is subsequently dismissed from work, then his/her service card should be returned to SABFS with the report on the conduct of the deputy.



Provincial Advisory Committees: There is little movement on this front, but members will be advised on any development.

Social programs: SASS is proud of its social programs, whereby members in need of assistance are supported financially and otherwise.



SASS Committees: Committees are active and play an important role in the running of the organization. SASS members were urged to make themselves available to serve on committees, for the benefit of the organization and the profession.

SODESTA: Activities include communication with members via WhatsApp groups, member application for vacancies and interaction with the SABFS on criteria for the issuing of Fidelity Fund Certificates to newly appointed acting sheriffs.



Amendment of SASS Constitution: Members approved the proposed amendments to the SASS Constitution, whereby electronic voting for election of management is introduced. Further amendments include various enhancements to the Constitution, while modernizing some aspects.

Dual Membership: A resolution was taken that prohibits SASS members from affiliating to other voluntary associations.



## 2. CYBER SECURITY

Susan Coetzer of Protektum Brokers facilitated the presentation by Alycia Narainsamy, head of digital distribution, Stalker Hutchinson Admiral (SHA). The different types of cyber-attack were explained, resulting in business interruption.

The importance of staff and office training was emphasized, covering password protection, identification of safe links and knowledge of what links and correspondence to avoid.

The insurance available for cyber-attacks include cover for identity theft, theft of own funds and theft of data.

Protection of our data becomes more important and "best practice" include education and awareness, be updated on latest technologies, enforcing HR policies, doing background checks of people working on our systems and have insurance in place.

Santam Commercial Cyber Insurance Cover is now available for sheriffs and quotations can be requested.

### 3. GUEST SPEAKER: JUDGE PRESIDENT OF KZN HIGH COURT, MADAM JUSTICE THOBA POYO-DLWATI

In her address, Poyo-Dlwanti JP acknowledged the role of sheriffs being part of the wider justice system, ensuring execution of court orders and judgments. Sheriffs were reminded that courts expect sheriffs to uphold the values of the Constitution in the execution of their duties. Sheriffs were urged to always display integrity, honesty, respect and human dignity.

Courts rely on the sheriff's return of service to ensure the parties are properly notified of legal action against them.

Justice Poyo-Dlwati elaborated on change and transformation and gave valuable insight on dealing with tension that is encountered on the journey of change.

Her positive attitude was very inspiring and well received by SASS. Her full speech can be read on our website [www.sassoc.co.za](http://www.sassoc.co.za)



### 4. INDABA: ADV MARK MORGAN, CHAIRPERSON OF THE SA BOARD FOR SHERIFFS

Advocate Morgan explained the mandate of the Board in terms of training and from a regulating perspective. He found the image of the profession to be poor and is duty-bound to restore the image of the profession. Misappropriation of trust funds remains a huge challenge. The Chairperson announced that a training course on trust account administration will be presented later in the year. Adv. Morgan also addressed the issue of acting and permanent appointments and interacted with the audience on various aspects.



## 5. SASS GALA DINNER

This prestigious SASS event was once again well attended and enjoyed by members, colleagues, guests, stakeholders and friends. The SASS social program beneficiaries were announced and tribute paid to our retiring members and those who unfortunately passed away during the year. Our auction and fundraising were a highlight for SASS to end the evening.



## 6. SASS TRAINING

SASS members and staff attended the full day training, covering the following topics:

Training topic	Presenter
New tariffs and calculation of auctioneer's commission	Allan Murugan, Sheriff Durban North
Ethics, covering all aspects of the Code of Conduct, communication with stakeholders, leading by example and decision making	Martin Akker, sheriff Belfast
Legislation and Regulation developments, covering new Small Claims fees and regulations, Service by affixing and practical guidance for auctions and every day challenges in a sheriff's office	Prince Maluleke, sheriff Boksburg
Attachment on bank accounts, including Uniform Rule 45 and forms (Due to time constraints this item was postponed and presented virtually on 12 July 2023)	Chris de Wet, Sheriff Bloemfontein West
Open discussion where SASS members and staff raised questions and challenges	Andy Adimoolum, Sheriff Johannesburg West

