



20 November 2018

NEWSLETTER

NFDA AND SERVICES SETA TRAINING PROJECT

Learners were recruited from around the country for the six learning programs, and as soon as the Services SETA provides commencement letters in January 2019 training will start. The six learning programs are as follows:

- Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Literacy and Numeracy
- Skills Development: Employed learners – National Certificate: Funeral Service Practice
 - Exhuming human remains
 - Participating in conducting funeral ceremonies
 - Preparing and cleaning human remains for storage
 - Preparing and cleaning human remains for visitation and coffining
- Financial Services Board Regulatory Exam (RE 1)
- Internships: Graduates who have achieved a National Certificate Vocational (NCV) from a TVET College
- Internships: Learners seeking workplace experience to complete the (N6 only) National Diploma
- Internships: Graduates from HET Institutions with Full Qualifications at NQF Level 5 and above

CHALLENGES THAT WERE FACED DURING THE APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PERIOD:

- ▶ The SETA experienced an increased number of applications, with over 11 discretionary grants and special projects funded windows awards for 2018. For this reason the implementation is to be staggered over the remainder of the SETA current financial year.
- ▶ There is a risk of losing already recruited learners because the SETA is taking so long to implement the training.

- ▶ Institutions such as the TVET colleges were not willing to share their learner database.
- ▶ There has been a reluctance by learners to be placed in funeral homes for their internship period.
- ▶ There has been a very poor response from NFDA parlour owners to host learners for internship.
- ▶ A reluctance by parlour owners was experienced to release employees for an extended period for training purposes.



FEDERATION OF FUNERAL PROFESSIONALS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (FFPSA)

The following is a reminder of what the FFPSA is, and why you should join.

The Federation of Funeral Professionals in Southern Africa is an organization that aims to improve the quality and accessibility of professional funeral services for all South Africans and will act as advocate and promoter for professional funeral services.

The benefits of becoming a member are:

- It will control the regulation process.
- You will be part of a recognized profession.
- The professional body has developed a code of conduct for the industry.
- A career path for members will be set up.
- Professional training programs will be offered.
- You will receive recognition for your qualifications.
- The body will receive recognition from government departments and will be endorsed by the FSCA.
- It will protect the interest of registered professionals.

Any individual that works within the funeral industry for longer than 3 years can apply for membership.

There are 3 categories of membership:

- Intern: Persons with no qualifications and 3 years operational experience could apply for this category for a limited period of 2 years. Within that time period they have to apply for RPL for the qualification registered at SAQA as National Certificate in Funeral Service Practice, NLRD ID number 21787, and when found competent, they could progress to the next category.
- Associate: When RPL has been successfully completed on NQF 3, persons can apply to become associate members. The requirement will be 3 years operational experience.
- Professional: These members need to successfully complete NQF 4 for the qualification registered at SAQA as National Certificate: Funeral Service Practice, NLRD ID number 23775. They would also need to provide proof of a minimum of 5 years operational experience.
- A separate sub-category for non-voting members will be created namely **Business** member: The criteria will include the submission of a CoC, and a tax clearance certificate. If no CoC is available when applying, the potential member will be granted a time period of 2 years to comply.

Membership fees are R1 200 per annum, with a 50% discount for 2018/2019. Please contact the office for more information.

ROAD ACCIDENT FUND

The Road Accident Fund is a public entity that serves to pay compensation to persons who sustain bodily injuries as a result of negligent driving of motor vehicles in South Africa.

Due to the adverse effect that fraud has had on the Fund's ability to deliver on its mandate of compensating accident victims, where the Fund is losing money to undeserving fraudsters at the expenses of road accident victims, who are in need of the compensation to cover for medical expenses and loss of income resulting from injuries and death resulting from road accidents, the Fund has moved towards stringent measures of tracking down these fraudsters and bringing them to justice.

A claimant may lodge a claim directly with the RAF without using the services of a lawyer, referred to as a 'direct claim'. Trained RAF personnel provide support to direct claimants through the RAF's national network of service centres and via the RAF's call centre.

The current Road Accident Fund will be phased out over the next number of years and replaced by the Road Accident Scheme.

SALE OF FUNERAL HOME IN EAST LONDON

Three Angels Funerals in Belgravia, East London is for sale. Contact Mrs Shamin Rama at 071 998 7873 or srrrama@gmail.com if you are interested.

SOUTH AFRICAN FUNERAL EXPO 2018

The SAFE expo was held at Emerald Casino on 5 – 6 September 2018 with the main reason to raise a target amount as source of income for the NFDA and to get suppliers on board to showcase their services, products and new trends to interested visitors.

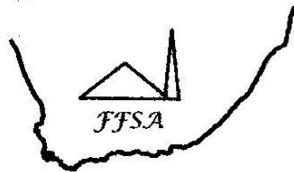
The SA Funeral Expo was resoundingly successful. Some of the highlights:

- The newly established FFPSA had a stall and queries could be handled
- Workshops were introduced again and seen as a highlight
- The Masterdrive driver assessments were received very well
- Panel discussions were supported
- Upcoming suppliers were brought on board
- The gala dinner on the boat was enjoyed by all.

Results:

- Vehicle dealers were satisfied with good business as a result
- It was branded as a neutral event
- All payments have been received
- Good profit was made.

FUNERAL FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



The FFSA is currently made up of three associations namely the NFDA, SAFPA and IFDA. These associations have agreed on removal rates and parlours that are members need to prove their membership.

During October 2018 two more associations joined the FFSA, namely NUASA and FUDASA. If bodies are removed by members of these associations, the FFSA removal rates should be charged.

Removal rates between 08:00 and 17:00	R1 200
After hours removal	R1 600
Storage after 48 hours	R300
Transport after 50 km	R7
Administrative expenses	R300

2019 EVENTS

2019 marks the 70TH anniversary of the NFDA and a special event, including an AGM and conference to celebrate this, is being planned. The event will take place in September 2019 and coincide with the Funeral Expo. Diarise this now already so that you can be sure to attend.

In order to move the AGM to September, as it is currently held in February annually, a special AGM is being planned for 20 February 2019 in Kempton Park to change the constitution to read that the AGM can take place within 6 – 10 months after the end of the financial year.

An anniversary edition of the NFDA magazine is also being planned. If you have any pictures of previous events or special occasions that you would like to be placed in the magazine, please email electronic jpg versions to the office, or provide a dropbox link.

HOW PLASTIC POLLUTION IS KILLING US

The statement, "there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050", has taken centre stage in world media recently ... and with good reason. Plastic pollution has reached epidemic proportion. The rampant growth of plastic production – particularly in single-use plastics – is finally being recognised as one of the greatest risks facing the environment and mankind's wellbeing. Not only is plastic burying the earth's surface under a layer of non-biodegradable waste, it is also saturating our oceans and soils with tiny plastic particles.

While plastic debris is finding its way into the stomachs of innumerable species with lethal consequences, plastic particles are working their way into the food chain and placing many of mankind's primary food sources and their respective ecosystems at risk of contamination and collapse. It is an extremely serious situation that we, ordinary people, are 100% responsible for. Since the invention of plastic in 1907, its use around the world has grown exponentially.

A critical attribute of plastic is that it cannot biodegrade. The reason for this is simple: plastic never existed before 1907, thus it is unrecognisable to organisms that decompose all other organic matter.



While plastic's permanence has numerous advantages, it also has one major disadvantage. When plastic enters the environment as mismanaged waste, rather than

biodegrading into its elemental constituents, it's broken down into smaller and smaller particles known as microplastics and nanoplastics.

Microplastics are plastic particles measuring between 0.05mm and 5mm; and nanoplastics are particles 1 000 times smaller than an algal cell. It is these plastic particles that are being swept up by multiple levels of the food chain. They then work their way higher up the food chain towards the world's apex consumer ... humans.

Although knowledge is limited with respect to the impacts of plastic on human health, the research conducted thus far is highly concerning. Phthalates, used in the production of plastics, have been linked to asthma, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, breast cancer, obesity and type II diabetes, low IQ, neurodevelopmental issues, behavioural issues, autism spectrum disorders, altered reproductive development and male fertility issues.

Bisphenol A (BPA), commonly found in food and drink containers, is another chemical that can accumulate in the human body. According to Earthday's plastic pollution awareness brochure, a survey conducted by The Centre for Disease Control showed that 93% of urine samples taken from people aged over six tested positive for BPA. Like Phthalates, BPA is also linked to infertility and a range of other health problems.

The more plastic we use and 'unintentionally' consume, the more potential exposure we have to these chemicals, and the higher our risk of suffering their negative health effects. And this is where the fundamental problem lies ... our reliance on plastic has entrenched itself so deeply across human society that it's near impossible to avoid. One just needs to walk through a supermarket to see that the vast majority of goods on sale are packaged in some form of plastic.

Not to mention that many of us send our children to school each day with plastic water bottles and food wrapped in plastic bags placed inside a plastic lunch box. The sad truth is, human society has made little effort to stem the tsunami of plastic flowing into our daily lives. It's insanity, especially when you consider what the potential health implications are, and the fact that we do not yet fully understand or appreciate the full extent of these implications.

Nowhere is the plastic scourge more evident than along our coastlines and in our oceans. Beaches around the world are awash with plastic debris of every conceivable shape, size and origin. Some of this plastic is picked up by seabirds who eat it and/or feed it to their chicks – evidence shows that up to 90% of seabirds have plastic in their stomachs.

Our five oceans now boast their very own 'trash vortices', the most infamous of which is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Estimated to be 1.6 million square km in size, it's equivalent to the areas of South Africa and Zimbabwe combined. And this is only the plastic debris that floats...

Unfortunately, some of this ocean borne plastic is being eaten by the ocean's whale and fish

populations. In February this year, yet another whale was found washed up dead on a beach in Spain, as a result of it having 30kg of plastic debris trapped in its stomach.

Earthday's brochure also states that: '... one third of the fish caught in the UK had plastic inside. The effect of eating these plastic contaminated fish is for the most part unknown, but the risk was substantial enough to warrant a warning of increased risk to human health and safety by the European Food Safety.' Then there's the estimated 1 000 turtles that die annually from becoming entangled in plastic debris. The mass casualties that plastic is inflicting across ocean species can only be described as catastrophic.

The plastic waste situation is just as dire on land. Urban, rural and wilderness areas are fighting a continuous battle to overcome the scourge of plastic litter. Much of it accumulates in rivers and lakes, affecting their local ecosystems. Plastic landfill sites also release harmful chemicals into surrounding soil. This contaminates groundwater and nearby water sources, impacting all those species that are reliant on them.

Needless to say that numerous land animals, birds and fresh water fish – many of which are considered a staple in human diet – also eat plastic which they mistake for food. This leads to increased toxicity levels and possibly even premature death of the affected animals.

For decades, there has been a lack of both social and political will to address the plastic epidemic head-on. However, with the upsurge of awareness around plastic's negative impacts on the environment and human health, there's a groundswell of opposition calling for plastic-free solutions, especially in the case of single-use-plastics. Every one of us who buys products packaged in plastic is contributing to the scourge, even if we attempt to recycle it. We must accept that the pitiful 10% plastic recycling rate should not ease our consciences or lull us into a false sense of security about how much plastic we use.

Our only hope is that the growing 'plastic-free' consumer trend will drive product manufacturers to look at biodegradable ways to package their products. If you're part of the plastic problem, then it's time to become be part of the solution. Embrace a personal plastic reduction plan and work your way towards a plastic-free lifestyle. Huge change happens one person at a time.

Robert Traydon – News24

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Keep well until we meet again



Marthie Botha

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER