



SADTC ISSUE 1 OF 2019

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL TECHNICIANS COUNCIL  
DIE SUID AFRIKAANSE RAAD VIR TANDTEGNICI**

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South African Dental Technicians  
Councils



@infosadtc



## Dear registered member

On behalf of Council and staff, the SADTC takes this opportunity to wish you all of the very best for 2019. We hope it will be a wonderful and productive year for everyone. As expected, the year has started with SADTC having multiple engagements already. Our aim this year is to focus on the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and the Education and Training of students, amongst others.

I will be sharing information on the following matters:

- 2019 Council Fees
- The submitted draft Bill
- Council Elections
- Education matters
- Roadshows
- Inspectorate
- New e-Learning platform

Sincerely,

Mrs Pertunia Nkuna  
Registrar/CEO

## FEES

You are encouraged to pay your annual fees on time to avoid deregistration. Did you know that more than 500 registered persons failed to pay their annual registration fees and in so doing risk deregistration and a possible loss of income? All registered persons must ensure that annual registration fees are paid using your invoice number (TE/LA number) in order to ensure that your payment is correctly reflected in your account. Non-compliance to this will result in the cancellation of your registration. Kindly be advised that invoices will be sent out during February. Should you have any queries, or if you have not received your invoice please contact the office.



## THE SUBMITTED DRAFT BILL

The Minister has signed off the processing of the draft bill submitted to the Department of Health. The Legal Services Unit has also confirmed that they are currently working on the draft bill. No time frames were given for the journey towards parliamentary approval. My office will keep you posted on the developments concerning the approval of the draft bill.

## COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The extended term of the current council will expire at the end of February 2020. In terms of the regulations, the returning officer is mandated to start with the election process six months before the expiry of the current extended term. My office will be starting with the call for nomination around July 2019. We would like to urge all our registered members to exercise their constitutional democratic right by nominating preferred candidates when the call for elections is made. Council hopes not to have a repeat of the last call where no nominations were received from either dental technicians/employees and from dental technologist/employers. Should this re-occur then registered members are choosing to abdicate their democratic right and responsibility. In such an event the Minister will invoke Section 5(3) of the Act.



In the past, the Dental Technology programmes at Technikons were subject to Council inspections only and the final practical examinations being assessed by external examiners and moderators. In contrast to the former, and to ensure the Dental Technology training at Universities of Technology (UoTs) aligns with the educational practices of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), as well as the Council for Higher Education (CHE), the Council has instituted an accreditation process for the recognition of the qualifications for registration purposes. Following an accepted accreditation model of dental degrees, Dental Technology training institutions first complete and submit a comprehensive self-evaluation report to Council. Subsequently, an accreditation panel then visits the institution and conducts an intense accreditation process over 3-4 days. At the completion of the visit, the accreditation panel produces a report, which recommends a full accreditation for a given number of years, or conditional / provisional accreditation for a limited period before the panel re-evaluates. It must be noted that the accreditation report comprises a list of commendations and recommendations for improvement, and the institution is then required to submit annual reports on the progress made in fulfilling the recommendations / conditions.

The first Council approved accreditation took place at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) in August 2018. Council accepted the report submitted by the accreditation panel. In view of the changes that need to be affected, DUT was granted provisional accreditation., For Council, the experience of the process at DUT was a useful one as improvements have since been made for the process to be better instituted at the other two UoTs this year. Essentially, these accreditations will help Council as well as the institutions to better understand the process in preparation of the accreditation of all the new courses and degrees to be introduced from 2020 onwards.

It must be noted that the accreditation process does not replace the inspection procedures, which are still required under the current Act, nor the scrutiny of the final examination procedures.







## COUNCIL'S PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION EXAMINATIONS

Council is currently considering reinstituting a Professional Registration Examination (PRE). This type of “board exam”, is familiar to some of our more senior and established registered members. Council is very mindful of the shortcomings associated with a PRE and will make every effort to circumvent them.

Members are reminded that the Higher Education system has changed significantly since 1994. Technikons are now Universities of Technology with their own legislation and mandate derived from the Council of Higher Education (CHE). With the current Act, this places the SADTC in conflict with legislation.

Recently the Regulations on Education and Training of Dental Technicians/Technologists were out for public comment. It was unfortunate that only SADA submitted their comments while the entire dental technology profession remained silent. These regulations were subsequently adjusted by the Legal Committee of Council and is now awaiting Ministerial approval. Most of the comments made by SADA were around the registration role of Council and assessment that would assure minimum competency to be demonstrated before professional registration can be considered.

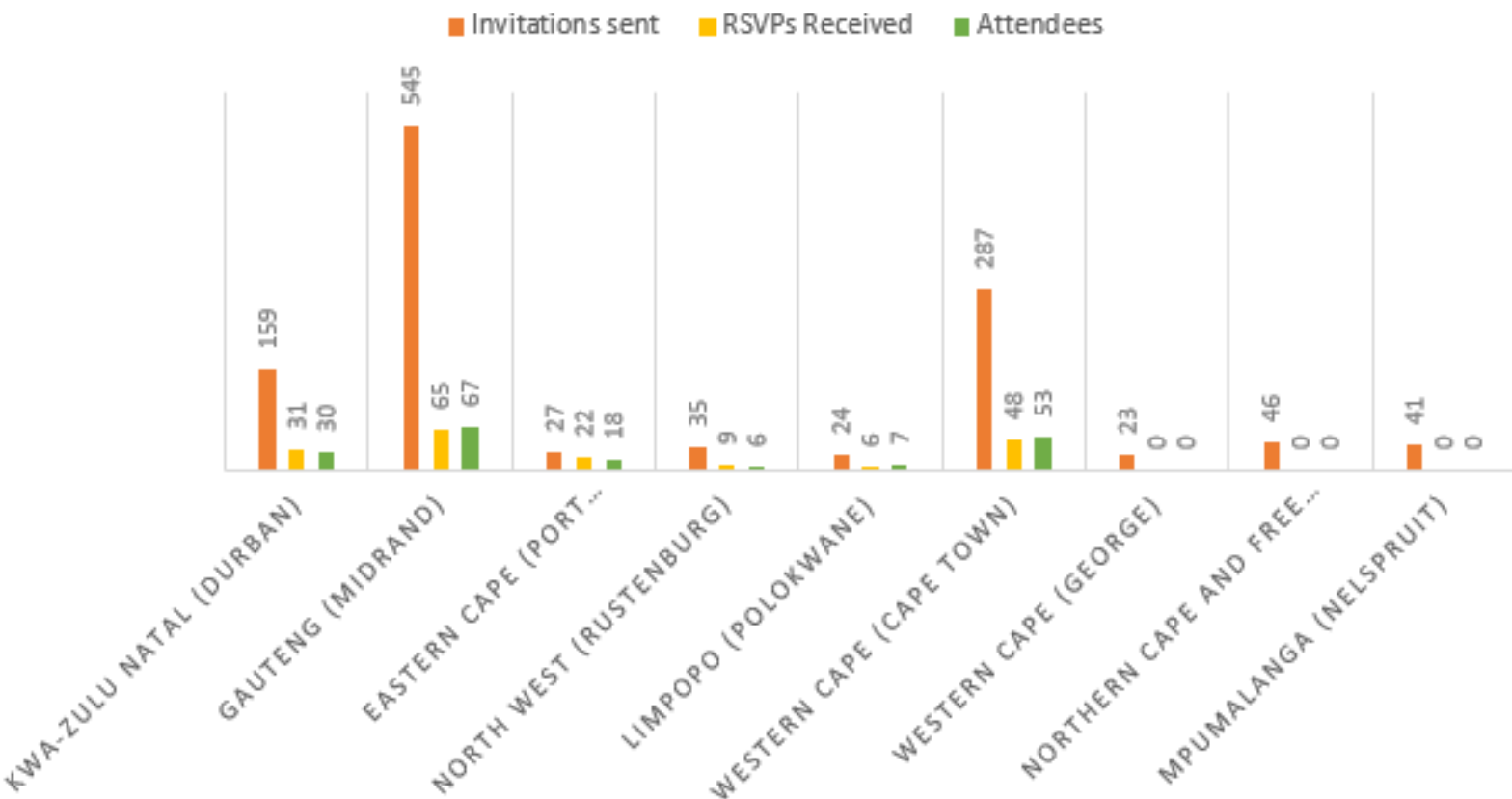
Council started the process and good progress can be reported. Council will consult with the profession when comments and input are needed. You are urged to participate in the interest of the profession and the public we serve. Members with specific viewpoints can contact Miss Khosi Mkhonza and submit your concerns and opinions in writing.



Council will rely heavily on registered members to play various roles in the process once the implementation phase is reached. Kindly avail yourself, as we will need to collectively shoulder this huge responsibility.



## ROAD SHOW ATTENDANCE GRAPH



The table above highlights members attendance at the roadshows.

### ROAD SHOWS

SADTC concluded its countrywide consultation process by means of roadshows. Unfortunately, due to poor responses in some provinces, we were not able to visit Mpumalanga (Nelspruit), Free State and Northern Cape (Bloemfontein), Eastern Cape (East London) and Western Cape (George).

Apart from accruing CEUs, the focus of the road show was to share with registered members the SADTCs financial status and future sustainability. Various scenarios were shared with members will be shared with members again through a survey in the next few weeks. This survey will be made available to all members of the profession in order for you to submit your much-valued opinion regarding the future of the profession. During one of the roadshows council had all the presentations video recorded. These will soon be uploaded to a new e-Learning platform. Those members who attended the roadshows will have another opportunity to revisit, at no cost, the relevant presentations, which will include the most recent audited financial statements. Those who could not attend will have another opportunity, at a cost, to engage with the material thereby affording you an opportunity to earn some CEUs. Attached to these presentations will be an electronic survey questionnaire to be completed. The completion of the questionnaire will be CPD bearing and all members are urged to participate.

# NEWS: INSPECTORATE CORNER



## Vernon Wentzel Case

The case of Mr. Vernon Wentzel versus State was set down on the 22nd of January 2019. The council is pleased to notify the profession that he was found guilty and sentenced accordingly. The outcome of the case will go a long way in the history of this Council. We suspect that Mr. Wentzel might challenge the outcome however and as it currently stands, he has a criminal record.

## Xolani Hlobo Case

At the last appearance in October 2018, the defence requested for the matter to be remanded as it is referred to the National Director of Public Prosecution for them to consider withdrawing the matter against Mr Hlobo. If this request is granted, Council will also request the National Director of Public Prosecutions to re-instate the case. My office is not disheartened by this approach. We went through the same in the Wentzel case and know how to move forward with this very important case. Members will be updated on the progress made.

## “Oom Frikkie” Case

On 21st December 2018, and accompanied by the Knysna SAPS, a raid was conducted at 5 Belvedere Street in Knysna. Mr. Frederik Corries, commonly known as “Oom Frikkie”, who has been illusive for several years, was found operating an illegal dental laboratory. The evidence found will greatly support the Council’s case in securing a conviction against the accused. He goes around producing a letter from the Attorney General as his proof of registration with Council. All equipment used in performing his illegal trade was seized. This included equipment, materials, unmounted teeth, patient work and laboratory slips. All the work that was carried out was done for cash. The accused was arrested, and a criminal case has been opened against him.

“Oom Frikkie” is not from Knysna but from the Strand in Cape Town. He moves around from location to location to find clients. We suspect that he might have an operation from his home, but he also could be operating a laboratory from another location in the Strand area. The office would appreciate any assistance from the profession in confirming all possible locations “Oom Frikkie” could be operating. I extend my appreciations and thanks to Mr. Pierre Reyneke of Knysna Dental Laboratory who assisted this office in the arrest of the accused. It is through his vigilance and quick action that we were able to “pounce” on the accused. A successful conviction is what my office is pursuing. I remain confident of a positive outcome.



## CPD – NEW ELECTRONIC PLATFORM

On the recommendation of the CPD Committee, Council has decided to make a very powerful e-Learning platform available to members. Since the inception of CPD, members have argued for the availability and accessibility of suitable events. Although suggestions were made, Council at the time could not implement this digital platform as a viable option. The challenge was the acquisition of affordable software that would be reliable, verifiable and would stand scrutiny for auditing purposes.

It is with great enthusiasm that I can announce that Council acquired the services of Pluto Education who developed the tailor-made software for our purposes. This single system will not only capture members' details and CPD progress and compliance, it is also a powerful teaching and learning opportunity that any member can access and participate by either posting material or by responding to activities that were approved and uploaded via Council's CPD office.

YouTube videos, articles, case studies, standard student academic material, amongst many others can now be uploaded. Personal communication with registered members is even possible and approved events will be available to all who are registered with the exception where events are closed to specific sectors of the profession such as the Defence Force.

Full details will be made available in due course as Council intends using this for its survey. It is a very user-friendly platform and is not a challenge to members who have basic computer skills. For those who struggle with the new technology please don't feel alone. Please contact Louise at the CPD office and let her know the assistance you require to develop the required computer skills. This could be a CPD activity leading to a basic or better understanding of IT technology, as well as providing the opportunity for you to earn CPD CEUs.

In addition, this platform offers opportunities for individuals to engage with each other, form small study groups, special interest groups, geographical groups, or work independently wherever the member is. All that is required is a PC/laptop/Tablet or Smart Phone with internet accessibility.