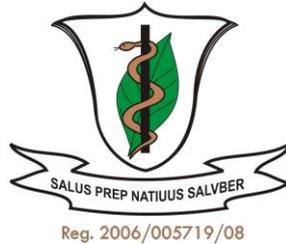


EPASA

ETHNOMEDICINE PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION
OF
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Date: January 2012

Newsletter

Dear Member,

We start a new year and you may well ask what progress has been made in the opening of an Ethnomedicine register by the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA)? The EPASA newsletter of April 2011 informed members of the 7 phase approach as laid out by the AHPCSA. Phase 1 had been "work in progress" since November 2010 and was not pursued to completion by the AHPCSA.

The AHPCSA recently completed the process of electing a new Council, including some new appointments to the various professional boards that serve under the Council. Although Ethnomedicine was accepted in principle by the outgoing Council in November 2010 the newly elected Council voted to reject the opening of an Ethnomedicine register with 18 votes against and one in favour. The matter of Ethnomedicine has therefore been referred back to the Department of Health by the AHPCSA.

In August 2011 EPASA approached the University of Johannesburg (UJ) for an audience to promote Ethnomedicine as a new faculty. Our initial meeting with Professor André Swart, Dean of Health Sciences, was encouraging. Subsequent to that initial meeting EPASA was invited to give a full presentation to all faculty heads. This presentation was well accepted and received a positive response. Over many years the practice of Ethnomedicine has proven to be a sustainable profession. A five year degree program at a public higher education institute like UJ will ensure continuity of the practice of Ethnomedicine for future generations.

We take this opportunity to welcome T/Dr. Seth Seroka to the executive committee of EPASA. Seth is the Chair of the Traditional Medicine System Organization (TRAMSO). Seth's involvement in African Traditional Medicine has been a life long career, executed with dedication and integrity. The unwritten memorandum of understanding between EPASA and TRAMSO goes back many years. We stood united at many Indabas headed by the late Minister of Health and the Presidential Task Team (PTT). Many of you will remember those days.

We congratulate Dr. Kekana, chair of EPASA in bringing a long standing passion of his to fruition, *Botshelo Impilo*. Botshelo Impilo (health) is an Ethnomedicine magazine. I am sure that all who are interested in natural health and in particular Ethnomedicine minded people, wish the magazine all the success that it deserves. We ask that EPASA members support this historic happening to their fullest.

PTO

On 20th October 2011 President Jacob Zuma opened a new SA Bureau of Standards (SABS) laboratory complex in Groenkloof, Pretoria. President Zuma said that the SABS should be engaged to speed up the standardization of Traditional Medicine, and that the Government was committed to bring Traditional Medicine into the mainstream of health care in an appropriate manner. The importance of National standards in traditional medicine was highlighted. This is indeed newsmaker of the year.

More good news: members who have outstanding membership fees, up to and including 2011 will receive a fifty per cent discount if those outstanding fees are paid before end March 2012.

The annual membership fee of R 500.00 still applies, however the fee for additional modalities has been waived. This will be welcome relief for practitioners in this time of less than favorable economic conditions.

As from February 2012, only paid-up members will be listed on the www.epasa.co.za website. Your contact details (a new service) will be included free of charge should you complete the consent form. A webpage/profile (click through) is also available at an additional fee (optional) should you require this. Please sign the form at the bottom of your statement to give permission for your "contact details" to display and indicate if you wish to have your A4 webpage displayed on the website. EPASA will e-mail a webpage template to you in word format so that you can easily change and add your own details once we receive your signed permission form.

We once again urge members to book for their EPASA Accreditation Panel Interview. This is a once-off process. The process is necessary in order that the executive committee can evaluate your application for membership as an Ethnomedicine Practitioner. In this we build up a portfolio of evidence both of your education and experiential learning. Where deemed necessary your upgrade requirements will be explained.

At the EPASA office it is work as usual going into 2012. Thank you for your support and confidence in the Executive committee to carry the process going forward.

Yours in Ethnomedicine



T/Dr. M Bartholomew, PhD
EPASA (CEO)

Executive Directors:

Dr. I. Kekana (Chairperson), Dr. B.P. Lekhuleni (Deputy Chairperson), T/Dr. M.V. Bartholomew (CEO),
Dr. J.M. Letsolo, Dr. M.M. Pretorius, Dr. J.G. Bartholomew, Dr. P.M. Mogale, Dr. M. Guerra, T/Dr. S. Seroka.