

DENTASA 2007 AGM DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Welcome**

Mr. Boshoff welcomed all members present at the 2007 AGM and reminded the delegates of the tight schedule that will be kept throughout this meeting. The President of DENTASA, Mr. Grabowski, extended a warm welcome to all technicians and a special welcome to Ms. Elizna Pienaar from Namibia.
2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following members: Mr. Rainer Pittroff, Mr. Aubrey Du Plessis, Mr. Koos Van Deventer, Mr. Johan Thuynsma, Mr. Robert Ho-Tong and Mr. Okkie Olivier (non-member).
3. **Obituaries**

A minute of silence was held for the following technicians who sadly passed away during the past year: Mr. Sorrel Scop, Mr. Hein Lategan, Mr. Johan Le Roux, Mr. Francois De Kock and Mr. André Loubser.
4. **Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting**

All members present approved the minutes of the previous meeting as a true reflection of what transpired at the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.
6. **Adoption of Agenda**

18.1. Denturism – Mr. Duffy Malherbe.

Mr. Ferreira proposed the adoption of the Agenda and Mr. Kapp seconded the motion.
7. **President's Address**

Annexure A.
8. **New Members**

The list of all the new members of DENTASA since the 2006 AGM is available at the office (Annexure B). All members present voted in favour of accepting the new members into the DENTASA.
9. **Feedback regarding the Administration fee**

This matter was addressed under item 7, The President's Address, Annexure A.

10. Financial Matters

Mr. Pittroff is currently in Germany, but the financial report can be found in the AGM booklet. Mr. Grabowski thanked Mr. Pittroff in his absence for a portfolio well handled.

11. Council Matters

Mr. Grabowski introduced Mr. Ferreira, the Vice President of the SADTC, to address the meeting.

Mr. Ferreira reported that it was important to note that the tariff fees will be out of the technician's hands and be derived by the Department of Health.

Mr. Ferreira stressed the fact that Council must run effectively, but cannot do so unless their administration is run accurately. Currently the administration at Council is not acceptable. Many technicians paid their annual fees, but are still being sued by Council. Mr. Ferreira suggested that any such technicians provide their proof of payment to Council.

Mr. Ferreira further reported that the Inspector resigned in January 2007 and the post has not yet been filled. Due to this fact, the cases against technicians in Durban have been put on hold. A new assistant to the Registrar / Inspector is in the process of being appointed and the SADTC has a new President, Adv. Mandla Mnyatheli, with a good vision towards the future.

Mr. Ferreira reported that the Registrar wants to change the composition of the Council. Mr. Ferreira stressed the fact that while he is still in Council, he will fight for the rights of technicians to have a say in their own profession.

Feuds are happening between technicians and the Council, which are costing a lot of unnecessary money. Adhere to the Act, and if there are any problems, contact your Association.

Election papers for new Council members will be sent out in October 2007.

Remark: Mr. André Retief thanked Mr. Ferreira for his time spent at Council and all his efforts to try to keep issues at Council honest. Mr. Retief remarked that the arrogance from Council results in miscommunication from Council and blame instead of answers when communication does happen. Mr. Ferreira reported that while he was acting President of the Council, he never received a single letter of complaint, as he should have. The administration of Council is not on standard. Mr. Grabowski added that he stressed to Council that the threatening letters to technicians regarding their annual fees were unacceptable.

Mr. Grabowski thanked Mr. Ferreira and Mr. Owen for their time and the immense amount of work they do on the Council.

12. Tariffs

Discussion: Mr. Owen reported that there would be only 2 major changes in the tariffs for the next year. The delivery fee has become a contentious issue due to the fact that technicians have been abusing this fee. The result is that the Medical Aids do not want to pay it anymore. There must either be no delivery fee at all, or only one delivery fee per completed job.

Code 9502 will become a 97 code where technicians can charge whatever they deem to be appropriate.

The technician's tariffs will be changed to the National Reference Price List, where there will be no minimum prices.

Medical Aids will only pay fees as printed in the Government Gazette. If the account is anything more than so stated, the Medical Aid will pay the patient. The Medical Aids only have a contract with the patient and not with the dentist or the technician. In July 2007 technicians will be allowed to directly claim from the Medical Aids. Mr. Owen warned all members present against people offering to do the claims for them for a percentage fee.

Question: Mr. Clewin De Witt asked whether you must claim or whether you will have a choice to claim.

Answer: Mr. Owen answered that you can choose.

Question: Mr. Teunis Bakker asked whether technicians would still have a recommended fee?

Answer: Mr. Owen answered that it will be a price guide only. The Act states that technicians may not negotiate with Medical Aids.

Question: Mr. Barry Preston asked whether the codes would now still be valid?

Answer: Mr. Owen replied that the codes would definitely still be valid.

Question: Mr. André Retief asked whether any technicians would be involved in the determining of these price guides?

Answer: Mr. Owen replied that if the motivation is good and we can prove what we need, technicians could still have an input. The Department of Health will rely on the input of technicians to determine their prices, as all the decision makers are academics and not technicians.

Question: Mr. Mahir Parker remarked that dentists would have to supply the details of the patients to the technician. How will technicians know what the benefits of the patients are?

Answer: Mr. Owen agreed that it was a debatable point, but when dentists ask for allocation it has to include the technicians fee.

13. CPD Points

Discussion: Mr. Grabowski reported that all technicians would have to get CPD points and the SADTC will be the administrator thereof. The DENTASA has applied to be the facilitator of programs/workshops and will register with SAQA.

Question: Mr. Clewin De Witt asked what the cost thereof would be.

Answer: Mr. Grabowski answered that the costs are still unknown.

14. Midlevel Workers

Discussion: Mr. Grabowski reported that laboratory workers would have to be registered with Council and attend the lectures for CED points. Laboratory workers will need a certain amount of points before they can be registered.

Question: Mr. Ronnie Heathorn asked what the financial implications would be towards the patients.

Answer: Mr. Grabowski replied that the cost would be the responsibility of the technician and not be loaded onto the patient.

15. Amendments to the Constitution

Discussion: Mr. Grabowski reported that the DENTASA constitution states that only registered technicians could be members of the Association. It must now be decided whether midlevel workers should be allowed to become members of DENTASA with voting rights. All members present voted by a show of hands to not allow midlevel workers to be members of the Association.

Resolution: DENTASA to stay an Association for dental technicians only.

Mr. Duffy Malherbe added that it is important to realise the importance of laboratory workers and that they must also have a forum representing them. Mr. Ferreira stated that Mr. Motaung applied at Council to form a union for said workers.

Discussion: The President of DENTASA, according to the constitution, currently does not have a casting vote. Should the President of the Association have a casting vote? With a show of hands members present voted in favour of the President having a casting vote. Two members voted against.

Resolution: The President of the DENTASA will have a casting vote and the constitution must be amended accordingly.

16. Motions

Motion 1: Mr. Teunis Bakker proposed that a motion of no confidence be placed in the office of the Registrar of the South African Dental Technician's Council or alternatively in the Registrar himself.

Mr. André Retief seconded the motion.

All members present voted with a show of hands: 3 abstentions, all other members voted in favour of the motion. The motion is carried.

Resolution: A letter to state this motion will be drafted and sent to the Minister of Health and Mr. Bakker will receive a copy of such actions taken.

Responsibility: The DENTASA Executive Committee and Ms. Morris.

Date: Immediately.

17. NOMAD'S Invitation

Mr. Grabowski reported that technicians are again invited to the Nomads day. Up to date no program has been organised to present by technicians. Mr. Grabowski urged the members present to attend this Nomads day if they receive an invitation.

18. General

18.1. Denturism:

Mr. Duffy Malherbe, the Secretary for the Society for Clinical Dental Technology, was happy to announce that their website is now operational. Any information about Denturism is available for all visitors to the website - www.denturism.co.za

Mr. Grabowski asked the floor whether they were satisfied with the shorter format of the 2007 AGM. Members assured the President that they were.

The draw for the Kruger coins resulted as follows:

Winner of the ½ Kruger Rand: Mr. Clint Davis.

Winner of the ¼ Kruger Rand: Mr. Daniel Swanepoel.

Winner of the 1/10 (One tenth) Kruger Rand: Mr. Gavin Atkinson.

The floor was opened to questions and comments:

Question: Mr. Gerhard Ferreira queried the time spent doing codes 9557 or 9524.

Answer: Mr. Owen reminded all that the prices are worked out using the Arthur/Anderson time and motion study done in the 80's. It would cost too much to have a new time and motion study done. Technicians can charge more, but if working with Medical Aids, fees must be kept in the boundaries or the Medical Schemes will not settle the accounts.

Discussion: Mr. Owen reported that midlevel workers may be classified into 3 levels; 1) the person doing the plaster work; 2) the person who does plaster and biteblocks and 3) the person who polishes dentures, but all details must still be worked out. Once a laboratory worker is registered at Council, the educational institution of the region will determine their level of skill.

Question: Mr. Barry Preston asked whether this will now be the BEE implementation into the profession.

Answer: Mr. Owen replied that it is the beginning of BEE and more is on the way. Dental technicians must now start the fight to ensure that not just anybody will be allowed to own laboratories, but only dental technicians.

Remark: Mr. Bakker recommend that when looking into the CPD points, the media must be used as much as possible and costs be kept as low as possible.

Resolution: The next AGM will take place on the first weekend in June 2008.

19. Word of Thanks

Mr. Van Eyk thank all technicians present for attending the DENTASA 2007 AGM. According to the program it can be seen how the profession is changing. By word of mouth all technicians present must send out the message that the stronger we stand together the stronger our voice to fight for our prices. The profession is changing faster than people think and members need to read what is published on the website and become more involved in the profession. Mr. Van Eyk thanked all the members who came from far places to attend. Mr. Van Eyk further thanked all the traders who supported the AGM and urged all members to support these traders. The Executive Committee meets monthly and with the internet all EXCO members take part in these meetings and have been able to do much more than previous years without the Internet. Mr. Van Eyk thanked all the Executive Committee members for their input and work.

20. Closure

In closing, Mr. Grabowski thanked all for attending the AGM, thanks to Mr. Kapp who supplied the sound system. Mr. Kapp has decided to resign as a member of the DENTASA Executive Committee due to personal reasons. Mr. Grabowski thanked Mr. Kapp for his 4 years of service and wished him all of the best for the future. Mr. Ferreira thanked Ms. Roets and Ms. Morris for spending a lot of time to organise this weekend.

The President declared the meeting closed at 9:30.