

DENTASA 2008 AGM DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Welcome**
The President of the Association, Mr. Axel Grabowski, welcomed all members present to this 66th AGM of the representing body for the profession of dental technology. Mr. Grabowski extended a special welcome to Ms. Elizna Pienaar from Namibia.
2. **Apologies**
Apologies received from Anthony Jones,
3. **Obituaries**
Roger Cera, Alan Gower.
4. **Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting**
The approval of the previous minutes were proposed by Mr. Duffy Malherbe and seconded by Ms. Ina Coetzee.
5. **Matters Arising**
Page 2: Mr. Ferreira agreed that the administration of Council is not running effectively.
Page 4: Items 13 and 14 will be addressed in the Presidential address.
6. **Adoption of Agenda**
Item 13 will be discussed after item 7.
16.1. China syndrome
16.2. Gold permits

The adoption of the agenda was proposed by Mr. Kapp and seconded by Mr. Hagemann.
7. **President's Address**
8. **New Members**
All members present voted with a show of hands accepting all new members.
9. **New Reimbursement Format**
 - 9.1. **Registration with BHF**
Mr. Owen showed and explained to the meeting an example of what a workslip and invoice must contain according to the stipulations of all relevant legislation. Such examples will be available on the DENTASA Website for members only.
The Medical Schemes Act states that all claims must show a PCNS number, which is registration with BHF (Board of Health

Care Funders). Whether a laboratory do their own claims or not, all invoices must show the BHF registration numbers.

9.2. Compulsory use of ICD -10 Codes

All invoices must contain ICD10 codes. The dentists must provide the technician with such a code, or the default codes must be used.

9.3. Work slips / Order Forms

Mr. Owen stressed to the meeting that from 1 July 2008 all invoices and workslips must contain the ICD10 codes and BHF numbers. The font on such documents must be of the same size, no small print is allowed.

Q: Mr. Retief asked what happened with the contract between DENTASA and SADA.

Mr. Grabowski reported that at a meeting held with members of the SADA Executive it were made clear that SADA didn't believe that the dentist must have a contract with the technician and would not continue with such an agreement.

Q: Mr. Bakker enquired whether laboratories need more than one claiming system. Mr. Owen believed that all laboratories should try to implement only one policy for payment.

Q: Mr. Parker asked whether pre-authorisation would still apply to dental technicians fees. Only Denis requires pre-authorisation, but all medical aids do not pay the same.

Mr. Kapp suggested that technicians negotiate with medical aids to split the allocated money for oral health between dentists and technicians. Mr. Grabowski answered that the medical aids refused to.

Q: The medical aids have not yet got systems in place to directly pay technicians. Will it change now? From 1 July 2008 all medical aids have been instructed to pay technicians claiming directly.

10. Election of new DENTASA Executive Committee members for 2009

Mr. Grabowski reported that this Executive Committee's term comes to an end in March 2009 and elections must be held for new members. Members were asked to please nominate suitable candidates.

11. Council Matters

Mr. Ferreira reported that Council's Registrar and Deputy Registrar have resigned. The current secretary of the SADTC is now the acting registrar until a new suitable candidate can be appointed. Mr. Ferreira

further reported that it is a necessity that the president of Council is of the profession and push the profession forward.

Mr. Ferreira reported that the database of Council is in total shambles. DENTASA did offer to help Council get it up to date and members are urged to notify DENTASA and Council when there is a change of address.

Mr. Ferreira thanked his colleagues at Council for all their hard work. The members of Council are working hard for the profession and if not for them, nothing would have been done.

12. Financial Matters

The Treasurer, Mr. Pitroff reported on the current financial status of the Association. Any member can request the financial statements from the DENTASA Office.

13. Johan Badenhorst – Pension Fund

Mr. Badenhorst reported that by law a board of trustees ensure that the pension fund is run correctly and perform as best it can. The board has lost some members and are now not a quorum thus technicians are needed to apply as trustees.

More members are needed to make this pension fund more profitable: the bigger the membership, the lower the unit costs, the lower the cost the more money in the saving account. When the member numbers improve, the needs of he technicians can be met. Technicians are in a position to daily access their statements on the Website and determine the status thereof.

With the proposed National Savings fund the Government want to ensure that everybody, no matter their earnings, must pay up to 15% of their basic salary into a designated savings fund.

Mr. Bakker added that he was under the impression that this Pension fund was a compulsory fund, then why are the member numbers so small? Mr. Badenhorst replied that the fund is dependent on the ability of the Council to get members as Council is regarded as the central employer. Ultimately it is up to each employee to know their rights and the law and then to ensure that their rights are seen to.

14. Minimum Salaries

Mr. Grabowski reported that Council had taken a resolution that the minimum salary is R6 600.00 to a technician without any experience. It has been reported that in the KZN province technicians are earning far less and some have not been registered at Council. Any such cases reported to DENTASA will be reported to SARS. In the Dental Technician's Act and Regulations this amount has not yet been changed, but a resolution of Council is binding.

Mr. Owen reported that the Act of Basic Conditions of Employment states clearly that persons earning under R9,500 per month and working overtime, must be paid overtime (time and ½ on Saturdays and Sundays double time).

Mr. Kapp agreed with the motivation of the increased minimum salaries, but reminded the meeting that employees will receive increases according to the increases received in the tariffs.

15. Venue and Date for the 2009 AGM

Mr. Grabowski reported that the Castle Kyalami couldn't be the 2009 AGM venue as it has been sold and will no longer be used as a conference facility. The members present voted with a show of hands to determine whether or not the AGM must be held in the Western Cape. The majority voted to host the AGM in Gauteng.

Resolution: The 2009 AGM will take place the 1st weekend of June 2009, 5 & 6 June 2009.

16. General

16.1. China syndrome

Mr. Owen reported that Dr. Cornelius Johannes van Tonder is importing lead-based crowns from China, as he is adamant that technicians are over-charging in South Africa. A formal complaint has been lodged at the Pharmaceutical Council.

16.2. Gold permits

Mr. Van Eyk reported that the South African diamond and precious metal board conveyed that any gold permit application would be rejected if proper protocol were not followed. A permit will be valid for a year, but if premises change, the permit will not be valid.

17. Word of Thanks

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Van Eyk thanked all members for attending this and all other DENTASA meetings and reminded that the DENTASA Exco is only as strong as the Association's members. All members must get involved in this profession by at least attending branch meetings and giving input.

18. Closure

Mr. Grabowski thanked all members present for attending the 2008 AGM and expressed his gratitude that so many members are present. All members were happy with the format of the 2008 AGM.