



It has been a busy month or so, and a lot has happened here in the SACNASP fold – here is a quick recap of the past few weeks.

SACNASP applications on the rise

We received a total of 690 applications in July, with 550 of those being Extension Science applications and the remaining 140 normal applications.

As we continue our registration drive for Extension Science applications, we sent a team down to KwaZulu-Natal for the next phase. This registration drive was divided into three parts, and took place over the mid-July to mid-August period.

The 550 Extension Science applications came from the roadshows we recently staged in KZN for the application drive. At the first roadshow in KZN we acquired 230 applications, followed by 320 applications at the second.

We were pleasantly surprised at the level of enthusiasm and support that we received at the third KZN round in Richards Bay on 19 and 20 August, where we collected a total of 397 applications – taking the total KZN to a phenomenal 947 in total. A huge well done must be extended to our energetic SACNASP team!

Council meeting

There was a Council meeting in the week of 4 August, during which newly recommended consultation fees were approved. These fees will be gazetted shortly, upon which we will distribute the relevant information to all concerned.

That's all for now

Dr. Rolf Becker

"Nothing can subtract hard work from success, only add to it"
– **Manjunath Harlapur**

Critical skills visas

As many know, visa regulations have been somewhat of a hot topic of late, with sudden changes implemented as to who qualifies for a visa to work within South Africa.

In what many consider to be quite a surprise decision, the South African Department of Home Affairs announced some unexpected changes to immigration regulations, which came into effect on 1 June 2014.

In light of these new changes, a new "critical skills visa" has been introduced in place of the previous exceptional skills and quota work permits that were used before the change in legislation.

The new critical skills visa allows a foreign employee of an organisation to qualify for a visa should they work within "critical" skill occupations. The list of skills that now qualify as critical is quite a long one, but it includes such occupations as financial management, specialised IT, scientists and researchers, among others.

According to the Government Gazette, to apply for a critical skills visa applicants will require confirmation in writing from an accredited professional body, council or board recognised by SAQA. As we are accredited with SAQA, we are in a position to assess whether a skill is critical.

