

Message  
Boodskap  
Umyalezo  
Molaetso

# from the CEO

[www.sheriffs.org.za](http://www.sheriffs.org.za)

January 2004



*An exhilarating year lies ahead filled with great expectations to celebrate our triumph. We have achieved an implausible milestone as a profession and even more importantly as a nation. This year we will be celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> year of democracy as a united rainbow nation, but more importantly with continuous hard work and perseverance we are building a transformed sheriffs' profession.*

*The hard work is not yet over. We have successfully completed the first phase of the national action plan, however we are in the final stage of completing the second phase and will witness the final rollout of the project.*

*I want to salute all sheriffs for their support and commitment to transforming the profession. May a promising and prosperous year greet us all!*

*Yours in service with dignity  
Veliswa Baduza*

## Utilising the Sheriff's Handbook

The Sheriff's Handbook is an essential guide and reference for sheriffs, judges, magistrates and legal professionals in executing their interconnected mandates according to the prescribed law.

The Board urges all sheriffs and their offices to familiarise themselves with the *Sheriff's Handbook* and to invest in the profession to purchase the *Sheriff's Handbook*.

It provides both acting and practising sheriffs with a practical and procedural guide as to their activities and duties. It contains the full text of the Sheriffs Act and Regulations, as well extracts of legislation ancillary to the sheriffs' role. It discusses the relevant provisions of the Sheriffs Act and the Regulations promulgated there under.

The Sheriff's Handbook is sold at *Exclusive Books* for R639.00 or *Butterworths Publishers* for R739.02.

## Benodig meer brosjures?

Kontak Lise van Schalkwyk by tel: 021 461-9619, Faks: 021 461-2233, sel: 082 335 8050 of e-pos: [lise@sheriffs.org.za](mailto:lise@sheriffs.org.za)

## Feedback from the public – Who IS the sheriff?

The first Comutanet public awareness campaign at the 20 largest taxi ranks in South Africa took place from 1 to 7 December 2003.

According to the feedback received from the promoters who did a dipstick survey at each commuter centre it was a very successful promotion, although at times it was challenging and they had to work hard to get the commuters to listen to them and not to *fight* with them.

The response concluded that the campaign was informative since not many people had any knowledge of the sheriff and were very grateful to receive information. Many felt empowered to receive information on what their rights were when coming into contact with a sheriff. Some only understood for the first time that the sheriff had a very important role in the justice system.

The people previously associated the sheriff with a *policeman, lawyer, debt collector* or even a *bad person*. Since informing the people about who the sheriff is, some said they would respect the sheriff and obey instructions from him/ her.

Others were scared of the sheriff and did not want to accommodate *these people*. The people felt that since attending the promotion they had clarity about the sheriff's duties and said they will convey the message to other friends and relatives by giving them the brochure to read or by means of word-of-mouth.

## Fidelity Fund – a legal obligation misconstrued?

The deadline for complying with legal obligations for the year 2004 has come and gone. However there are outstanding payments from an estimated 10% of sheriffs and acting sheriffs countrywide. The Board encourages all sheriffs to oblige with the legal obligations as per the Act. It is a great concern for the Board to

regulate the profession when sheriffs do not meet their legal obligations. This will adversely affect the justice system, delaying delivering of process or rendering no service at all in some magisterial areas and will overturn into appointing neighbouring sheriffs to perform adhoc duties with the effect of overload on their desks.

The list of affected sheriffs will be discussed by the Disciplinary Committee in preparation for its presentation to the Board.

## Sheriffs' Introductory Course: Upcoming course dates

For 2004 there are three Sheriff's Introductory courses lined-up for the first-ever formal training in the profession.

The dates for the commencement of the courses for 2004 are:

*22 - 27 February, 14 - 19 March and 18 - 23 April 2004*

The application form is available on our website: [www.sheriffs.org.za](http://www.sheriffs.org.za) or contact Vernon Weitz, Training & Development Manager for further information on tel: 021 461-9619, fax: 021 461-2233, cell: 082 339 2335 or e-mail:

[vernon@sheriffs.org.za](mailto:vernon@sheriffs.org.za)

## Enige nuus vir Siyanazisa?

Die produksie van die tweede uitgawe is onderweg. Indien u enige bydrae vir die publikasie het kontak Lise van Schalkwyk (kontak besonderhede soos vroeër vermeld).

## Enige voorstelle vir die tweede brosjure?

Ons benodig u insette vir die ontwikkeling van die tweede brosjure. As u 'n spesifieke onderwerp het, wat u glo aandag moet geniet skakel asseblief Lise van Schalkwyk.

We wish a speedy recovery for Mr Malan, Sheriff for Kempton Park South, who recently underwent surgery.

Our condolences to family and friends of Mr Olivier, Acting Sheriff for Richmond (Northern Cape) who passed away on 28 December 2003.

