

MD's Word or Two

October 2008

It is that time of the year when we begin to cast a forward look with a backward glance. It's a time when we start to plan for the next year, whilst casting our eyes back to review how far we have come. Indeed we have come a long way. There is much to be celebrated in the work that we have done. In this edition, we highlight some of the activities we embarked upon.

In June this year, we celebrated the 12th year anniversary of the Paraffin Safety Association's existence. We engaged in a meeting with the chairman of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Minerals and Energy. We also made written and oral submissions to the public hearings on the National Energy Bill. Another crucial development is that Petro SA has joined as the member of the Paraffin Safety Association. Mr Wandile Mseleku will represent Petro SA on our board.

Part of our plans this year was to engage with the practitioners in the area of energy related injury prevention and treatment. To deliver on this, we conducted a seminar of practitioners at the University of Cape Town (UCT) on 31 August 2008. We did this in partnership with the International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention (ISVIP), UCT and Child Safe. It was a wonderful partnership with Dr Sebastian van As, a leading burn surgeon in Africa and Dr Thuthukile Goba, a highly respected research specialist in the injury area.

Casting our eyes on the years ahead, we conducted a strategic planning session with our board members and all our staff. We agreed on the following strategic objectives for the next 3 to 5 years:

- To build strong partnerships with relevant government departments and other key stakeholders on projects that address our mandate and in order for them to implement household energy safety.
- To measure the impact of our work on reducing household energy related injuries and promoting paraffin safety.
- To lobby and advocate for paraffin safety and Household energy safety.
- To build an efficient, well governed and managed company with increased organisational capacity and sustainability to realise our mission /all our strategic objectives.
- To build our organisational profile & visibility locally, provincially, nationally and internationally in order to be recognised as an international leader of household energy safety.
- To drive to get communities to take ownership of safety through community mobilisation.

Our Service Delivery mechanisms are the following programmes:

- **Community Engagement Programme (CEP)** which is our interface with communities, local authorities, and energy and paraffin users on the ground.
- **Scientific, Technical, Education, Research and Industry Programme (STERIP)** which will coordinate and conduct researched solutions to the Household energy safety problems and engage all technical and paraffin fuel and appliances industry stakeholders.
- **Public Policy and Advocacy Programme (PPAP)** which is to engage in legislative and other government policy

process and issues on household energy safety.

- **Public Communications Programme (PCP)** to deal with our public profiling, visibility and audibility as well as publications, media relations, website and other communications issues

So, as 2009 approaches its end, we stand with pride at the amount of work we have achieved and we look forward with vigour towards what we have to do in the years to come. I hope you enjoy reading this edition and next year, we will provide you with more educational and informative material.

Till next time, God bless you.

Patrick Kulati
Managing Director
Paraffin Safety Association Southern Africa