

23 February 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Developments within sister organisations - Packaging SA and the Flexographic Technical association (FTASA)

Packaging SA recently held their first Board meeting for 2023 and reflected on a number of milestones that were reached.

They took a lead on the coordination of the various EPR schemes and are pleased to announce that the PRO Alliance is now functioning well, a draft Moi was developed and a CEO is to be appointed soon.

The initial waste picker service fee proposal was a flat fee of 15 cents per kg collected, but this was rejected by the Alliance, who proposed a pilot project to allow PROs to pay only registered Buy Back Centres and registered waste pickers. Paying waste pickers, a living wage is not financially possible, and also a standard fee is not sustainable as some waste has more value than others. Therefore a differentiated model has been proposed – 15c for 1 kg of paper or plastic, aluminium at R12, and PET between R4-7 per kg.

Unfortunately, AMCOR closed down after last year's looting spree, what remained has been taken over by CTP.

As regards EPR regulations – Section 28 was replaced by Section 18. This was a great win for the sector as it prevents the EPR tax going to National Treasury, allowing funds to be controlled and used by the paper and packaging sector instead.

The final EPR legislation has also now included the component of Design for Recycling. Each of the PROs serving on the PRO Alliance gave brief reports:

- POLYCO – over R21m has been invested in recycling with 27k tons recycled. Membership spiked to over 800 before the 5 November 2022 deadline to register.
- PETCO – Busy collating their data and preparing for DFFE reporting for 2022, building on the enterprise development work accomplished last year. They continue to engage with municipalities throughout the country. By using the BanQu system, they have been able to match transactional data to enable payments to waste pickers for December 2022 to January 2023. They will be paid by February 2023
- Loadshedding is having a substantial impact on the entire value chain, a sentiment shared by many of the PROs
- Fibre Circle – Waste pickers say there is need for more organization at landfill sites. The free riders also need to be dealt with, ie. those companies who have registered but have not paid any fees.
- The Glass Recycling Company (TGRC) – with more funds collected more can be done, like rolling out more Skip bins, add Tuk Tuks by owner drivers to drive the collection effort (as glass is heavy to push on manual trolleys)
- METPAC-SA – have 61 members, with Aerosol Manufacturing Association (AMA), a second PRO formed in this segment.

The guest speaker invited was Mr Masopha Mosheshoe from the Presidency's office who made an interesting presentation on how to attract investments and develop infrastructure in the waste management sector, covering both government and private sector initiatives. Cape Town has made good strides, while Johannesburg and Pretoria are catching up. There are 216 municipalities, and these need to have better governance structures in place first in order to play a meaningful role. GoldPack is to be hosted on 23 November 2023.

IPSA training had 127 students across all their programmes, with their 1-year diploma still a firm favourite. Nigeria is also showing interest in this programme.

Packaging SA have decided that with the various EPR schemes now well established, they will now focus on rebranding the organisation, and are asking Board members and member companies to participate in the new Business model they have embarked upon with a consultant company Simplicity.

The **FTASA (Flexographic Technical Association)** has a new Executive committee elected.



Back row is Gordon Smith (XSYS Global), Bill Marshall (Syndicate Graphics), Kevin Tucker (Beswick Machinery), Ricky Maconi (KB Labels), Kevin Naidu (DuPont)
Front row is Susi Moore (PPM), Erich Kühl (FTASA), Bruce Allen (Iplex Machinery), Gary Stockenstroom (Fujifilm Graphic Communication SA)

All are FTASA Executive committee members, except for Susi Moore & Gary Stockenstroom is an FTASA member, but not yet on the Executive Committee

Derrick Murrison handed over the chairmanship to Bruce Allen, after having served the association very ably in a lifelong capacity. To honour him, a trophy will be awarded, and he will continue to be an Honorary member.

The challenge faced was how to make the membership to FTASA attractive, with more member benefits. What value can be added to the FTA Awards, besides the lunch and awards. Last year some companies sponsored a slot to make a sales pitch which did not go down well with some attendees. This year the proposal is made to vet each presentation and to ensure it adds technical value to the members of the flexo industry. To raise funds, exhibition tables could also be sold outside of the venue. Recipients receiving Gold awards could also be showcased at the European FTA awards for wider global exposure. For new members joining, a new category of Best award from the New Companies will be included to generate more interest and to encourage more participation.

The PPM (Packaging and Print) magazine has agreed to create a dedicated FTA voice page, publishing news the Association wants to have disseminated. They will also send hard copies of the magazine to all FTA members. A WhatsApp group for FTA members will be initiated, with members allowed to pose questions, and the Committee will answer these. More content also to be added to the website, besides photos. A LinkedIn FTA group can also be created as it generates lots of interest and traffic.

An online payment system is to be considered. The annual membership fee will go up from **R1200 pa** to **R1350pa**, giving members one free entry into the FTA Awards.

More regular committee meetings to be held, alternated between F2F and online. A schedule will be developed and circulated for the year.