

PRESS RELEASE

DISPUTE BETWEEN THE SERVICES SETA (SSETA) AND THE ESTATE AGENCY AFFAIRS BOARD (EAAB) AMICABLY RESOLVED

It is with great pleasure that the SSETA and EAAB advise that the recent dispute between the two organisations has now been amicably resolved. The two bodies have jointly agreed to renew their efforts for the professionalisation of estate agents and to ensure that vast majority of affected estate agents are fully qualified by the December 2011 deadline that was established for this purpose.

Both of the parties have, to this end, agreed that:

1. The SSETA is the quality assurance body for the accreditation of study material, Education Providers and Recognition of Prior Learning Assessment Centres where the SA Qualifications Authority approved Estate Agency qualifications are concerned. The EAAB will ensure that sufficient SSETA accredited constituent assessors and moderators are provided from the ranks of the EAAB to serve the SSETA in its quality assurance endeavors.
2. The comprehensive textbook published by the EAAB for the NQF Level 4 qualification for non-principal estate agents will be reviewed and quality assured by the SSETA following which the work will be:
 - 2.1 recommended for the use by all SSETA accredited training providers as significant resource material for learners seeking to be certificated against the Further Education and Training Certificate: Real Estate (NQF Level 4);
 - 2.2 made mandatory for all learners entering the Estate Agency profession for the first time and concluding a designated learnership agreement for this purpose; and
 - 2.3 made compulsory for all Estate Agents seeking to undertake the Professional Designation Examination (PDE) for the award of professional recognition which will be managed by the EAAB on-behalf of the SSETA.

The SSETA will consider re-launching the bursary scheme for those qualifying estate agents still wishing to undergo Recognition of Prior Learning assessments with a view to being certificated against the NQF Level 4 qualification by 31 December 2011 once it has had the opportunity of conducting a comprehensive evaluation into the effectiveness of the initial, now suspended, bursary scheme.

Skills Development Levy paying member companies are encouraged to apply directly to the Learnership Department of the SSETA for information regarding the registration of learnerships by presently unemployed persons seeking to pursue a professional career as Estate Agents. Full details of the application process will be announced shortly.

It is hoped, moreover, that a bursary scheme to assist principal estate agents to be certificated against the required NQF Level 5 qualification will be implemented by the SSETA. Further details in this respect will shortly be forthcoming from the SSETA.

Any questions pertaining to this press release should be referred in writing to:

Mrs Nomonde Mapetla: CEO of the EAAB at ceo@eaab.org.za

or

Mr. Ivor Blumenthal: CEO of the SSETA at ivorb@serviceseta.org.za