



namibia dental association

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President's Report by Dr C de Villiers

1.1 Ongoing communication between NAMAF and NDA President and executive committee:

- Numerous letters sent to NAMAF in conjunction with legal advisor, Eben de Klerk requesting NAMAF to clarify a number of important questions such as NAMAF's authority and ownership rights with regards to dental codes and procedural descriptions.
- Response from NAMAF to date has been slow, minimally explanatory and of marginal benefit.
- NAMAF requested input from the NDA members regarding adding and/or changing of codes and procedural descriptions.
- Detailed documentation for the addition of codes and procedural descriptions has been submitted to NAMAF by the NDA executive committee after response was received.
- NAMAF requested input from all NDA members regarding proposed fees to be affixed to the codes and procedural codes.
- The NDA Executive committee met with Dr Martin Wücher; he assisted the committee and drafted a detailed letter stipulating the realistic escalating costs of dental practice operations.
- The aforementioned letter was submitted to NAMAF prior AGM and NDA executive committee awaiting feedback.
- NAMAF has invited the NDA president to a meeting on 9 September 2013 at NAMAF offices.

1.2 Meeting with NPPF between president, secretary and past NDA presidents prior to AGM:

- NAMAF is not included in new FINBIL but this does not restrict NAMAF's control and influence unless legislation changes as well.
- NPPF will visit individual practices during course of the year to request additional information via questionnaires and president urged dentists to cooperate.
- NPPF requested president to convey that organisation requires additional information pertaining to overhead running costs of practice.

1.3 Dental codes and procedural description:

- President has been in contact with SADA's current CEO, Mrs Maretha Smit, regarding dental codes and procedural description booklet published by SADA and distributed among members via mail.
- President requested in writing, permission from SADA that Namibian health care workers may continue to use codes.
- Permission has been granted verbally by CEO, Mrs Maretha Smit of SADA.
- NDA committee awaiting written confirmation from SADA offices.

1.4 Complaints received by President:

Pure Smile Namibia –

- PureSmile which illegally provides bleaching to public as business run by owners with no dental background and oral health care training.
- PureSmile has been reported to the police and a case number has been obtained by Vice President, Dr T Scriba.
- The NDA obtained legal advice and the lawyer recommends that a letter to be drafted by NDA to Police Commissioner requesting that the matter be investigated urgently.
- PureSmile has received numerous official letters from the NDA prior to reporting to police requesting the company to discontinue current practices, but no/minimal response to date has been received.

Dental therapist –

- Dental therapists in rural areas are performing dental procedures and claiming from medical aid funds for services rendered.
- Dental therapists will be included in the Medical and Dental Council as per communication with HPCNA as soon as legislation is accepted in parliament (projected date: 2014).
- NDA will continue to investigate to which extent dental therapists are linked to dentist practices and claims submitted to medical aids.

1.5 University of Namibia (UNAM)'s future dental school:

- President and selected executive committee members (Dr H. Badenhorst and Dr H Mybürg) has been in continues communication with UNAM regarding new dental school program.
- The NDA has strongly objected that UNAM enrolls any dental students for 2014.
- Currently there is not a set budget for new dental school or future planning for running costs involved.
- Dental curriculum has been sent to South African Universities for further assistance and guidance.
- First intake for dental students projected for 2015 if budget has been finalised and curriculum approved by HPCNA.



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