



Safety and health more important than profits

The safety and health of construction workers should always take priority over the pursuit of profits, Mohau Mphomela, executive director of Master Builders Association North, has urged.

SPEAKING AT THE MBA North 2013 Regional Safety Awards ceremony in Midrand, Mphomela described the awards to be presented as "a celebration of life" and praised the employers present at the function for their concern about their workforce's health and safety. "The companies about to receive recognition for their efforts in this regard are exemplary businesses managed by people who – although still pursuing profits – will not allow that objective harm their staff," he stated.

The new chief of MBA North said his vision is to revitalise the association and restore membership to the high levels that prevailed before recessionary conditions in recent years caused severe loss of members. "I have made the Three M's my obsession: member recruitment, member retention, and membership revitalisation," he pledged. "Our MBA has played a vital role in its members' business prosperity for 110 years. The loyalty of members helped it achieve this long existence. We need to revitalise that spirit of support and loyalty," he said.

Guest speaker at the awards ceremony was Johan Jonck, developer of the Arrive Alive web site in South Africa. MBA North is currently involved in a major campaign to reduce the alarming number of road fatalities in the building industry. Concentrating on drivers either pressurised to overload bakkies or apathetic about safety risks, the MBA North campaign is also strongly targeted at management executives – such as those present at the Regional Safety Awards ceremony – as it believes corporate moves to cut accidents should emanate right from the top.

The 2013 MBA North Regional Safety Awards winners are:

- FEM Super League Trophy for projects of R500-million and over: Stefanutti Stocks/Basil Read JV for the Kusile Power Station.
- Builders Warehouse Trophy for projects R300-million to R500-million: Group Five Building for the new Group Five head office.

- Contractors Trophy for projects R150-million to R300-million: WBHO Construction for 90 Grayston.
- Executive Director's Trophy for projects R75-million to R150-million: Stefanutti Stocks Building Inland for Grootgeluk Mine.
- MBA North Safety Committee Trophy for projects R25-million to R75-million: Gothic Construction for ACDC Warehouse.
- Ramsey Herd Trophy for projects R10-R25-million: Belo and Kies Construction for Xstrata Spares store.
- Universal Health Care Trophy for projects under R10-million: GVK Siya Zama Construction Gauteng for SANBS project.
- Other trophy winners were Tiber Bonvec (Plant Storage – Village Deep yard), WAC Formwork/DEA JV (best sub-contractors), Tiber Bonvec (best OHS representative – Caroline Chauke), Tyriss Construction (best site OHS officer – Jan Welgemoed), WBHO Construction (best performing OHS manager – Marius Boshoff); and Stefanutti Stocks Inland (best contracts manager – Thomas Herholdt).



Mohau Mphomela, new executive director of MBA North (centre), was pictured at the MBA North's recent Regional Safety Awards Ceremony with two past presidents of the Association: Lea Smith (left) and Hennie Bester.