



SARPA CONVENTION

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The Southern Africa Revenue Protection Association held its 19th Annual Convention in Mbombela from 6 to 7 August 2015 at the Mbombela football stadium.

The SARPA Convention plays a significant role in the process of sharing information and knowledge between role-players in the revenue protection environment. Furthermore, it equips utility staff members who attend these events with the necessary skills to effectively minimise revenue losses within their respective utilities. This is the only forum in Southern Africa that focuses on a holistic approach to securing the income of councils and utilities and involves all the relevant services provided and manufacturers.

The theme for this year's Convention was: - "CHASING YOUR MONEY – SIMPLE STRATEGIES THAT WORK"

The main topics that was addressed during the convention were:-

1. Integration of Technology, the Law and Society
2. Intelligent Data Management Strategies
3. Eliminating the Risks with new technology
4. Strategies to minimise the Challenges

A representative from Mbombela Municipality welcomed everyone to the event and said that Mbombela is called "The City of Excellence". He thanked SARPA for choosing the City, and know the participants will enjoy the area, as it is well-known as an excellent tourist attraction throughout the world. He said that it is important that someone address the challenges with regard to the reduction of revenue losses, as SALGA has indicated that it would have to double its efforts in order to effectively deal with reducing losses within utilities. It therefore makes good sense that SARPA should assist in this effort, by taking up the responsibility to engage with all the necessary role-players in Southern Africa regarding how to effectively reduce revenue losses.

The main highlights of the Convention can be seen as the following:-

- 1) A presentation by the SARPA President Mr. Maboe Mphaka from Eskom on how to implement the “triad-factor” in order to prevent electricity theft and energy losses.
- 2) A presentation by Mr. Trevor Johnson from Bombela regarding how to identify that people are not telling the truth, as well as the different investigation techniques to prove guilt in court.
- 3) A presentation by Mrs. Nancy Abdala from PHED Nigeria regarding how the Columbian utilities utilise the Law, to effectively minimise revenue losses.
- 4) Feedback from Mr. Don Taylor from the STS Association regarding the “token ID roll-over”, as well as the development of the Standard Transfer Specification and the Smart Meter Protocol (NRS 094-2)

Mr. Taylor was awarded the “Best Paper Award” and many delegates really enjoyed Mr. Johnson’s presentation and vowed to utilise their newly acquired skills, once they got back to the office.

The venue was ideal for the Convention and the Affiliate members especially were very happy with the nice demonstration area. SARPA would like to use the opportunity to thank Mbombela Municipality for making this wonderful venue available to us as well as the sponsorship for the Civic event. SARPA would also like to thank the Affiliate members for their sponsorships and other contributions in once again making the yearly SARPA Convention a big success.