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March 2020 - ELPA News 6

Welcome to ELPA NEWS

We bring you the latest news and updates on events in the
Earthing & Lightning Protection Industry.

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Why join ELPA?

The Earthing and Lightning Protection Association (ELPA) has been formed to bring the industry together, to protect the consumer and to establish a uniform interpretation of the codes of practice by aligning the codes of practice in regulations, standards and legislation to effective protection of lives and property. To ensure that the industry has a recognisable framework within which to operate.

We do...

- ✓ Form an important addition to the safety standard in the South African Lightning Protection Industry.
- ✓ Offer certification of qualified designers, installers and inspectors.
- ✓ Support tertiary education through coordination to develop training apprenticeship at all levels.
- ✓ Support Architects, Structural, Consulting and Electrical Engineers through their representative bodies.

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ELPA at Work



CERTIFICATION

- To Installers, Designers and Inspectors
- For SETA/SAQA/QCTO registration
- (New/Existing) Installations with the ISR and maintenance report (MC) as per SANS 10313 in support of SANS 10142



RECORD KEEPING

- All ELPA Member exams
- Free Industrial Safety Review formats for Installers and Designers
- Industrial Safety Reviews
- Drawings



MEMBERSHIP

- Five levels of Membership
- Reduced Training Fees
- Reduced Training Manual fees
- Newsletter
- Reduced Advertising rates in The Lightning Mag



COVID-19

- At War: next 30 Days
- * Updates
- * Act Now!
- * Social Distancing
- Taxi Initiatives

1

LETTER FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Midway through March 2020, it seems to be premature to contemplate what we have achieved in 2020.

[Read more](#)

2

STANDING STONE ON ISLE OF LEWIS TRACKS LIGHTNING STRIKE

Geophysical tools have become an essential adjunct to archaeology, occasionally turning up surprising findings that would otherwise remain undetected – including what looks like the fossilised remnant of a lightning strike.

[Read more](#)

3

COVID-19: AFRICA TOLD TO PREPARE FOR WORST. WHAT'S THE RESPONSE?

Countries across continent take drastic steps to fight coronavirus amid warnings number of infections is likely higher.

[Read more](#)

4

COVID-19 SCIENTISTS, EXPERTS IN SA SILENCED AS GOVERNMENT CENTRALISES COMMUNICATION

Government has effectively gagged epidemiologists, virologists, infectious disease specialists and other experts on Covid-19 with an instruction that all requests for comment about the state of the pandemic. [Read more](#)



FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

I have written the draft of this “weekly” newsletter many times since the Christmas greeting in December 2019. Among the first drafts referenced the “significance of the new year”, then in February just how fast the year was “starting”. In each instance, I wanted to reflect on the work that was ongoing but finding that each following item was linked to other work in progress that needed to be “wrapped up” as many issues are being addressed in parallel. So this edition is very long, please pace yourself.

Midway through March 2020, it seems to be premature to contemplate what we have achieved in 2020. By reviewing where we have been and where we are now, we can determine whether we will achieve what we want and need. How determined are we to achieve what we want and need?

The lightning protection industry is an industry in transition. Still, alongside every other sector in South Africa, we are exposed to the same business challenges and face the same common hurdles to effective service delivery. And now we face the same common viral threat in the Covid-19 Coronavirus. Visit our [website](#) for regular updates on Covid-19.

What must we learn from others? Eskom and the challenges it faces now are overwhelming when we appreciate the extent of the internal corruption in that company that has undermined sound business practices that had made Eskom a leading

world-class power utility for many years. In essence, now it is in disarray and a mess. In the lightning protection industry, we would do well to take note of how the rot set in and how easily we can convince ourselves that we are not caught up in corruption ourselves.

Every ELPA member company has adopted the ELPA Code of Ethics. The Constitution and the Code of Ethics have been published on our existing [website](#).

By living by the Code of Ethics, every ELPA member company agrees to build towards a unified industry. This is, after all, an initial statement of intent. When ELPA was launched in June 2017 we aimed to bring the industry together. Thus, participation is not an enforced decision but a decision to build our future together.

At a recent meeting I attended, a visionary made the following statement:

“Unity moves at the speed of trust.”

The longer it takes to build trust, the longer it will take before unity is possible.

There are so many facets of our business interlinked with behaviour that will jeopardise our ability to trust each other -



Richard Evert

a wrong or poor choice of words; prejudice based on the baggage we carry; our cultural backgrounds and the history associated with where we come from; the temptation to grab business opportunities that belong to someone else; the sense that you must take care of number one because no one else will do it; seemingly insurmountable odds and the worst of the worst, merely disregarding the client, the industry and our peers to chase the ever-elusive buck.

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