

## EDITORS NOTE

I wish to thank everyone from around the country who shares their passion for accessibility by regularly sharing information and becoming the eyes and ears of the Authority in Society.

Your contributions are appreciated and have already led to a number of enquiries being opened and followed through.

I take note of all the suggestions to improve the NAA Update and we will, in coming editions begin to incorporate some of your valuable suggestions.



**Jeremy Deysel**  
National Access Officer

## How much longer will this go on?

It was recently reported in a local newspaper that an American woman and her disabled elderly father has experienced what the QuadPara Association of South Africa (QASA) has been fighting against for more than a year, the usage of handicapped parking bays only when the driver is handicapped.

The woman, who visited her 85-year old father, clashed with a metro police officer after she was disallowed from parking in the disabled parking bay on the Durban beachfront, even though the vehicle displayed her father's KZN Disability Permit.

The pair was informed by a policewoman that the person with a disability needed to be the driver of the vehicle, not the passenger.

This was contested, but the policewoman maintained that she was right and became increasingly rude, it was reported.

After an investigation by the said newspaper, it emerged that the Road Traffic Act changed in May 2009, making the police officer correct in her application of the law.

Department of Transport said that it changed the act to alleviate the problem of able-bodied people abusing the handicapped parking bays, and that if the new amendment was still not suitable, then it would be happy to engage with quadriplegic and disabled associations to amend it once more.

However, the QASA has already challenged the constitutionality of the act. It lodged a complaint with the Human Rights Commission in June last year.

## Orchids and....



**This picture (above) was submitted to NAA and shows private property owners doing their bit to raise awareness for Persons with Disabilities**

## Onions



**This picture sent from Franschoek shows how bollards obstruct the entrance to this shopping centre for wheelchair users**

## **NCPPDSA Takes occupation of new Office Building**

The National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in South Africa (NCPDOSA) recently took occupation of its newly completed office facilities in Edenvale Johannesburg.

The building, which was commissioned in 2009 and completed 2010, is a glowing example of how the principles of universal design. Every fitting and space as been designed with the end user in mind because the facility will be used by staff of NCPPDSA and the National Association for Persons with Cerebral Palsy (NAPCP).

A multipurpose and functional boardroom is a key feature that will in future be used by the sector for meetings and workshops orgnised by the disability sector as well as other sector interested sector.

The boardroom will among other accommodate all applications needed for persons with hearing loss and will also sport dividers to accommodate more than one event at the same time.

Office furniture was designed and supplied by a company called Legacy Modutec who made every effort is to ensure that accommodation in the new facility is accessible by all staff and the general visiting public.

The NCPPDSA has finally got home after 28 years of using the previous office in Melville and can now serve its membership and the sector at large much more efficiently and professionally.

The facility was designed and project managed by Joan Seirlis who is a leader in the field of universal design and access in South Africa.

There is currently a total staff compliment of 15 permanent office staff at the head office.



### **Write to us:**

***The Editor (NAA Update)***

***P.O Box 426***

***Melville***

***2109***

***Jeremy.deysel@ncppdsa.org.za***