

CHARMAN'S REPORT

1 SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 31 AUGUST 2023

PRESENTED BY MRS TUTTI RUDMAN AT THE 61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL CONSUMER UNION

27 SEPTEMBER 2023

It gives me great pleasure to submit the Chairman's report for the period of 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 to all our Affiliates, Associate and Private members.

VISION

SANCU's vision is to endeavour to keep consumers informed of all matters that affect them

MISSION

SANCU's mission is to be a consumer champion that defends the rights of the consumer on all consumer goods and services matters. In co-operation with authorities and other bodies, SANCU will attempt to resolve the problem to consumer satisfaction, and if necessary to pursue suitable legislation.

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

All our affiliate members are NGO's and NPO's. These members play an important role in SANCU. Members from our affiliates serve on our Executive committee. They do so as volunteers and receive no remuneration for their services. Some come from far to attend these meetings. I thank them for their support and dedication.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Thank you for attending our general meetings and for your support over many years. It is you that keeps SANCU's office functioning successfully.

CONSUMER CUP

Last year the Consumer Cup was awarded to our Executive Officer, Mrs Milly Spies. The Consumer Cup is awarded annually to an individual or organisation for campaigning on behalf of consumers.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The SANCU Executive meet on a monthly basis. These meetings are held at the house of Mrs Tutti Rudman. Members report back on meetings attended and these reports are discussed. Decisions on relevant matters are noted and action is taken.

GENERAL MEETINGS

We are lucky to have extraordinary speakers who addresses us on relevant consumer-related topics at our three General Meetings. All the speakers do this at no cost to SANCU. Thank you for the time you spent researching and compiling your presentation. We get very good feedback from our Affiliate and Associate members after meetings. This compliment must go to our Speakers. Although we request reports from different organisations, they do not always respond.

The first General meeting of 2023 was held on 29 March. Ms Ouma Ramara from the Consumer Goods and Services Ombud was the first speaker followed by Mr Katlego Lehabe. Questions were asked and answered.

The second General meeting was held on 24 May with Mr Kai Hichert as guest speaker. He spoke on the importance of bees in agriculture.

At the last General meeting for 2023 Mr Christo van der Rheede spoke on South Africa's Agriculture and its roll in food security. All these presentations were attached to the minutes as annexures.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General meeting date is given timeously and is held in September each year according to SANCU's constitution. If there are any recommendations we put them forward for adoption. After they are adopted they are sent to the relevant businesses or departments to be addressed.

SANCU ExCo members represent consumers on several boards and committees. The following meetings were attended by these representatives.

AGRICULTURE

Oilseeds Advisory Committee
Potato Industry Form
Cotton SA
Red Meat Industry Forum
Maize forum
Dairy Standards Agency
Wheat Forum
South African Winter Grain Industry Trust
South African Grain Information Trust
South African Meat Industry Company
Oil and Protein Development Trust

FINANCE

Credit Ombud

National Credit Regulator: Consumer Information Forum

FOOD /NUTRITION

Food Advisory Consumer Service

SA BUREAU OF STANDARDS

TC 007 Consume Standards

TC22/SC2 Child Restrains

TC 70 Legal Metrology

TC70/SC4 Legal metrology : Sale of Goods

SABS Commercial: Impartiality Committee

TC1088 GMO's

TC1028 Pesticides

Cannabas Standard: New Technical Committee

COMMENTS

The South African Consumers have suffered badly the past few years. Most consumers hardly make ends meet. The downturn in the economy is largely due to the very high increase of the price of food, petrol, electricity and interest rates.

Load shedding and the cost of fertilizers also contribute to the costs in the agricultural sector

The new outbreak of Avian flu is also a concern to consumers as it will result in a shortage of eggs and chicken. The import of chicken will influence the price of chicken, and the most vulnerable consumers will be affected.

The good news is that the grain industry had a good harvest and hopefully we will not have to import a big amount of grain.

The Executive officer provides extensive reports on activities and finances at every ExCo meeting.

COSUMER INFORMATION

SANCU's members are regularly sent consumer information from office in the form of newsletters, consumer alerts and food price statistics.

ACKNOLEGDEMENTS AND CONCLUSION

All members of the Executive committee do this as volunteers. Considering the long distances some of them drive here to attend meetings with no remuneration, I have to give them a big thank you for being loyal to SANCU.

Mrs Mildred Spies (Milly) thank you for the professional the way you handle the office matters.

Dr Cliff Johnston thank you for still assisting the office when needed.

To the SABS thank you for the free office space and facilities you supply cost free to SANCU

Last but not least, thank you to all our Affiliates and Associates for your ongoing support.
Without you SANCU would not be here.

I hereby present my Chairman's report for adoption.

Dated this 27th day of September 2023

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