

## **Debt counsellors to be trained**

*For Immediate Release*

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In an effort to assist Debt Counsellors overcome the challenges they are facing, the National Credit Regulator (NCR) and the Banking Association of South Africa (BASA) are currently conducting training sessions for Debt Counsellors that commenced in June and will end in August 2008.

Mpho Thekiso: Project Manager for Debt Counselling at the National Credit Regulator (NCR) says these training sessions are a result of discussions that were held between major credit providers and a select group of Debt Counsellors on challenges they were both facing in dealing with debt counselling cases.

According to Thekiso, the objective of the training workshops is to update Debt Counsellors on new rules and standardized procedures that were agreed upon by the two parties on communicating with credit providers, debt restructuring, submission of proposals and taking matters to court that would be generally acceptable to most credit providers.

“These rules will ensure speedy resolution of most debt counselling cases and less referrals to the magistrate courts,” says Thekiso. The training is provided free of charge, but Debt Counsellors are requested to make their own travel arrangements.

The NCR and the Banking Association (on behalf of credit providers) have joined hands in funding these workshops. The workshops are only for registered Debt Counsellors.

Thekiso disclosed that independent trainers were appointed to facilitate these workshops. She also advised that the training workshops are very crucial to the Debt Counsellor’s practice and they should make sure that they attend.

## VENUES AND DATES OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Workshop Dates	Place	RSVP Dates
11/06/08 - 12/06/08	Cape Town	6/06/08
18/06/08 - 19/06/08	Midrand	10/06/08
23/06/08 - 24/06/08	Polokwane	16/06/08
01/07/08 - 02/07/08	Durban	23/06/08
03/07/08 - 04/07/08	Nelspruit	25/06/08
10/07/08 - 11/07/08	Midrand	04/07/08
14/07/08 - 15/07/08	Pretoria	10/07/08
16/07/08 - 17/07/08	Bloemfontein	11/07/08
24/07/08 - 25/07/08	Midrand	17/07/08
30/07/08 - 31/07/08	Kimberley	24/07/08
19/08/08 - 20/08/08	Port Elizabeth	12/08/08
26/08/08 - 27/08/08	Potchefstroom	15/08/08

Thekiso says Debt Counsellors can RSVP to Zweli Biyela, [zweli.iss@fais.co.za](mailto:zweli.iss@fais.co.za) or 083 522 1623 or contact Thabang Moledi on 011 554 2728 for any other queries. The time for the workshops is 08h00 (for 08h30) – 16h00 (both days).

Apart from protective measures offered by the National Credit Act, beleaguered consumers also have the services of Debt Counsellors who ensure that they get out of the debt spiral.

The sections of the National Credit Act relevant to over-indebtedness, debt counselling and debt restructuring became effective on 1 June 2007. The Act makes provision for the registration of Debt Counsellors to assist over-indebted consumers. Debt Counsellors are required to undergo training approved by the National Credit Regulator.

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