



## Kingsley Duba pledges continued support for VAMCOSA members

The pump and valve industry in South Africa can be regarded as one of the oldest industries in the country. Some manufacturers of pumps and valves can trace their history back to the early 1900's. Being an integral part of industrial development, the pump and valve industry has, over the years, been well supported by the market and government infrastructures. In recent times however, new developments have emerged creating new challenges for local manufacturers.

The newly appointed Chairman of the Valve and Actuators Manufacturers Cluster (VAMCOSA), Kingsley Duba, during a recent interview, reiterated his support for the industry and the commitment of the organisation to furthering these objectives for the benefit of the members and the industry as a whole.

“One of the main objectives of my tenure is to concentrate on the skills development programme where we can draw from local communities to provide candidates for training as artisans. Member companies have bought into this programme and it is our plan to go into this with local stakeholders like colleges, universities, government departments and CSIR and SABS, to further this objective. One drawback though, is the slowdown in demand in local products, affected by the influx of imports, thereby providing a void for employing additional labour. Fortunately SA Capital Equipment (SACEEC) has taken over most of the project for skill development and is continuously working with schools and institutions to maintain a level of awareness,” says Kingsley Duba.

“Aligned to the skills programme is the question of increasing local manufacturing as a means of safeguarding against imports. Here the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has been supportive of this objective, ensuring the local content designation of 70 % is maintained and applied rigorously to all tender business. As far as export markets are concerned, the DTI continues to create opportunities for members through the outward trade missions, international exhibitions, leads and recommendations,” commented Duba.

“There are many challenges associated with our industry and many of them require continuous attention. My plan is to concentrate on the transformation policies by



Kingsley Duba, Vamcosa's Chairman

working with members and Government to promote the concept in order to avoid the confusion that exists in the implementation. I would be working to expand opportunities for members in the area of research that will create new product opportunities, enabling potential for new markets. One of the areas of evolution will be the mentorship programme which will start with bringing in small business owners who currently repair and refurbish pumps and valves, by giving them opportunities that will eventually lead to manufacturing. The economic landscape holds many challenges for the country and as Chairman of VAMCOSA I have a task to ensure our industry plays its role and continues to contribute to the well being of all,” concluded Kingsley Duba.

**Website:** [www.saceec.com/vamcosa](http://www.saceec.com/vamcosa)