REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

During the period 2007/2008 this committee was very busy. The Committee’s stance has always been that no judicial officer is an induna of the law. This reminds me of a statement by Lady Nancy Astor, (the first woman to serve as a Member of Parliament [MP] in the British House of Commons), when she said “Real education should educate us out of self into something far finer, into a selflessness which links us with all humanity”. This indeed holds true in all the training conducted by the Education and Training Committee.

From the 8th to the 10th February 2008 JOASA in conjunction with JHPIEGO hosted an HIV/AIDS workshop. The topics covered at the workshop were HIV/AIDS Counselling and Testing, Human Rights and the Law. Each province sent delegates to participate at the workshop. The Education and Training Committee ensured that the flights, accommodation and expenses of the workshop were covered by the sponsors being JHPIEGO. Delegates at the workshop were ad idem that there was a lot to learn about human rights and the law on HIV/AIDS. 65 judicial officers attended the workshop. Of the 65 who attended, 37 of them had voluntary counselling and testing of HIV/AIDS. The voluntary counselling and testing was done in private.

JOASA has formed a partnership with JHPIEGO and through this the HIV/AIDS programme is taken to all Magistrates’ offices. Provincial Executive Committees have been made to liaise with JHPIEGO to ensure
that training is rolled out to provinces to reach as many members as possible. This has indeed been done in some provinces.

During the period of 27th to 30th August 2008 JOASA participated in the IATSO workshop on the Treatment of Sexual Offenders. IATSO is the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders. This workshop was fully sponsored by IATSO. Most of the board members of IATSO are internationally based; however, the Secretary Vice General of IATSO is Dario Dosio who is also the National Treasurer of JOASA. The goals and objectives of the said workshop were to disseminate new research, treatment methods and to provide continuing education and networking opportunities. The promotion of international, regional and local conferences on the treatment of sexual offenders. Updating the IATSO standards of care for the treatment of adult sexual offenders and the IATSO standards of care for the treatment of juvenile sexual offenders consistent with advances in knowledge of the treatment of sexual offenders. Advocacy of humane, dignified, comprehensive, ethical and effective treatment of sexual offenders throughout the world.

20 JOASA members attended the workshop which was held in Cape Town. A pre-conference was held with the assistance of the Department of Correctional Services and this motivated the correctional staff to find more ways to address and treat incarcerated sexual violent offenders. The Inter-departmental management (which includes the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Health, Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Education), will now take the work presented at the main conference and implement programs to roll out the ideas expressed at the conference, nationwide. The inter-departmental management team will use the work of the 110 presentations delivered during the 4 day conference to find the best ways possible to combat the surge of violent sexual offending affecting South Africa.

Mr Vincent Ratshibvumo was appointed the webmaster of JOASA. He was also sent on a course to equip him to perform his task as webmaster. It is clear that he has practised his skills on the webpage as it looks good.
During the year, the Education and Training Committee endeavoured to hold as many workshops as possible, but due to the financial constraints this was not possible. The Committee identified subject like Judgment Writing, Sentencing, Social Context and Ethics.

The report on all workshops hosted reveals that same was done with sponsorship. The Committee has knocked on the Chief Justice’s door for financial assistance, but in vain. Mr Theo Sefuba, (Chief Director in the office of the Chief Justice), informed us that it has always been the view of the Chief Justice that he does not entertain requests for funding by Magistrates for local conferences or workshops. Mr Sefuba also informed us that Magistrates who seek funding should approach the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and that the Chief Justice only pays for attendance to international conferences.

As you are all well aware, the weekend of the 31st October 2008 to the 2nd November 2008 JOASA in conjunction with Airports Companies South Africa (ACSA) is hosting a workshop on the International Aviation Law. 160 delegates from across all provinces will attend the workshop. The aims and objectives of the workshop are to ensure that our members are well prepared for the Soccer World Cup which will be hosted by our Country in 2010, specifically with regards to legal aspects relating to Aviation Law and institutions involved in aviation. We have gathered specialist facilitators on the subject. We have also managed to secure a large number of members of JOASA to attend the workshop. We hope the outcome achieves the aims and objectives of the workshop.

Yours faithfully.

J F van Schalkwyk
President/JOASA