

METPAC-SA APPOINTS KISHAN SINGH AS NEW CEO

Johannesburg, April 2018. MetPac-SA has appointed packaging guru Kishan Singh to take over the helm from Delanie Bezuidenhout as the organisation's new Chief Executive Officer with effect from the 1st of March 2018.

Educational and career highlights

Kishan and is widely known and respected for his in-depth knowledge and expertise of the metals packaging sector. He obtained his BSc degree (majoring in Chemistry and Biochemistry) from the University of Durban Westville in 1987, before completing his Post Graduate qualification in Management Sciences. He then achieved the City and Guilds (Quality Management) through the UK, obtaining distinctions in both the modules.

He recently acquired the Lean Six Sigma Black Belt status through Dr Mikel Harry's Six Sigma Management Institute, USA, and is currently busy with his Masters/PhD degree in Quality Management in South Africa, focussing on The True Financial Value that ISO9001 has delivered to the Packaging Industry in SA over the past 30 years

He gained valuable hands-on experience as the Operations / Quality Manager for the Nampak Metals Cluster (2003-2016) before starting his own Management Consulting and Training company, Global Integrated Business Solutions (Pty) Ltd, specialising in integrated Business Management Systems and the design of Quality Business System Models in support of overall business objectives.



Above: Kishan Singh, newly appointed CEO of MetPac-SA

Views on the future of the metals packaging industry

Commenting on his new appointment, Kishan says it is an honour and a privilege to continue serving the metal packaging sector and that he is extremely excited about what the future holds for this industry.

"The rapid growth in global population, globalisation, rising GDPs, emerging middle classes and a deep awareness of environmental sustainability, have all placed a critical demand on better packaging that is able to support our changing and faster lifestyles. Since the early 1800s when the food was canned for the first time by French inventor and confectioner, Nicolas Appert, metal packaging has been a logical and practical packaging solution for a wide range of different applications. Given its demonstrated high recovery rates, metal packaging will most certainly continue to hold its place in the packaging industry in the future as it is able to adapt and accommodate to the requirements of the modern consumer, by shape changes, functionality changes, closure changes, and most importantly, by an unwavering industry quest for mass reduction without compromising packaging efficacy," Kishan says.

Challenges facing the local metals packaging industry

Although the future looks bright, Kishan says he also mindful of the various challenges that need to be overcome.

“The metals industry should not underestimate the threat of losing market share to other packaging materials, and we should therefore constantly be on the lookout for ways to innovate and promote the message of metals being an environmentally sustainable packaging solution. Spreading the recycling message and news of our industry’s ongoing and impressive recycling rates and innovation to preserve natural resources is therefore of paramount importance in proving our dedication to extended producer responsibility to the general public, government and our stake holders,” Kishan explains.

To this end, Kishan will be taking a leading role over the next few months in completing and submitting MetPac-SA’s plan for the Industry Waste Management Plan (IWMP) by the September 2018 deadline. “This will probably be the single most important initiative that I will be driving in the short-to medium term as the entire packaging industry, through dedicated Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs), are all currently working together to achieve this deadline,” he says.

Encouraging the metals packaging industry to speak with a united voice

Another key area of focus for him will be increasing membership to MetPac-SA by encouraging raw material suppliers, primary packaging converters, fillers / bottlers as well as brand owner to create a truly unified voice that promotes the benefits of metal packaging and demonstrates manufacturer responsibility on efficient use of raw materials.

“It is vitally important for all the members of the metals packaging value chain to come together, not only as packaging people, but as industrialists, to work in harmony with the planet by creating a true, circular economy. Joining a PRO such as MetPac-SA is not only the right thing to do from an environmental point of view, but it strengthens our hands and our combined efforts to plough back much-needed research, resources and results to create an environmentally responsible, sustainable industry,” Kishan implores.

For more information about MetPac-SA, visit their website on www.metpacsa.org.za
or email Kishan Singh directly at CEO@metpacsa.org.za

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