

Muhammed Jagot, Regional Chairperson for FISA in KwaZulu Natal, chatted to FISA Focus about his role, the challenges and his vision for the region.

### **Tell us about your fiduciary background**

Over a career spanning nearly 20 years I have built up broad expertise in the fiduciary field, with an initial focus on estates. I have always been based in Durban, so I have had the chance to build up many relationships with relevant FISA stakeholders in the area.

Armed with a diploma in Deceased Estates Administration, in 1998 I started as an Estate Officer in the executors' department of Syfrets Trust, moving on from there to Maitland Trust in 2004 where at the latter years I was appointed National Operations Manager for estates and was also involved in estate planning, amongst other fiduciary matters.

Since 2012 I have been with Grindrod Asset Management – more specifically as a fiduciary specialist within their wholly owned subsidiary, Kingsmead Trust.

Over the years I have added to my qualifications, having done various specialist tax courses through SARS and also gaining a certificate in management development.

### **What is your vision for FISA in KZN?**

- My main objective is to grow member numbers, so that there is a broader pool of practitioners who can benefit from FISA as an Institute and also raise standards across the board.
- Another major aim is to work continuously at building seamless relationships with key stakeholders, such as the Master's Offices, SARS, City Councils, financial institutions and the like. These relationships are so important for the smooth and effective running of fiduciary processes, as members will know only too well.

### **What's coming up?**

KZN members recently (3 May) had a fascinating address by the CEO of the Tax Ombuds office, Advocate Mkhawane, who provided excellent guidance into the purpose and mission of the tax ombuds office.

The region's next quarterly meeting will be on 13 July.

The FISA national conference on 25 August is of course the annual highlight and I encourage as many KZN members as possible to get to Sandton for this event which is so important in terms of learning and keeping abreast of developments in the industry – each year FISA has secured key note speakers who happened to be authors and widely quoted experts in the fiduciary field.

### **Do you have a special message for FISA members?**

Yes, two simple messages:

1. Keep up with CPD, as it will set you apart.
2. Develop a deep understanding of the need to always be impartial in the work that we do.