



Terry Ashmore (second from left) has been re-elected the SA Paint Manufacturers Association (Sapma) chairperson at the association's annual general meeting in Sandton. He is pictured being congratulated by Sapma executive director Deryck Spence with Sanjeev Bhatt (left) and Aggie Argyrou, who have been re-elected as Sapma co-vice-chairpersons

Xenophobia affects all business sectors within SA

It is unfortunate and truly distressing that xenophobic violence and aggressive attitude in South Africa have seriously endangered attendance by African delegates who had registered for the Coatings for Africa 2015 exhibition in Johannesburg.

Several global authorities in the coatings industry were scheduled to present papers at the symposium and trade exhibition at the Sandton Convention Centre from 11 to 13 May. This event is considered the largest of its kind on the African continent and is jointly presented by the SA Paint Manufacturing Association (SAPMA) and the Oil and Colour Chemists' Association (OCCA).

According to Deryck Spence, Executive Director of SAPMA, the Association had received several phone calls and emails from registered delegates from countries such as Nigeria and Kenya inquiring about their safety while in South Africa, and also expressing dismay at the violence against their fellow countrymen in the host country for Coatings for Africa 2015.

"It is unfortunate that many of these delegates have to now seriously think of cancelling attendance of the trade show which is a severe setback for the SA coatings industry's efforts to expand operations and export products to other African countries," says Deryck. "We were expecting dozens of delegates from north of SA's borders to attend Coatings for Africa 2015 and many of their companies had shown interest in either investing in South Africa or forging trade links with members of

the local coatings industry."

He goes on to say that the government should realise that a continuation of violent xenophobia could not only harm the SA coatings industry but the economy as a whole and totally destroy foreign investor confidence. "Even if the violence abates, the attitude displayed by South African ethnic leaders towards other African countries will harm future relationships when it comes to exporting products and services," he concludes.

For more information visit www.sapma.org.za



Deryck Spence, Executive Director of SAPMA: "Xenophobia could harm the SA coatings industry," he warned.