

## Beware those pesky and unprofessional pest controllers – expert

A “PLAGUE” of unregistered pest-control operators is one of the subjects being addressed at the annual Pest Biz convention in Somerset West, held yesterday and today.

Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, a speaker at the convention, has cautioned that unregistered operators defraud farmers and the public with unprofessional and potentially

harmful services that often affect human health, the environment and cause potential crop damage.

Verdoorn’s address to the South African Pest Control Association’s convention centres on responsible and ethical pest control and what civil society expects of the industry.

The association said anyone offering pest control services to

domestic, industrial and agricultural clients for financial reward must be registered as pest-control operators to ensure compliance with safety principles.

Verdoorn said illegal operators used equipment that could not safely and effectively deliver the pesticides.

A number of unlicensed aerial

applicators were also identified as part of the problem. Aerial applicators had to have a valid pilot’s licence from the Civil Aviation Authority and obtain the special Aerial Applicators Pest Control Operator’s licence from the registrar.

“We advise consumers, the business sector and the agricultural

sector to refrain from contracting individuals or companies that are not registered by the registrar to perform pest-control services.”

Verdoorn said any suspicious activities or individuals should be reported to the association.

For more information, contact the SAPCA on 086 111 4556 or visit [www.sapca.org.za](http://www.sapca.org.za).