

## **JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR PLANNERS (SACPLAN) AND BLACK PROFESSIONAL TOWN PLANNERS FACEBOOK FORUM REPRESENTATIVES ON PLANNING PROFESSION CHALLENGES**

*The South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) and the Black Professional Town Planners Facebook Forum Representatives are committed to working closely together in the interest of building, advancing, and promoting a strong planning profession for the country.*

**Midrand, Saturday, 4 July 2020** – The South African Council of Planners (SACPLAN) and Black Professional Town Planners Facebook Forum Representatives held an engagement meeting on planning matters of mutual interest in the planning profession.

Both organisations met through a virtual meeting (via Zoom) on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. SACPLAN was represented by Mr. Khetha Zulu (Chairperson), Dr. James Chakwizira (Deputy Chairperson), and Mr. Martin Lewis (Chief Executive Officer/Registrar). The Black Professional Town Planners Facebook Forum were represented by Mr. Msizi Myeza and Mr. Sabelo Hlatshwayo.

The representatives of the Black Professional Town Planners made the following submission for consideration by SACPLAN and called for:

- Job Reservation that all Town Planning work remain and reserved for town planners.
- Amendment of Planning Profession Act of 2002 to align with new imperatives of cleaning profession with Eurocentric ideologies, racism, prejudice and corruption in planning schools, private and public sector.
- SACPLAN is regulatory body, it must demonstrate value add to members for paying annual membership fees for freezing SACPLAN membership fees for 2020 accounts due to COVID-19.
- Standardisation of market rate for remuneration of candidate planners. Private sector recruit graduate / candidate planners, but government only offer internships.

Black Professional Town Planners remain independent organization which has THREE goals in main: Job reservation for Town Planners, transformation and decolonization of planning through intellectual debates and thoughts.

The discussion acknowledged that the planning profession in the country plays and should continue playing a pivotal role in advancing spatial transformation, regulating and playing over-sight functions in terms of practice and industry, ensuring quality control in respect of accrediting planning schools qualifications as well as protecting, preserving and promoting the identity, integrity and image of the profession, both from within and beyond the profession. SACPLAN acknowledged the issues and concerns raised and provided detailed response on work done to date and currently underway meant to deal with issues raised. It was further noted that this being the first meeting between the two parties it was impossible to address all issues fully and to conclusion.

In sequel and as a follow on to the meetings deliberation, both parties resolve and commit to:

1. Pursuing to the logical conclusion, the completion of the identification of planning work (sometimes referred to as work or job reservation) through inter-alia among other actions and measures making petitions and representations collaboratively and severally to the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and stakeholders.
2. Complement, add value, and enhance efforts / initiatives by SACPLAN and DALRRD to ensure that the PPA amendments and processes are pushed forward so that an amended PPA legislation is delivered for the benefit of the profession.
3. Collaboratively, jointly and individually engaging in multi-pronged approaches aimed at expanding opportunities and platforms for new ways of protecting “new” and “young planners” in the profession for improved internship or training systems, operations, logistics, experience and practice.
4. Working together as brand ambassadors in marketing, communicating, and protecting the interest of the planning profession, planners and SACPLAN.
5. Positioning the planning profession in the forefront of spatial transformation through increasing the visibility of the planning profession, professionals, and SACPLAN in the country and in respect of emergent growth and development themes / agenda.
6. Continue to work collaboratively in pursuing initiatives to advance the transformation of the profession to attract, retain and grow the membership and profile of the profession.
7. Engage on the financial COVID -19 implications and models for membership fees relief or holiday payments. This matter will be taken up for consideration by SACPLAN and the decision will be relayed accordingly.
8. Support the Council’s effort towards building the capacity and capability of SACPLAN to deliver against its mandate as derived from the Planning Profession Act (PPA), 2002 notwithstanding the need for building a financially secure, stable and strongly funded professional body.
9. Working collaboratively, jointly and independently in seeking to continuously improve and guard the image, identity and brand of the planning profession.
10. Committing to exploring and engaging in further joint meetings and activities with the intent of protecting and promoting the interests of the planning profession and planning professionals in the country.

SACPLAN and the Black Professional Town Planners Facebook Forum Representatives urges all planners, young and old and across the public, private and civil sectors to continue contributing in the further building, development and growth of the profession through supporting each other in ensuring that planning benefits society equitably and in a sustainable manner and to ensure planners act ethically at all times ensuring public interest is safeguarded .

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF SACPLAN, KHETHA ZULU AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BLACK PROFESSIONAL TOWN PLANNERS FACEBOOK FORUM REPRESENTATIVES, MSIZI MYEZA AND SABELO HLATSHWAYO**

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