

From the Registrar's Desk

Reengineering of SACPLAN Business

SACPLAN continues its journey to advance its mandate by promoting dialogue and strengthening partnerships through stakeholder engagements and strategically committing to the transformation of the mind, practice, space and society. As part of this initiative, the SACPLAN bulletin has been reintroduced as one of the communication channels to enhance communication and sharing of information between SACPLAN and its stakeholders, particularly the planners.

Recently, SACPLAN has established the tradition of publishing

two main newsletters in a year, one in July and one in December each. The bulletin continues to be a communication mechanism in between to compliment the two newsletters.

This issue comes at a time where SACPLAN just comes from its Strategic Planning Workshop for the 2025/2026 financial year (01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026) which was held on 27 and 28 February 2025. The session reaffirmed SACPLAN seven priorities under the umbrella of Reengineering SACPLAN Business. The bulletin is directly linked to the 1st priority which speaks to strengthening



marketing, public relations and communication of the planning profession including broadening networking, forging partnerships, and effective stakeholder engagement, and project management.

The other **six priorities** can be identified as follows:

- Improvement of Planning Capacity through research, skills development, training, placement and support of candidates and registered planners
- Improve the financial sustainability of Council to enable proper functioning, Strengthen and Support good Governance and Administration
- Maintaining Identification of Work for planners
- **SACPLAN** Business re-engineering to enhance operations and service delivery, thinking or thought.
- Transformation of Planning Education and Practice (RFQ, RPL, CPD, Transformation Plans)
- Improve the implementation of statutory requirements (accreditation, registration, compliance and disciplinary)

Other programme, initiatives and activities that were devised by Council that planners and stakeholders can look forward to in the next financial year (01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026) are as follows:

- State of the Planning Profession Report – SPPR, envisaged for finalisation July 2025
- 2nd National Planning Dialogue – to be held Durban, KZN, tentatively scheduled for 16-17 October 2025
- Position Paper on Planning, Land and Chiefs, building on the deliberations of the 1st National Planning Dialogue, Roundtable Discussion at 2024 Planning Africa Conference and Town and Regional Planning Journal **SACPLAN** Special Issue published in December 2024
- Young Planners Forum and Awards scheduled for 25 June 2025
- Women Planners Forum and Awards scheduled for 27 August 2025
- SACPLAN CHoPS curriculum transformation dialogue
- Two Webinars jointly hosted with RTPI, including one forming part of World Town Planning Day collaborations
- Urban Growth Management Seminar/Webinar, possibly jointly hosted with SALGA and SA Cities network as part of Urban Month Celebrations in October 2025.
- SADC Planning institutes dialogue on the implications of AI for the Planning Profession
- Development of Planning 101 Course focus fundamentals of planning practice in South Africa.
- Launching of the online registration repository in April 2025
- Launching of Online CPD Management System in July 2025 to optimise scorecard management and enforcement of CPD scorecards
- Three marketing videos, one that can be distributed to high schools, one for tertiary students and one for will help provide the planning profession for the general public.

SACPLAN trust that the bulletin will be received with a level excitement and enthusiasm as it will serve as one of the key communication channels with planners and stakeholders. Planners and stakeholders are also encouraged to submit noteworthy updates, planning initiatives, programmes, projects and activities for consideration for publication in both the bulletin and the newsletters for easy flow of information between SACPLAN and its stakeholders.

SACPLAN encourages and welcomes suggestions and ideas on how council can optimise its service delivery model and initiatives. Suggestions on eye-catching names and phrases for newsletter, bulletin and other events or initiatives.

Looking forward to an eventful year ahead in the Planning profession!

Mr Bongumusa Ndwandwe

Acting Registrar

South African Council for Planners



SACPLAN explores future opportunities

On 31 January 2025, Beatrice Crabb, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) International Manager, visited **SACPLAN** Offices in Midrand, Johannesburg South Africa to deliberate on short to medium-term collaborations. She was joined by **SACPLAN's** Chairperson, Prof Mfaniseni Fana Sihlongonyane, Acting CEO Mr. Bongumusa Ndwandwe, and other team members to discuss future opportunities to advance common interests, support young planners, promote knowledge exchange, explore research collaborations and opportunities for innovation given prevalent challenges and opportunities in the Planning Profession.

In the short term, **SACPLAN** and RTPI have agreed to explore co-hosting at least two webinars in 2025 addressing critical themes in contemporary planning practice. The first webinar is being explored will focus on Climate change, looking at global responses to climate change, including lessons of lived experiences in South Africa and the United Kingdom. The second Webinar, which is envisaged for the 7th of November as part of the World Town Planning Day Celebrations will focus Implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the planning profession and preparedness of the planning profession to adapt to changes that come with AI.

The Webinars will foster meaningful discussions, encourage cross-border knowledge exchange, unearth research and innovation opportunities on planning practices to adapt to changing environment.

South African Planners, academics and students are encouraged to be on the lookout for invitations and more details on the envisaged insightful Webinars.

This partnership aims to enhance research and innovation in the planning profession through initiatives such as promoting planning initiatives and knowledge exchange amongst diverse groups, joint research projects, professional development programs, and establishing synergies and/or clear pathways to professional registration between **SACPLAN** and RTPI.

City of Cape Town Engineering, Project and Contract Management (EPCM) Forum

The City of Cape Town successfully hosted its first Engineering, Project, and Contract Management (EPCM) Forum on February 10-11, 2025, under the theme “Infrastructure, the Cape Town Way.”

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The event brought together multidisciplinary professionals to celebrate achievements, share good practices, and draw inspiration for future projects. The South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) represented professional planning in the built environment.

Deputy Mayor Alderman Eddie Andrews urged attendees to work smarter and collaboratively to deliver reliable, resilient, and effective infrastructure that addresses past injustices, supports urbanization and economic growth, and considers climate change impacts.

Keynote speaker Malani Padayachee-Saman, CEO of MPAMOT, emphasized the “Power of Diversity in Teams” and introduced the ‘FISTS’ concept for successful infrastructure planning: Future Proof, Integrated, Sustainable, Technologically Enhanced, and Society-centred.

Dr. Michelle Botha from the University of Stellenbosch highlighted the importance of inclusive and accessible infrastructure, advocating for policies and practices that consider disabilities and impairments.

On the second day, Gareth Morgan, Executive Director for Future Planning & Resilience, emphasized leadership, accountability, and continuous investment in capabilities as key differentiators for Cape Town. He highlighted the importance of addressing climate change, promoting diversity and inclusion, and celebrating professional excellence.

Deon van Zyl, Chairman of the Western Cape Property Developers’ Forum, challenged the audience to embrace technology and innovation to shape Cape Town’s future by 2050.

SACPLAN congratulates the City of Cape Town on this successful initiative.

University of Pretoria hosts inaugural Science and Engineering Open Day

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (NAS) and the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (EBIT) combined forces to host the first-ever Science and Engineering Open Day on Saturday, 8 March 2025.

Learners from Grades 8 to 12, as well as educators and guardians, could explore opportunities in science. The open day offered prospective students and their families a glimpse into the university’s vibrant academic and social life. The day showcased various faculties, research areas, and student activities, with the aim of providing an informative and engaging experience.



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The open day aimed to showcase the University of Pretoria's strengths, including its academic programs, research facilities, and student life.

Prospective students and their families had the opportunity to explore different faculties, attend presentations, and interact with current students and faculty members.

The open day featured exhibits and information sessions from various faculties, including engineering, natural and agricultural sciences, and the humanities.

SACPLAN had the pleasure of interacting with attendees at the UP open day and sharing with the students and their guardians the importance of planning and how everything starts with planning.

SACPLAN'S ADDRESS ON THE STATE OF THE PLANNING PROFESSION AT THE NATIONAL STATE OF SERVICE DELIVERY DIALOGUE

The National Planning Commission in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DALRRD) hosted the National State of Service Delivery Dialogue on 25 and 26 February 2025.

The purpose of this Dialogue was to deliberate on effective service delivery strategies to improve the state of service delivery in South Africa.

The **South African Council for Planners** (SACPLAN) was invited to present on the State of the Planning Profession in South Africa. This was a great opportunity to reflect on the important role Urban and Regional Planning should play in creating a capable developmental state, particularly balancing competing interests in a quest to create a sustainable human settlements. Settlements characterised by economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.



Given the history of apartheid and the current realities of inequality and poverty in South Africa, planning has the added task of addressing these challenges through spatial and socio-economic transformation. As the service delivery landscape evolves, so does the need for planning that prioritises the welfare of all South Africans. The planning profession assists in addressing inequality and social injustice with a focus on overcoming spatial and socio-economic inequalities that persist across urban and rural areas. The address emphasized the need for policies and plans to promote inclusivity and improve access to quality services.

Spatial planning focuses on medium to long-term planning for the infrastructural, social and environmental needs of society in general, and the public, private and community-based sectors.

The role of planning in environmental sustainability is more important and relevant than ever given recent climate change challenges. The service delivery address provided an understanding of how planning can promote sustainability and protect South Africa's rich natural heritage for future generations.

While there has been significant progress in improving service delivery, this is not without numerous challenges in the implementation processes. Successful service delivery depends not only on planning but also on collaborations. Planners, public and private stakeholders must work together to create viable solutions.

SACPLAN, as the statutory body responsible for regulating the planning profession under the Planning Profession Act, 2002 has recognised the need to gain insight into the state of the Planning Profession with an intention to enhance service delivery where systemic flaws and incompetencies are found. SACPLAN has embarked on an unprecedented study involving the compilation of a comprehensive State of the Planning Report. This initiative is central to SACPLAN 's mandate, given its regulatory role. The report seeks to document challenges and opportunities within the built environment that impact economic, social, and environmental outcomes in South Africa.



The study's objective is to re-engineer the planning profession and SACPLAN's business model where inefficiencies are identified, in accordance with the development principles in the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, read with the provisions of the Planning Profession Act.

It was highlighted that policies and governance structures also play a crucial role in shaping the future of the planning profession. However, the challenge lies in the implementation of key frameworks, which often requires adaptation to local contexts. The presentation highlighted the need to examine how policies are being executed at the grassroots level and what improvements can be made to enhance the impact of planning decisions.

SACPLAN is committed to continuous engagements and collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure that South Africa remains responsive to the needs of its people.

For contributions to the Newsletter, Bulletin and advertising please contact: Ms Mmatu Moloji
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