NEW SACPLAN COUNCIL

Foreword by Mr Khetha Zulu – SACPLAN Chairperson

Here is to wishing everyone a prosperous 2022!

As the Chairperson of SACPLAN for its new term, it gives me great pleasure to deliver on the first newsletter for the 2021-2025 term of office. The new SACPLAN Council, also known as SACPLAN 5 – being the fifth Council, that gets appointed every 4 years for our profession, was appointed by the Honourable Ms Angela Thokozile Didiza, the Minister for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on 24 November 2021. SACPLAN held its inaugural meeting on 2 February 2022. In this newsletter you can read more about who the new Council members are and Council’s focus for the next 4 years.

On behalf of the Council, I wish to express my sincere condolences to every member who lost their loved ones during the tough 2 years that we have just been through. We also pay our respect to urban planners we lost during this time. We can only hope that the current indications of the situation getting better do not regress.

During its Council meeting held on March 2022, SACPLAN 5 adopted new Vision, Mission and Values statements.

With the Vision “A Regulatory and Transformative Council that advances Spatial Transformation, Sustainability, Redress and Societal Impact,” we are looking forward to our term of office to achieve this new vision. You can read more on the SACPLAN’s Vision, Mission and Core Values in this newsletter.
We have also set for ourselves six (6) Priority Areas that we will be working towards during this term of office. These are: **Priority 1** - Improve the financial sustainability of Council to enable proper functioning and strengthen and support governance and administration; **Priority 2** - Finalise identification of work for planners; **Priority 3** - Strengthen marketing, public relations and communication of the planning profession including broadening networking, forging partnerships, and effective stakeholder engagement; **Priority 4** - Improve Planning Capacity through research, skills development, and training; **Priority 5** – Transform Planning Education and Practice (RFQ, RPL, CPD, Transformation Plans); and **Priority 6** - Improve the implementation of statutory requirements (accreditation, registration, disciplinary).

Council acknowledges the dissatisfaction that urban planners have out there with regards to recognition, the protection of the profession and therefore value being added by the Council. This is an appeal to all qualified urban and regional planners to give the Council a chance, and that we all do our part to build our Council and therefore our profession. Let us appreciate that SACPLAN, as we know it today, is a product of the 2002 Planning Profession Act, and that the Council only started to take shape from 2010/2011 and that it has not been an easy road. Voting by not registering or not keeping your membership up to date is the worst thing one can do to the profession right now. The Council needs every support, both ideas and membership fees if we are to eventually play the central role in the development matters of this country, development of the profession and the protection of both the members and the public. Therefore, please play your part in building your profession and your future.

Part of the professionalisation of our space is ensuring that only duly qualified planners do spatial planning, and this is where SACPLAN 5 is building on the work done by SACPLAN 4. Accordingly, the intention is to continue with the rollout of CPD programmes. However, in addition, we are at the final stages to engage municipalities with regards to the principle of spatial planning work by qualified planners, hence we are working together with SALGA in this regard. Relevant departments and Offices of the Premier have been engaged on the same principle and that is still work in progress. We are also finalising the Rules on the Identification of Planning Profession Work and will be further communicating in this regard. We have introduced expiry dates on certificates and a web-based database on planners in good standing. The rules and engagements with departments and Premiers are out of appreciating that the PPA amendment process is going at a snail’s pace. It should be noted though that the amendment process is not within our control as SACPLAN but that of the department. We are, however, fast-tracking these other measures which are within our control to have them in place pending the finalisation of the amendment of the Act.

During the month of June, we will be celebrating Youth Day and Youth month. As part of this celebration, we have issued a Call for nominations for participation in the Top 30 Young Planning Professionals for 2022 Awards. We will therefore be celebrating our Young Planning Professionals who are continuing to be effective in taking our profession forward. The Top 30 Young Planning Professionals will be celebrated during the month of June 2022 as indicated above.

This newsletter covers a range of interesting issues deemed of interest and informative to you. Let me highlight just two of them:

Smart Cities have dominated the planning discourse in the recent past. As a result, we thought it is prudent that we include here an article on the DCoG Framework to Drive Building of SA New Smart Cities.

Cabinet has also approved the draft NSDF for implementation. The framework seeks to deal with the eradication of the colonial and apartheid spatial legacies in an orderly and coordinated manner. It provides a long-term spatially focused developmental approach towards planning and a land use management system.

Happy Reading
INTRODUCING SACPLAN 5

The new SACPLAN Council was appointed on 24 November 2021

The new SACPLAN Council, also known as SACPLAN 5 was appointed by the Honourable Ms Angela Thokozile Didiza, the Minister for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on 24 November 2021. SACPLAN held its inaugural meeting on 2 February 2022.

Mr Khethukuthula (Khetha) Zulu (Chairperson)
PPA Section: Rural Municipality (Section 4(1)(c))
Employed at: Ray Nkonyeni Municipality

Ms Sibusisiwe Ngcobo (Deputy Chairperson)
PPA Section: Community (Section 4(1)(e))
Employed at: Hlahlinelela Management Strategies

Ms Mphoentle Halenyane (Alternate Chairperson)
PPA Section: Urban Municipality (Section 4(1)(c))
Employed at: Rustenburg Local Municipality

Ms Nkhensani Khosa
PPA Section: DALRRD (Section 4(1)(a))
Employed at: Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)

Mr Tukisetso Kopele
PPA Section: DALRRD (Section 4(1)(a))
Employed at: Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)

Ms Helena Jacobs
PPA Section: Provincial Government (Section 4(1)(b))
Employed at: Department Environmental Affairs and Development Planning – Western Cape Province
Prof James Chakwizira
PPA Section: Education
(Section 4(1)(d))
Employed at: North West University (NWU)

Ms Angela Mahopo
PPA Section: Private Practice
(Section 4(1)(f))
Employed at: Phemo Town Planning and Property Development Consultancy

Prof. Mfaniseni Sihlongonyane
PPA Section: Education
(Section 4(1)(d))
Employed at: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)

Mr Tshepo Monakedi
PPA Section: Community
(Section 4(1)(e))
Employed at: Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs – Limpopo Province

Ms Prashina Mohangi
PPA Section: Community
(Section 4(1)(e))
Employed at: South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

Prof Hangwelani Hope Magidimishia-Chipungu
PPA Section: Education
(Section 4(1)(d))
Employed at: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)

Ms Manako Matemane
PPA Section: Private Practice
(Section 4(1)(f))
Employed at: Tshimologo Consulting

Prof. James Chakwizira
PPA Section: Education
(Section 4(1)(d))
Employed at: North West University (NWU)

Prof Hangwelani Hope Magidimishia-Chipungu
PPA Section: Education
(Section 4(1)(d))
Employed at: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)

Ms Prashina Mohangi
PPA Section: Community
(Section 4(1)(e))
Employed at: South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

Ms Manako Matemane
PPA Section: Private Practice
(Section 4(1)(f))
Employed at: Tshimologo Consulting
Meet the new SACPLAN Appeal Board

Ms Ndivhuo Rabuli
(Chairperson)
PPA Section: (Section 24(2)(b))
Employed at: National Consumer Tribunal

Mr Nhlanhla Nelwamondo
(Deputy Chairperson)
PPA Section: (Section 24(2)(a))
Employed at: Ivan Pauw and Partners

Ms Samantha Lee
(Alternate Chairperson)
PPA Section: (Section 24(2)(a))
Employed at: Department Human Settlements – Western Cape Province

Mr Dane Leo
PPA Section: (Section 24(2)(a))
Employed at: Urban Solution

Mr Peter-John (PJ) Veldhuizen
PPA Section: (Section 24(2)(b))
Employed at: Gillan and Veldhuizen Inc

SACPLAN HAS JOINED INSTAGRAM!

Instagram Link: https://www.instagram.com/sacplan1/
Vision, Mission and Core Values

During a Strategic Planning Session held in February 2022, the members of SACPLAN 5 deliberated on the current vision. The Vision statement is the anchor point of SACPLAN 5’s strategic plan. It outlines what SACPLAN 5 would like to ultimately achieve and gives purpose to the existence of SACPLAN.

The mission statement for SACPLAN is defined as an action-based statement that declares the purpose of SACPLAN and how SACPLAN wishes to serve its customers. The mission Maps out how the Vision of SACPLAN is going to be achieved.

The SACPLAN Core Values are guided by Section 3 of the Planning Profession Act, 2002 (Act 36 of 2002). The values describe the interrelationship between and within SACPLAN and the interrelationship between these values and the people SACPLAN serve. As such it describes the business practices applied and values placed on certain principles. These values act as principles for individuals and SACPLAN.

SACPLAN core values support the Council’s vision and shape its culture. Council values are the beliefs, philosophies, and principles that drives its business.
STATEMENT BY SACPLAN

April 2022 Floods - KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

The province of KwaZulu-Natal was ravaged by severe floods from the 11-13 April 2022. The media have reported these floods as the worst the province has seen with the loss of lives climbing each day and getting very close to the 500 mark. There has also been a tremendous loss to property, business, infrastructure and the natural environment.

As the South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) we wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the people of KZN for their loss and we pledge our support as the sector to contribute to the rebuilding of the province. We believe as SACPLAN that our members have the necessary skills sets and capabilities to contribute to the rebuilding of the province. Members of SACPLAN are called upon to avail themselves to provide support wherever possible and where they have been requested to do so. As the province continues to undertake their assessment relating to the damages caused by the floods, Planners are encouraged to avail themselves and their expert knowledge wherever possible. Members can indicate their availability directly with the CEO of SACPLAN by emailing mlewis@sacplan.co.za. Let us take this opportunity to join hands, our country needs us now!

The long-term impact of these floods on the built environment and its management is huge. We urgently need a reflective engagement on how as a country we have managed the built environment in the post-Apartheid South Africa. This is more so if we consider all the predictions of the impact of climate change on our country in general as well as it’s eastern seaboard. We trust that this engagement can happen sooner as some of the decisions will assist greatly even in the short-term responses dealing with the aftermath of the recent disaster.

Do you want to contribute to the SACPLAN Newsletter?

Published submissions counts for CPD points under Focus Area 3.10

Submission Deadline: 10 June 2022

For more information or to submit your submissions please contact:
Mr Martin Lewis at planner@sacplan.co.za
SACPLAN reminds members to submit their CPD Scorecards

Professional Planners and Technical Planners are reminded to submit your CPD Scorecard submission by the due dates.

Every registered Professional Planner or Technical Planner needs to earn 75 points cumulatively over a 3-year cycle. The minimum number of points every registered Professional Planner or Technical Planner are required to accumulate during a year is 25 points, provided that where a registered Professional Planner or Technical Planner has already met the minimum of 25 points during a year due to carry over, the planner must do a CPD activity(ies) of a minimum of 5 points during that year. This is to ensure that at least one CPD activity is done per year.

A Professional Planner or Technical Planner will be allowed to carry a maximum of 25 points from one 3-year cycle to the next 3-year cycle.

Every registered Professional Planner or Technical Planner must do at least one ethics course within the 3-year cycle. In addition, every registered Professional Planner or Technical Planner must do at least one law course within the 3-year cycle.

Registered persons will be required to submit information on the CPD Scorecard by 30 January each year (for persons that have registered before 31 March 2018). All persons that register after 1 April 2018 must submit their information on the CPD Scorecard within 30 days following their registration anniversary date. Please visit the Events Calendar on the SACPLAN Website for future submission dates.

Please note that you need to complete and submit the CPD Scorecard only. You can email the completed scorecard to planner@sacplan.co.za. You should keep the evidence with you and only once audited on your submission do you need to submit the evidence.

In terms of the SACPLAN CPD Policy “Candidate Planners are not required to report on the CPD activities attended as part of the CPD reporting process.” Candidate Planners will include this as part of their Practical Training report submitted when submitting an application for registration with SACPLAN as a Technical Planner or Professional Planner.

For any Financial queries please email:
accounts@sacplan.co.za

For Candidate Planner or Candidate Student Planner applications queries please email:
Lhlongwa@sacplan.co.za

For Technical Planner and Professional Planner application queries please email:
Smaponyane@sacplan.co.za

For General queries or request for information please email:
planner@sacplan.co.za

You can now login to the SACPLAN website to update our information online and to download you new Registration Certificate.
NEW SACPLAN REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

Your SACPLAN Registration Certificate can now be accessed Online

As from 1 April 2020 SACPLAN is issuing new registration certificates. Here are some of the features of the New Certificate. The new SACPLAN Certificate is available from the SACPLAN Website once you logged in. It also serves as confirmation of good standing (please see the wording on the certificate). SACPLAN will therefore not be issuing Letters of Good standing anymore.

Please note that registered planners can now also login to the SACPLAN website at www.sacplan.org.za to update their personal information online. If it is the first time you login you will have to request access and follow the process.

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

Issued in terms of Section 13(4) of the Planning Profession Act, 2002 (Act 36 of 2002)

This is to Certify that

John Doe

ID number: 0000000000000

is registered as a

Professional Planner

in terms of the Planning Profession Act, 2002 and is authorised to act as such in accordance with the said Act and the Rules prescribed thereunder.

Issued under the Seal of the Council

Chairperson

Registrar

REGISTRATION NUMBER: A/9999/9999

Date of Issue: 13-05-2020

The registered person remains in good standing with SACPLAN for the period ending as stipulated herein.

This certificate is valid until: 30-06-2020

Certificate Verification Number: 34jerkj843hfdfwei4843239sdfjserj34232dsfas

Name of Registered Person

ID Number

Category of Registration

New Seal

Indication that person is in Good Standing

Certificate Validity Period

Certificate Verification Number
DCoG FRAMEWORK TO DRIVE BUILDING SA NEW SMART CITIES

DCoG has adopted the Smart Cities Framework

By Ms Stefanie Mills Chetty – Director Urban Policy Development and Management – National Department of Cooperative Governance.

The Department of Cooperative Governance has committed to adopt the Smart Cities Framework (SCF) to facilitate and guide the building of new smart cities in South Africa. One of the new planned smart cities is the Eastern Seaboard Development in the Wild Coast between the Eastern Cape Port St John’s town and KwaZulu-Natal’s Margate town.

The DCoG Directorate of Urban Policy Development and Management shared details of the framework at the National Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Forum held on 17 November 2021.

The South African SCF has been developed by DCoG to provide municipalities; national and provincial government; private sector; civil society; and other role players with factual information about smart cities in South Africa. The SCF supports DCoG in its efforts to guide and coordinate smart city initiatives planned and implemented throughout the country.

“The South African SCF has been developed by DCoG to provide municipalities; national and provincial government; private sector; civil society; and other role players with factual information about smart cities in South Africa.”

It further assists in establishing a common understanding of smart cities in a South African context and outlines a set of principles to guide decision-making for smart cities. Critical issues are highlighted to outline initial steps to be taken when identifying, planning and implementing smart city initiatives.

Any smart city initiative should contribute to the well-being of ordinary city dwellers and support the broad national vision for human settlements outlined in, among others, the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF).
The SCF shares learning on the potential contribution of smart cities as well as the perceived limitations of these types of interventions. It further emphasises the critical characteristics of South African cities and towns that need to be considered when planning and implementing smart city initiatives. The unique South African context calls for local and tailor-made interventions to develop settlements that are not only smart but also inclusive.

## Factors for Planning and Implementing Smart Cities Initiative

These are important factors that must inform the planning and implementation of smart cities initiatives:

- The nature and purpose of a proposed smart city initiative. The understanding of the nature and purpose of a proposed smart city initiative is critical to fully comprehend the role and impact of the particular initiative within the wider city.

- Alignment of smart city initiatives with existing planning and operations is important. The likelihood of a smart city initiative to succeed depends on alignment with existing plans and initiatives in the municipality. The Inter-governmental relation (IGR) is an important link to the national and provincial government and entities.

- Sharing of smart city experiences is important. Smart city initiatives should be enhanced by peer learning, however, appropriate customisation is necessary.

## Supporting the implementation of SCF

In order to have an impact, the SCF needs to be applied in practice. Municipalities will require support from DCoG, provinces, SALGA and other national departments to implement the framework. The support can involve assistance with assessments to establish a municipality’ smart-readiness; development of a local smart city strategy; and the planning and implementation of smart city initiatives.

A capacity building programme to empower local government officials, councillors and other role players have an added value in the appropriate implementation of the framework. In addition, a platform needs to be provided for the sharing of smart city learning amongst all role players. This assist in creating a strong learning culture, establishing communities of practice and building the national capacity for smart city planning and implementation.

*For more information the following documentation can be accessed here:*

*A South African Smart Cities Framework – A decision-making framework to guide the development of smart cities in South Africa*
DRAFT NATIONAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Approved for Implementation

During the Cabinet Meeting held on 23 March 2022, Cabinet approved the draft NSDF for implementation. It was prepared in terms of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act 16 of 2013) and approved for public consultation in 2019. Inputs were obtained from various stakeholders, including professional bodies, all spheres of government, SOEs and members of the public.

“The National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) is a strategic long-term spatial plan towards 2050. The NSDF is legally mandated by the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (SPLUMA), and has to be aligned with the 2030-National Development Plan (NDP).”

The framework seeks to deal with the eradication of the colonial and apartheid spatial legacies in an orderly and coordinated manner. It provides a long-term spatially focused developmental approach towards planning and a land use management system. The document will be accessible through the website of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (www.dalrrd.gov.za).

1 Statement on the Cabinet Meeting of 23 March 2022 – access here.
Politics and Community-Based Research: Perspectives from Yeoville Studio, Johannesburg provides a textured analysis of a contested urban space that will resonate with other contested urban spaces around the world and challenges researchers involved in such spaces to work in creative and politicised ways. This edited collection is built around the experiences of Yeoville Studio, a research initiative based at the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Through themed, illustrated stories of the people and places of Yeoville, the book presents a nuanced portrait of the vibrance and complexity of a post-apartheid, peri-central neighbourhood that has often been characterised as a ‘slum’ in Johannesburg. These narratives are interwoven with theoretical chapters by scholars from a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds, reflecting on the empirical experiences of the Studio and examining academic research processes. These chapters unpack the engagement of the Studio in Yeoville, including issues of trust, the need to align policy with lived realities and social needs, the political dimensions of the knowledge produced and the ways in which this knowledge was, and could be used.

“This book is not only an exciting analysis of a mythical neighbourhood of Johannesburg and of informal lifestyle ’hoods and practices that are part of the metropolis fabric. It is also a powerful testimony to how research can become a political weapon when it is built in interaction and debate with communities’ voices.”

– Marie-Hélène Bacqué, professor, Urban Studies, Paris-Ouest-Nanterre University

Edited by: Co-edited by Claire Bénit-Gbaffou, Sarah Charlton, Sophie Didier, Kirsten Dörmann

Free download at: https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/51023

Publisher: Wits University Press

Publication date and place: Johannesburg, 2019

Dedicated website for the book’s additional material: https://www.wits.ac.za/yeovillestudio/
URBAN RESETTLEMENTS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Lived Experiences of Housing and Infrastructure between Displacement and Relocation

Urban Resettlements in the Global South provides new perspectives on resettlement through an urban studies lens. To date, resettlement has been theorised through development studies and refugee studies, but urban resettlement is also a major dimension of urban development in the Global South and may help to rethink contemporary urban dynamics between spectacular new town developments and rising incidences of eviction and displacement. Conceptualising resettlement as a binding notion between production/regeneration and destruction/demolition of urban space helps to illuminate interdependencies and to underline significant ambiguities within affected people's perspectives towards resettlement projects. This volume will offer an interesting selection of ten different case studies with rich empirical data from Latin America, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia, focused on each stage of resettlement (before, during, after relocation) through different timescales. By offering a frame for analysing and rethinking resettlement within urban studies, it will support any scholar or expert dealing with resettlement, displacement, and housing in an urban context, seeking to improve housing and planning policies in and for the city.

"Urban resettlement, a silent phenomenon in the Global South, is given real light and insightful analyses. The destruction, production, and re-production of urban spaces underlie the process of urbanisation and urban development in the Global South yet given less attention in both theory and practice. This is certainly a captivating and a must-read book for both urban practitioners and theorists."

- George Owusu, Professor of Urban Geography, Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER) and Dean, School of Social Sciences, University of Ghana, Ghana

Edited by: Co-edited by Raffael Beier, Amandine Spire, Marie Bridonneau


Publisher: Routledge

Publication date: 2021
Volume 3 of the Sustainability Handbook is out now. Please see the below links for easy access.

The handbook has been uploaded to the Adobe Server at: https://indd.adobe.com/view/63f12fa7-6911-4638-9d45-ca008a2c17df

It is also available on the website: http://sustainability-handbook.alive2green.co.za/current-issue/

YOUR PROFESSION

a word from the profession

DID YOU KNOW?

Facts that are stranger than fiction

Following the very strange and unique circumstances associated with the Covid-19 lockdown measures and associated frustrations, rumour has it that our woes may be nearing the end .... but it remains nothing more than a rumour.

The groundswell of expectations which focus on improved circumstances and returning to a semblance of normality must however be measured against a number of often astounding new facts and circumstances which face the planning profession.

A PLANNED PLANNING HOUSE ... I KID YOU NOT!

Whilst the purported home of the planning profession languishes in the oddly described National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) in its capacity as the much vaunted custodian of SPLUMA and associated policies, the Gauteng Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) is rumoured to be throwing money at selecting an appropriate site for what is loosely described as the “Gauteng City Region” Planning House. The purpose? Whilst this remains to be confirmed, current

“Considering that neither DALRRD nor COGTA is primarily concerned with spatial planning and land use management matters, this initiative appears oddly out of sequence, given the host of other priorities and challenges which confront planning and development. Watch this space for further news!”
information suggests that this new fangled creature will:

- be the bastion of urban planning principles and tenets aimed at achieving integrated and sustainable settlements;
- be the first Afropolitan Project in SA;
- be the platform from which to step into the 4th Industrial Revolution; and
- serve as a bridge between government and the public in regard to planning, integrating infrastructure development and to serve as an interactive space to showcase what Gauteng has to offer.

Considering that neither DALRRD nor COGTA is primarily concerned with spatial planning and land use management matters, this initiative appears oddly out of sequence, given the host of other priorities and challenges which confront planning and development. Watch this space for further news!

POST COVID-LEGACY

Restrictions imposed as a result of Covid induced circumstances are being eased on a global scale. South Africa has been slow in coming forward and the national state of disaster remains in limbo (for the time-being). Not surprising is the fact that many government officials responsible for tasks associated with the land development planning matters, cling doggedly to often incomprehensible and outdated rotational schedules.

In practical terms, this simply means that a typical 5 day working week has been relegated to, at best, 3 days. The responsible officials spend the balance of the working week at home and, although modern technology suggests that out of office work is entirely possible, it appears not to apply to those on rotation.

The result? Long and frustrating delays associated with bringing much needed development to fruition, hampering the economy and exacerbating an increasingly strained relationship between private sector and government participants. When will it end?

MOVING FORWARD ... BUT NOT!

The capital city of South Africa (Tshwane), purportedly one of the largest municipal areas in the world, is practically divided into various functional regions, also in regard to matters pertaining to spatial planning and land use management.

It has been widely reported that, for reasons which remain somewhat vague, municipal officials responsible for 3 of the functional regions (as far as planning matters go), will be relocating to a new building a few blocks away from the old building known as Isivuno House. By the way, in isiZulu Isivuno means “harvest”, or “yields”, or “crops”. All positively constructive descriptions of a focus on growth/development ... sadly, this remains a fallacy.

The purported move was reported to commence at the end of 2021 and for reasons unknown, has not been completed. The result? A wholesale breakdown of communications, a veritable standstill in regard to land development applications, extended delays in regard to much needed new development and the consequential negative impact on an economy which can barely afford further hits to the head. Who are the responsible parties?

THE RISING UP OF THE “TICK BOX” GENERATION

The new order land use schemes and municipal by-laws on spatial planning and land use management typically include various schedules in the form of checklists, containing a number of tick boxes. The schedules
typically indicate what documentation should accompany a land development application.

The generic term “land development application” has conflated all types of applications into a single description. In the absence of applying a certain level of logic in regard to the specific circumstances of an application, it runs the real risk of the tick boxes dictating that a number of often expensive “specialist reports” must (mandatory) be submitted to render the land development application fully compliant.

The problem lies in what appears to be a growing inability of certain municipal officials to distinguish between what is reasonably necessary (for proper evaluation of the matter) and what is merely an item on the checklist.

In recent times this has resulted in often astounding requirements from certain municipal officials. Here are a few highlights:

• A stormwater management plan was demanded for an application for consent to use part of an existing residential dwelling for a place of childcare. The extent of the potential development on the land will not change and the zoning will not be amended. How can a stormwater management plan be justified under such circumstances? For what possible purpose?

• In the same example an acoustic impact study was demanded. This, against the reality that a preschool facility will operate during normal business hours 5 days a week. When peace and quite is required in a residential suburb (typically after business hours and on public holidays) the facility will not be operative. How can an acoustic impact study be justified under such circumstances? What will the results of the study be used for?

• In a similar example, the application was delayed because the relevant official demanded that a conveyancer’s certificate be provided. On a simple reading of the conditions of title, the implications thereof relevant to the intended change of use (or additional use) should be evident. However, because the checklist provides for a conveyancer’s certificate, the official followed suit.

"Apart from our courts, there are no recognizable bodies beyond the municipal appeal authorities that play an objective oversight role."

The above are a few of the matters which, of late, served to complicate the land development process, add costs thereto, to unnecessarily delay matters and exacerbate frustrations. The good intentions of SPLUMA and related legislative instruments to seek out ways to facilitate development and to foster a developmental approach by decision making authorities have clearly taken the proverbial backseat in the wake of the rise of the tick box generation.

**LACK OF OVERSIGHT: TIME FOR AN OMBUD?**

Our constitutional model suggests that municipalities are the decision makers of first instance when it comes to spatial planning and land use management. Apart from our courts, there are no recognizable bodies beyond the municipal appeal authorities that play an objective oversight role. The majority of the municipal appeal authorities cannot conceivably qualify as being reasonably objective.

Has the time not come to introduce a form of Ombudsman – a new platform where decision making in the municipal sphere on spatial planning and land use management matters may be presented for objective oversight? Perhaps the planned Planning House may be the ideal seat?
The latest version of the Town and Regional Planning Journal (Vol. 79 (2021)) (peer-reviewed academic literature) is now available electronically.

Following a call for papers that were sent, a total of eight (8) articles were received. These articles were generated by a total of 13 Authors. A total of six (6) articles were approved for publication.

These articles were written by Authors from the following Countries:

South Africa  Ghana
Nigeria  Zimbabwe

To access this issue of the Town and Regional Planning Journal, or any of the previous issues, please visit the link in the SACPLAN Website (with a link to https://journals.ufs.ac.za/index.php/trp/issue/archive).

JOURNAL CONTENT:

EDITORIAL:
- From the guest editor (Magidimisha, H.H.)

COMMENTARY:

ARTICLES:
- Tsoriyo, W., Ingwani, E., Chakwizira, J., & Bikam, P. (2021). Vendor and pedestrian experiences of their ‘right to the city’ in street design and management in small urban centres in the Vhembe District, South Africa. Town and Regional Planning, 79, 6-17. DOI: https://doi.org/10.18820/2415-0495/trp791.3

BOOK REVIEWS:
PLANNING CONGRESS 2022

Click on image to go to Congress website

THEME: OPPORTUNITY IN CRISIS - TIME FOR A CHANGE

3rd CONFERENCE OF PLANNING STUDENTS AND YOUNG GRADUATES

3-5 October 2022
Johannesburg / University of Johannesburg / South Africa

"Spatial Planning, Urban Development Challenges/Opportunities, Resilience and Smart Cities with focus on 4IR"

KEY THEMES: The conference aims to discuss broad range of topics but not limited to following key themes: Sustainable Cities; Smart Cities with 4IR; Integrated Urban Planning; Urban and Rural Development / Migrations; Urban Governance & Management; City Regions; e-Governance; Smart Infrastructure; Green Infrastructure; City Performance & Indicators; Building Codes; Services Delivery Challenges; Human Settlements; Inclusive Participation & Development; Informality & Housing Challenge; De-Colonial Cities; Climate Change & Adaptations / Disaster Management.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Abstract Submission: 10 May 2022
Acceptance Notification: 20 July 2022
Full Paper Submission: 1 September 2022
Acceptance Notification: 23 September 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK HERE
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