

Joint Statement

October 2010

The South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) and the South African Planning Institute (SAPI) are committed to working more closely together in the interest of building a strong urban and regional planning and management skills base for the country.

Both organizations met in Durban on 12 September 2010 prior to the Planning Africa Conference. SAPI was represented by its new executive committee which included Mr. Yusuf Patel (President), Ms Nthato Gobodo (Vice President) and Ms Maartje Weyers (Treasurer). SACPLAN was represented by its new leadership including Ms Nontsundu Ndonga (Chairperson), Mr. Tshisa Madima (Deputy Chairperson), and Mr. Martin Lewis (Chief Executive).

SACPLAN is the statutory body that regulates the Planning Profession and **SAPI is a voluntary representative association** of Planners. In fulfilling their respective mandates, both organizations will benefit from supporting each other to ensure that the quantity, quality and continuing professional development of Planners meet the development requirements of the country and satisfies the needs and aspirations of individual planning professionals, technicians and associates.

Planning is a cornerstone for development in South Africa. The current challenges in the management of the **Planning Profession** have to therefore be addressed urgently. In this regard the following progress is noted and commitment made:

1. Definition and regulation of Work Reserved for Registered Planners and the drafting of the Rules and Regulations for the Planning Profession Act , 2002 (Act 36 of 2002) (PPA)

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has appointed a consultant to assist with speeding up and resolving the regulation of this matter.

SACPLAN will be taking the process of the Standards Generating Body further too eventually feed into the development of Continued Professional Development (CPD) programmes, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) as well as programmes and qualifications offered by Higher Educational Institutions.

The process also requires effective participation and inputs from Planners to shape its outcome. SAPI will continue to inform and mobilize its membership to contribute to the process.

The progress with regard to work reservation will determine the speed at which a CPD framework can be approved and implemented.

2. Registration of Planners

SACPLAN is committed to streamline processes and speed up registration of Planners. Currently there is no backlog of applications but there are a range of challenges including:

- Limited number of mentors available to sign off on work done by applicants
- More information needs to be made available to young planners on how they can manage the transition from qualification to professional registration and better communication about the Planning Profession Act 2002, (Act 36 of 2002).
- A number of applications from Planners with foreign qualifications. SACPLAN adopted an Interim Policy for facilitating the registration of applicants with Foreign Qualifications in Planning.
- Applications being submitted where there have been miscalculations of the experience, persons submitting applications that have not been signed by registered planners especially those working in municipalities that do not have such persons, and generally applications that are submitted incomplete. The Policy Guidelines relating to Arrangements for Registration of Professional/Technical Planners in Special Circumstances adopted by SACPLAN on 23 October 2009, was specifically developed to address the difficulty relating to the non-availability of registered persons. Although this Policy Guidelines will come to an end by 23 October 2010 Council will consider applications accompanied with a special request in this regard.

SACPLAN has reviewed and changed registration forms and will include on the website checklists to make it easier to apply. Timeframes and steps involved in the application will also be placed on the website including guidelines for the content that should be provided in the reports submitted by applicants.

SACPLAN meets on a quarterly basis and has a functional registration committee to assess and approve applications.

3. Administrative capacity of SACPLAN

SACPLAN now has a full time CEO to function more effectively. The Department has also appointed two officials to support SACPLAN.

SAPI remains committed to supporting SACPLAN at an administrative level. The CEO of SACPLAN will meet with the SAPI secretariat to discuss this matter further.

4. Structured Working Relations

SACPLAN and SAPI will meet regularly to track progress on the above matters and to ensure that issues raised by Planners and needs of the Profession are addressed. The Vice president of SAPI Ms Nthato Gobodo has also been appointed to serve on SACPLAN. This will also assist in coordination between the two organizations keeping in mind their respective mandates and responsibilities.

SAPI and SACPLAN urge all Planners, young and old and across the public, private and civil society sectors, to contribute in building the Profession and supporting each other in ensuring that Planning benefits society equitably and sustainably.

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