



# **SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION**

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## **NEWSLETTER NO. 3 OF 2012**

### **FEEDBACK FROM THE MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS MR TW NXESI**

On Friday 15 June 2012 SACLAP had the privilege of meeting with the Minister of Public Works Mr TW Nxesi, the new Deputy Minister, Mr Jeremy Cronin, officials from within the Department and the CBE Chairperson, Ms Portia Tau-Sekati.

The purpose of the meeting was as follows:

- To demonstrate to the Department what the profession of landscape architecture is all about.
- How can the profession contribute technically to the 'green agenda' and a 'better life for all'.
- What are some of the challenges the profession faces.
- What are some of the challenges SACLAP is facing.
- Highlights of the strategic plan.
- Action items that DPW and SACLAP are to address together in terms of ensuring that the profile of the profession can be lifted.

The outcome of the session was very positive:

- At the outset of the meeting the Minister stated that the Department realises that the profession has a very important role to play within the Built Environment.
- He commended SACLAP for having so many women on our Council and also within the profession and wanted to know why that is so.
- He questioned his own officials as to why the Department does not have any in-house landscape architectural professionals. How could a Department use the services of a profession but not have anyone in-house to ensure that the work completed is of the required quality?
- He drew attention to the fact that SACLAP is to continue to addressing the issue of transformation and challenged Council to do even better than what we currently are doing.
- He indicated that the Department and SACLAP should work together in establishing at least nine bursaries (in the first year), for a student from each province and specifically from rural areas, to study landscape architecture. He challenges the profession to assist in meeting the resourcing required for this in terms of experienced professionals to come forward to take hands with a student to ensure that he/she can excel in their studies, while the Department would then strive to address the financial responsibilities associated with such an exercise.
- The Minister expressed concern over the lack of and quality of mentoring in the Built Environment Professions overall.
- Governments agenda is to bring more development and in particular infrastructure development into the rural areas.
- The Minister made specific reference to the recently announced Presidential Infrastructure Programme (PIP), in which the profession needs to be represented and play an active role.
- He indicated that within the Department there are certain projects that need to be focused on such as the Parliamentary Villages, and he may request SACLAP to identify someone to be seconded to the Department for a period of six months. The nature and details of this secondment

are not clear at this stage – however if you would be interested please provide your name to Ms Bernadette Vollmer ([registrar@saclap.org.za](mailto:registrar@saclap.org.za)) together with a comprehensive CV.

- He undertook to make the other Government Departments, where landscape architects should be employed, aware of the profession as well as of the contribution that the profession can make to these departments. These include (broadly speaking) Tourism, Water Affairs, Environmental Affairs, Minerals and Energy, Human Settlement, Land Reform, etc.
- SACLAP has numerous items that the Minister's office has been requested to assist with namely:
  - Funding of the Council in a sustainable manner,
  - The replacement of our Council members that have resigned,
  - The resolution of the nomination process of new Council members,
  - Taking the new registration categories forward,
  - Appointing landscape architectural professionals within the Department,
  - Dealing with appointments of landscape architects and amending the internal fee structures to include the profession,
  - Marketing of the profession,
  - Confirmation of the support and funding of the IFLA Congress.

The Minister proposed that a task team consisting of two Department Officials and two SACLAP representatives be established to deal with the issues in an interactive manner with regular meetings to resolve the matters.

In terms of the way forward, SACLAP has proposed that Ms Bernadette Vollmer, Mr Neal Dunstan and Ms Ida-Marie Strydom (alternate) represent SACLAP at the task team that is to be formed. Ms Bernadette Vollmer will also actively follow up with the meeting representatives to continue to make inroads at the Department in terms of bringing to fruition what was discussed at the meeting.

A copy of the presentation that Ms Bernadette Vollmer delivered to the Minister can be found on the download page of the website.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### **GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

SACLAP is in the process of finalising the Annual Report. This will be available towards the end of August 2012.

### **PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION ISSUES**

Thank you to all Registered Professionals for paying (or making payment arrangements) their annual registration fees so promptly. This greatly assists SACLAP in carrying out its work.

The registration by review and results of the professional registration examinations will be out by the end of June 2012. To those who passed the professional registration examinations - well done! We look forward to you making your mark in the profession and trust that you will actively participate in the functioning of the Council as well as our voluntary association, ILASA.

### **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE MATTERS - CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

SACLAP has amended the policy as far as possible. Volunteers are requested to assist in the allocation of points to the various new activities for which CPD points can be accumulated. Please contact Bernadette Vollmer by email ([registrar@saclap.org.za](mailto:registrar@saclap.org.za)) if you are willing to assist in completing this process.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

A reminder that the recommended professional hourly rates were Gazetted last year and have been replaced by this years notice. A copy thereof is on the website. New fees were not Gazetted for 2012 as a fee determination process is to be undertaken by SACLAP as previously communicated.

A reminder that Registered persons are requested to **please participate** in this process of fee determination by volunteering to serve on a working group that is to work through the CBE framework in

order to ensure that the landscape architectural fees are determined in an appropriate manner. Please contact Bernadette Vollmer by email ([registrar@saclap.org.za](mailto:registrar@saclap.org.za)) if you are willing to assist as this process is to start shortly.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The accreditation of the landscape architecture programmes at the University of Pretoria took place on 29 and 30 March 2012 and the University of Cape Town on 18 and 19 April 2012.

The Committee would like to thank the panel members for their time and commitment to this task and the implementation of the revised accreditation process. The panel's assessment results will be made available towards the middle of the year.

### **COUNCIL MATTERS**

Victor Chetty, one of the State Representatives has resigned. SACLAP, through the Registrar, is working with the Department of Public Works to replace him.

Tania du Plessis, a representative from the profession, Vice President and Chairperson of the Registration Committee has also resigned. SACLAP wishes to thank her particularly for the valuable contributions made during her time on Council. SACLAP, through the Registrar, is working with the Department of Public Works to replace her as well.

Fatima Rawjee, one of the State Representatives that had also resigned is still in the process of being replaced by the Department of Public Works.

SACLAP will inform all of the Council member replacements as soon as the appointments have been made.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE REGISTRAR SHOULD YOU FEEL COUNCIL CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOU.**

**REGARDS**

**BERNADETTE VOLLMER**  
*REGISTRAR OF SACLAP*