

# SAPI

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### **SUBMISSION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN PLANNING INSTITUTE TO SAQA AT ITS REQUEST:**

### **PLANNING COMPETENCIES AS THEY RELATE TO WORK RESERVED FOR PLANNERS IN TERMS OF THE RESERVATION OF PLANNING WORK THAT SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED BY THE SA COUNCIL OF PLANNERS**

#### **1. Introduction:**

Section 16 of the Planning Profession Act (Act 26 of 2002) states that there should be a prescription on what work is to be reserved for planners. For convenient reference the relevant part of Section 16 is quoted below:

***"(1)The Council must consult with all voluntary associations and any person, body or industry determined by the Minister regarding the identification of certain areas of planning work to be reserved for registered persons, including work which may fall within the scope of any other profession.***

***(2)After such consultation, the Council must prescribe the areas of planning work to be reserved for each category of registered persons.***

***(3)A person who is not registered in terms of this Act, may not –***

***(a)perform any kind of work reserved for any category of registered person;***

***(b)pretend to be, or in any manner hold himself/herself out or allow himself or herself to be held out as, a person registered in terms of this Act; or***

***(c)use the name of any registered person or any name or title referred to in Section 13(1)."***

It follows, then, that planners need to be competent in those areas of work. In this regard there was a process which was previously initiated by SAQA which included Garth Klein, Alison Todes, Christine Platt and Ashraf Adam, amongst others. A number of competency areas were identified, but this process collapsed because of changes internal to SAQA. The most recent

document is that of Mr. Peter Dacomb prepared on behalf of the SA Council for Planners (SACPLAN) in 2006/07 which was intended to form the core of the required competencies. That document, referred to as The Reservation of Planning Work, outlines areas of work to be reserved for planners and was taken on a road show by SACPLAN in 2008. The Reservation of Planning Work document, therefore, is our point of departure.

Below are the identified areas of planning work (i.e. the "exclusive domain of planners) that should form the core competencies that SAQA is requesting. The others should form electives.

ITEM NO.	KEY ROLES	EXCLUSIVE DOMAIN OF PLANNERS	PARTIAL DOMAIN OF PLANNERS	SHARED DOMAIN WITH OTHER PROFESSIONS
1	National Spatial Development Plans	✓		
2	Regional Spatial Development Plans	✓		
3	Guideline Plans	✓		
4	Urban Structure Plans	✓		
5	Master Plans	✓		
6	Layout Plans (townships or sub-divisional areas)	✓		
7	Township establishment/establishment of development areas	✓		
8	Rezoning/amendment of Town Planning Schemes and special consent to depart/deviate/relax	✓		
9	Removal of restrictive conditions of title/servitudes in the context of land development (not in general)	✓		
10	Planning and land use surveys	✓		
11	Spatial location policy	✓		
12	Policy formulation (general)			✓
13	Planning research (general)		✓	
14	Transport and airport and rail planning		✓	
15	Spatial Development Frameworks	✓		
16	Spatial planning	✓		
17	Site Development Planning	✓		
18	Cemetery planning			✓
19	Spatial recreation and leisure planning	✓		
20	Tourism planning		✓	
21	Heritage planning			✓
22	Commercial and business facilities planning			✓
23	Safety and security planning			✓
24	Land Development Objectives (spatial component)	✓		
25	National Spatial Development Perspective		✓	
26	National Spatial Development Framework	✓		
27	Provincial Growth and Development Strategies		✓	
28	Provincial Spatial Development Frameworks	✓		
29	Integrated Development Plans		✓	
30	Municipal Spatial Development Frameworks (Municipal Systems Act)	✓		
31	Environmental Impact Assessment/Environmental Authorisation applications		✓	
32	Waste Management Planning		✓	
33	Integrated Human Settlements		✓	
34	Local Economic Development (LED)			✓
35	Land Use Management/ Control/Regulation	✓		
36	Energy Planning			✓
37	Water provision			✓
38	Integrated Transport Planning		✓	
39	Performance Management and Monitoring			✓

ITEM NO.	KEY ROLES	EXCLUSIVE DOMAIN OF PLANNERS	PARTIAL DOMAIN OF PLANNERS	SHARED DOMAIN WITH OTHER PROFESSIONS
	Systems			
40	Development research and evaluation			✓
41	Urban Renewal Projects	✓		
42	Rural Development Projects	✓		
43	Programme Development and Management			✓
44	Project Management/co-ordination		✓	
45	Feasibility Studies (property development)		✓	
46	Geographic Information Systems (GIS)		✓	

The strong spatial emphasis on the key roles which are generally regarded as the exclusive domain of planners are evident the summary provided above. It is recognised that this cannot be the last word on it and that some aspects might well be challenged by planners, but it is a good and logical starting point.

## 2. THE STATUTORY FRAMEWORK: PLANNING PROFESSIONS ACT, 2002 (ACT 36 OF 2002)

2.1 In terms of Section 2 of the Act, which deals with Planning Profession Principles, certain broad categories of work to be undertaken by planners are listed and should serve as the basis from which to develop more detailed descriptions for the purposes of formulating rules in terms of the Act. These broad categories are listed below:

- The delimitation, regulation and management of land uses;
- The organisation of service infrastructure, utilities, facilities and housing for human settlement;
- The co-ordination and integration of social, economic and physical sectors which comprise human settlements;
- Through the synthesis and integration of information for the preparation of strategic, policy, statutory and other development plans.

2.2 Certain fields of planning work are specifically recognised in the Act and may be summarised as the delimitation, regulation and management of land uses which may be described as including the:

- preparation and processing of new, revised or consolidated statutory land use management schemes or zoning schemes for any part of or the whole of a municipal jurisdiction as provided for in any Ordinance or Act or other statutory instrument controlling such matters;
- preparation, submission and processing of any application for the amendment of any provision of a statutory land use management or zoning scheme as provided for in any ruling legislation; and

- preparation, submission and processing of any application for the consent of any decision making authority authorised in the context of prevailing legislation to depart from or deviate from or relax any provisions of a statutory land use management or zoning scheme.

2.3 In the above context and referring to the colloquial description of “rezoning”, it is evident that only a Registered Professional Planner is suitably qualified both, academically and in the context of post-graduate training, to fully grasp the complexity of preparing a new, revised or consolidated town planning, zoning or land use management scheme through which land use rights will be entrenched in a statutory manner, relevant to each parcel of land within the defined boundaries of such scheme. Similarly, any amendment of any provision of such scheme by way of rezoning or through a process of procuring consent from the decision making authority can only be undertaken by a Professional Planner who must fully grasp the possible effect of the anticipated change/deviation/departure on the receiving environment, having regard to an array of integrated considerations within the land development context, ranging from traffic, engineering services, environmental considerations, aesthetic considerations, urban economy, feasibility, sustainability and the like.

Section 2(a)(ii) and (iii) provides for the following -

The organisation of service infrastructure, utilities, facilities and housing for human settlement; and

The co-ordination and integration of social, economic and physical sectors which comprise human settlements.

This may be described as including the:

- preparation, submission and processing of plans and documents as part of an application in terms of any statutory provision for the establishment of a new development area on undeveloped, underdeveloped or vacant land, to take the form of a new township, either in a rural or urban context, aimed at developing residential, industrial, commercial, business, recreational, tourist or related facilities capable of being registered by a deeds registry in the context of the Deeds Registries Act of 1937 or superseding legislation; and
- preparation, submission and processing of plans and documents as part of an application in terms of any statutory provision for the subdivision of urban or farm land so as to render such subdivided areas capable of registration in terms of Deeds Registries Act, 1937 or superseding legislation.

2.4 In the above context and referring to the colloquial description of “township establishment”, it is evident that only a Registered Professional Planner is appropriately qualified and experienced to fully grasp the complexity of properly assessing a development site and preparing a well informed layout, having regard to the many technical and legal requirements

of the controlling legislation and adhering to the principles of integrated development as enshrined in, inter alia, the Development Facilitation Act, 1995.

The planner is the only professional suitably trained to assess and plan for the spatial expansion and change of an urban or rural area, having regard to the multitude of considerations which inform spatial planning initiatives and the requirement to involve a multi-disciplinary team of experts to fully inform such interventions.

Section 2(a)(iv) provides for the following:

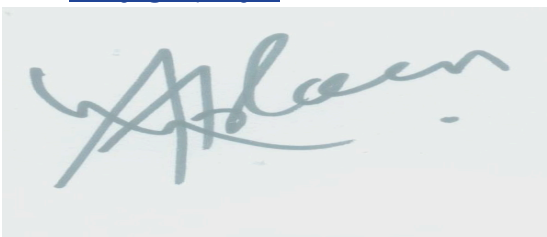
Through the synthesis and integration of information for the preparation of strategic policies, statutory and other development plans. This may be described as including the:

- preparation and processing of plans and documents as part of a process aimed at formulating new or revised policy guidelines for the development and management of areas for any part of or the whole of the area of jurisdiction of a municipality or group of municipalities to meet the statutory requirements for such policy guidelines as stipulated in the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) or superseding legislation; alternatively
- Development Facilitation Act, 1995 or superseding legislation with a view to having the relevant municipal or other authority pass a formal resolution to adopt a Spatial Development Framework or similar planning instrument in the context of such legislation.

### 3. CONCLUSION:

Considering the fact that work reserved for planners logically constitutes the core competencies which planners should have, SAPI endorses the Planning Competencies as outlined in the Table above as a point of departure. Accordingly, it is critical that SAQA consults existing documents already agreed to, before commissioning new studies. This document is being sent to members of the South African Planning Institute with a recommendation that further submissions should be made to SAQA by contacting:

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