



SAPI

MPUMALANGA

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MINUTES OF THE SAPI MPUMALANGA BRANCH AGM</u> <u>HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2009, HIPPO HOLLOW - HAZYVIEW</u></p>
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1. WELCOME

Everyone present was welcomed by Mr. Nic van der Merwe.

2. WAY FORWARD ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Each member present was requested to provide his / her comment to the speakers' presentations regarding rural development. The responses were as follows:

At present, agricultural land uses and rural development are seen as synonymous, but they must be differentiated and not seen as the same thing. We also realised that no one really knows what 'Rural Development' is and that we cannot easily define 'Rural Development'.

As province we need to define it to provincial government, but also to ensure that development takes place in an organised manner. Old homelands areas are in trouble and we have to assist Government to make sure that development takes place in an organised manner.

There must be better communication between National and Provincial Government and policies and legislation must be aligned. Urban and rural development must be developed alongside each other and not separate.

We as Town Planners need to take hands (Private and Government Sector) and we do not need to wait for each other. We should begin perhaps with a definition of Rural Development.

Economic aspects must also be taken into consideration in dealing with Rural Development. We have to look at strong points in each area and look at needs of people in such areas as well.

Rural Development feels like candy floss, once you get hold of it, it is sticky. We need to define it otherwise we will move in circles. Local Municipalities will determine the end result of rural development.

What we learn in school is not applicable anymore. We have to look at the cultural side of developments as well. We have to listen to the people: do they want development and what development do they want.

There is still a lot of work to be done. We must also get the Department of Land Affairs' comments and find out what they require.

Professional planners are required to ensure that planning is done properly.

We as planners must study this further and discuss it at the next meeting. We must make sure that we do not make the same mistakes over and over.

The authors of rural development legislation and policies have certain ideas, but sometimes miss the whole point of rural development.

The names chosen for rural development policies might also be discriminatory. Perhaps 'rural development' should be renamed 'sustainable development'.

Education is important to ensure that people know that change can be positive and not always negative.

3. JOB RESERVATION

We heard from Peter Dacomb that it is important to register as Professional Town Planners. The general public needs to be protected against wrong advice or decisions taken by less qualified Town Planners and therefore is it important to register as a Professional Town Planner.

We need to take responsibility for our profession and need to discuss this at our next meeting.

The presentation of Peter Dacomb will be circulated to members present at AGM.

....DALA would like to make a presentation to SAPI and at the next Mpumalanga Meeting regarding the structures of the Municipal Planning Units and their function.

4. National Board Meeting and AGM feedback

The Chairperson gave feedback on the SAPI National Board meeting and indicated the Agenda points of the National AGM held on 12 November 2009

Summary of the minutes will be on the SAPI website.

Only 33% of Mpumalanga members are paid up for the 2009/2010 fin year. Special efforts will be made to get members to pay membership fees.

The new committee was elected:

Chairperson:	Heila Meintjes
Vice Chairperson:	Titus Masuku
Treasurer:	Nic van der Merwe
Secretary:	Johannes Mdluli
Training and mentor:	Tiaan Kleynhans

5. CLOSING

Nic van der Merwe thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

6. DINNER

Some of the members enjoyed a very nice dinner next to the Sabie River with spectacular views of wild hippos in the river. Unfortunately they did not come out to graze on the river bank.