

Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa

Advancing environmental assessment practice in South Africa



EAPASA NEWSLETTER

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First Inaugural GM Held on 17 November 2020



EAPASA held its first General Meeting (GM) as a Professional Body on 17 November 2020 at Premier Hotel Midrand. The event was attended by various dignitaries including the Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Ms Makhotso Maggie Soty, SACNASP CEO Dr Pradish Rampersadh, IAIAA President Ms Abulele Adams, Mr Jacob Nel from SAQA, CEO of Black Business Council (BBC) Mr Kganki Matabane, SACAP Registrar Mr Toto Fiduli and Gauteng EAP Forum Chairperson Ms Zanele Phoku.

A limited number of people were permitted to attend physically due to COVID -19 Regulations while others joined the General Meeting virtually.

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The Chairperson of the EAPASA Board Ms Snowy Makhudu welcomed all the distinguished guests and delivered the Chairperson's Report. Ms Makhudu highlighted on the impact of COVID -19 globally, how it has affected the Impact Assessment Sector and the livelihoods of many in South Africa. She expressed her heartfelt condolences to families who lost their loved ones.

'EAPASA has come a long way since its establishment in February 2012, she said.' In 2016, law regulations into appointing a Registration Authority responsible for the registration of Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) were signed by the late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa. Furthermore, EAPASA was recognised as Professional Body by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) in 2019.

Ms Makhudu further expressed her gratitude to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) for their continuous support to EAPASA, acknowledged the role played by current Ministers and Former Ministers, and a special thank you to Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi who launched the EAPASA body on 07 April 2011.

The Chairperson also emphasized on issues of transformation within the sector. Whereby it is still white dominated and a lot of work still needs to be done to empower black professionals from all walks of life. EAPASA is already working on a Transformation Plan to develop and implement a mentorship program and bursary schemes that will actively pursue the transformation agenda.

In her closing remarks, Ms Makhudu announced the launch of the EAPASA new website, extended her gratitude to EAPASA Board, Assessors and Strategic Partners. The Chairperson thanked her extended family and introduced the Keynote Speaker of the event Ms Makhotso Maggie Soty (Deputy Minister of DEFF).

International Environmental Calendar for 2020

World Wetlands Day:
02 February 2020

World Water Day:
22 March 2020

Earth Day:
22 April 2020

International Day for Biological Diversity:
22 May 2020

World Environment Day:
05 June 2020

World Oceans Day:
08 June 2020

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer:
16 September 2020

World Rivers Day:
27 September 2020

International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction:
13 October 2020



The Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Ms Makhotso Maggie Soty delivered a Keynote address. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by a delegation from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries. She thanked everyone who was present and those attending virtually.

Ms Soty congratulated EAPASA on a solid foundation laid since its establishment and numerous achievements made which includes:

- Being recognized by SAQA as statutory professional body
- Creating a transformation charter and strategy which aims to promote transformation of environmental assessment practice in South Africa through the empowerment of black female and disabled professionals.
- Developing an online registration system aimed at making the registration process for all applicants easy and efficient.

The Deputy Minister reiterated that the department has a role to protect the environment and promote sustainable development in South Africa. A professional and regulated sector will ensure competency amongst Environmental Practitioners and accountability in private and public sector, she said.

Ms Soty thanked the Chairperson of EAPASA on putting emphasis on issues of transformation and further express that implementation needs to take place and not only talk about it. She elaborated that, the department was currently investigating the possibility for the environmental practitioner profession to be governed as part of the functions of an existing registration body. Ms Soty reiterated that all parties involved will be consulted once the plan has been finalized.

In conclusion, the Deputy Minister said, “for this journey to be successful they need to work together and will realize their goals by drawing on the energies of their people, building capabilities, enhancing the capacity of the state and promoting leadership and partnerships throughout the society.”

The other business of the GM included Presentation of the Financial Statement by EAPASA Auditor, Mr. Zazi Ngubane. Mr Ngubane shortly explained how audits are conducted and that EAPASA was in good standing with regards to its finances.

Mr Thato Mahapa of TM Mahapa Inc gave a Presentation on the EAPASA Constitution. He explained the processes of changing Board members, the Nomination process and how the drafted Constitution can be reviewed and revised. Participants in the GM were given an opportunity to vote on three (3) items which are: Audited Financial Statements, Appointment of Auditors and Adoption of EAPASA Constitution.

The Gauteng EAP Forum Chairperson, Ms Zanele Phoku acknowledged EAPASA as a Registration Authority and that it has potential to grow as an Association in order to drive issues of transformation. Ms Phoku wished the organisation all the best for their future endeavours.



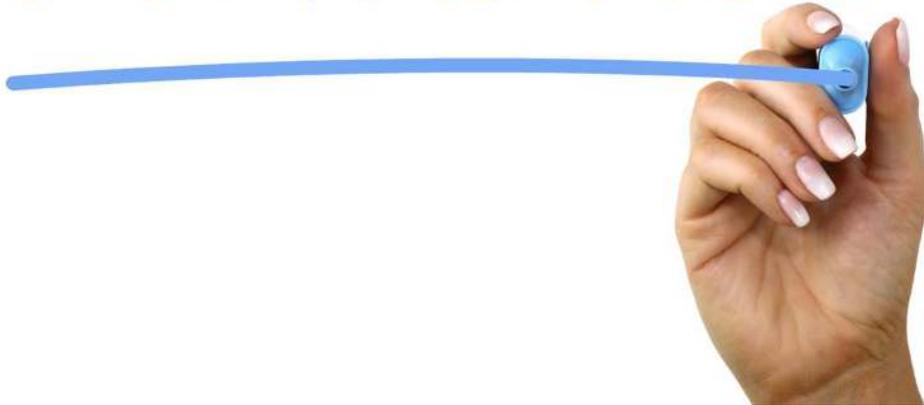
EAPASA received a Certificate of Recognition as Statutory Professional Body from a Representative of SAQA, Mr Jacob Nel. The Deputy Minister joined in to receive the certificate together with the EAPASA Registrar and the Board.

The Chairperson of Public Relations Committee, Ms Jacqui Hex closed the GM by thanking all the participants attending physically and virtually. She explained the role and importance of Environmental Assessment which has created business opportunities and jobs in the private and government sector. The PR Chair provided clarity on what the future of Impact Assessment looks like and emphasized on how EAPASA is committed to advance the practice of Environmental Assessment.

Ms Hex thanked all of those who were involved in making the GM a success.

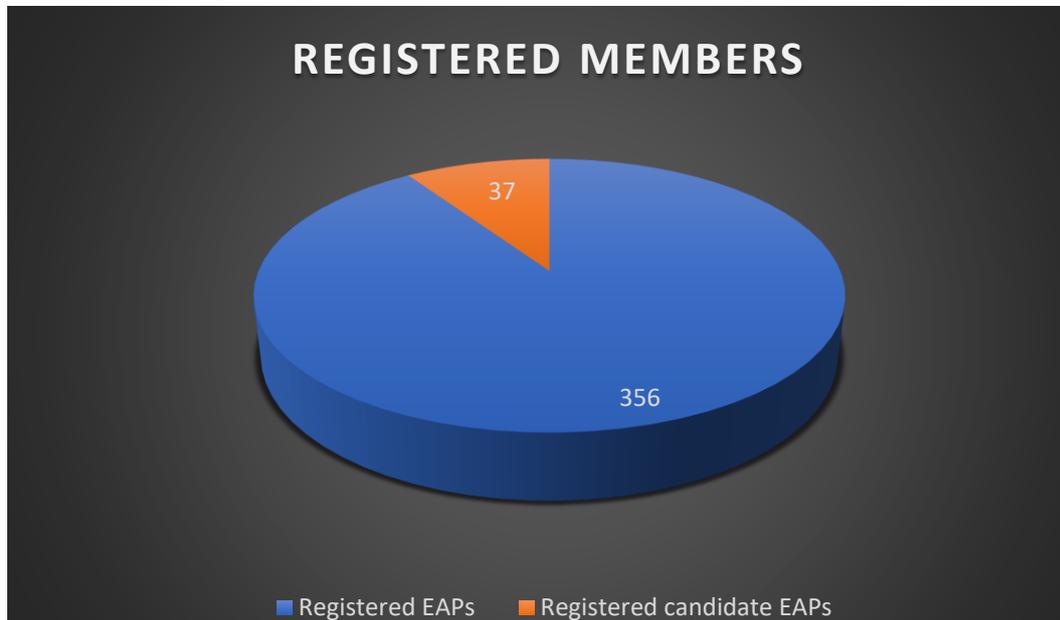
Registration Statistics to Date:

STATISTICS



EAPASA has **356** registered EAPs and **37** Candidate EAPs adding to a total number of **393**. Any person with the primary responsibility in environmental assessment should register to practice. Section 24H of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) states, “No person other than a registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner, may hold primary responsibility for the planning, management, coordination or review of environmental impact assessments and associated EMPs.”

We encourage all Environmental Practitioners to submit their applications before the statutory deadline of 08 February 2022.



EAPASA Annual fee for period 01 March 2020 to 28 February 2021



Guided by the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act, Act 67 of 2008, the EAPASA Board has taken a decision to start charging annual membership fees from 1 March 2020 in order to meet the requirements placed by South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on EAPASA. The requirements of the NQF Act apply to registered EAPs through EAPASA's recognition as a statutory Professional Body, which was formalised on 10 September 2019 for a period of five years by SAQA, along with the associated registration of the 'EAP designation'.

What are the registration fees?

Professional fees	Amount	Annual Subscription	Amount
Registration Assessment Fee: EAP	R 1500.00	Annual Subscription: EAP	R 1200.00
Registration Assessment Fee: Candidate EAP	R 800.00	Annual Subscription: Candidate EAP	R 600.00

An invoice has been sent by the finance department indicating the amount due. If registered during mid-year, members will receive a pro rata billing. Annual membership fee should be paid in full in order for your membership to remain in good standing of the EAPASA.

Resubmission of Application

Applicants will be given two (2) opportunities to make submissions. Should an application still be assessed as inadequate after the second submission, the applicant is required to pay the registration assessment fee a second time on the third submission.

Reminder to submit first Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Record Sheets.



Registered EAPs are reminded to keep an EAPASA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Record Sheet, to be submitted annually, with the first submission due on 28 February 2021.

EAPs should bear in mind that EAPASA is a statutory Professional Body recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and, as such, is required to implement the SAQA requirement that Registered EAPs undertake CPD. SAQA has indicated that EAPASA will be audited in 2021 against this commitment. There are associated benefits for EAPs being a member of a statutory Professional Body, one of only 19 in South Africa.

With the economic downturn and the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on the ability to attend workshops and conferences, it is now easier and cheaper to attend online workshops. The EAPASA CPD Guidelines outline three CPD categories which do not require attendance at conferences. Since the onset of Covid-19, numerous free virtual webinars and meetings have been hosted, locally and internationally, through which it is possible to obtain credits at minimal cost. Furthermore, while the CPD categories have some compulsory requirements in each year, EAPs can do less in the earlier years (e.g. under conditions of Covid-19) and more in the subsequent years of the 5-year period leading up to re-registration, subject to the specified minimum annual requirements.

In summary, EAPASA is implementing the requirement that registered EAPs undertake CPD in line with our responsibilities as a Professional Body recognised by SAQA.

Survey Monkey Questionnaire: Improving Online Registration Process



Please follow the link below and help us to improve our online Registration Process:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JX2NYH2>

You can also visit our website www.eapasa.org and take part in the survey before the deadline of 31 December 2020.

This survey is aimed at prospective Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) and prospective Candidate EAPs. The intention is to provide EAPASA with information that will allow us to assist applicants by providing advice on particular issues and, where possible, refining the application process.

Please note your responses will remain anonymous and your participation will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.



Christmas Message



There is no doubt that 2020 has been a difficult year to Registered EAPs, Candidate EAPs, ordinary South Africans and the entire global community due to the COVID - 19 pandemic.

Many of us were faced with uncertain times and as a nation, we experienced our first lockdown with harsh restrictions in order to save human lives.

Sadly, many people lost their lives, jobs and livelihood. Business sectors and other organisations were badly affected by the pandemic forcing them to shut down. For other industries including EAPASA, we found ourselves having to adapt to the new changes. This meant that employees were working from home and conducting virtual meetings online. The process of conducting EIAs was on halt due to strict movements in the country to avoid the spread of the disease.

With improved recovery rate of COVID -19, lockdown alert levels were lowered, and people began rebuilding their lives. Against all odds, EAPASA would like to take this opportunity to wish its stakeholders a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and a good rest.

Remember to carry and wear your masks wherever you go, practice social distancing and wash your hands with soap or sanitize them.

EAPASA wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The EAPASA Office will close on 18 December 2020 and re-open on 11 January 2021.



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