From the desk of the Registrar

A new year, a new beginning for newly qualified graduates, and those who are embarking on a new journey either as a student- child and youth care worker, social auxiliary worker; social worker, community development practitioner and maybe even as a caregiver. Welcome on board for those who will be registering with SACSSP for the first time. Your onward journey requires constant positive self-talk, self-discipline and resilience because your personal values are going to be tested as you venture into the field of social services.

What lies ahead for existing registrants is the need to focus on developmental approaches geared at transforming society on different levels because there are too many social ills besetting our communities. My message to all is to foster deliberate intergrade programmes that will impact all social strata. Our interventions must without a doubt restore hope and promote self-reliance. I am particularly concerned about the following:

1. Increasing violence against women and children - where are social service practitioners to conduct research so as to develop cogent intervention programs to assist young people (men and women) to cope with the demands within their social environments and their relationships. What are the cries of the perpetrators of gender based violence? Are we connecting with what causes them to act out in the way they do?

2. Family homicide and suicide - maybe there is collective term for such types of gruesome murders where one spouse kills the children, the partner and then takes his/her own life.

3. School based bullying - we have lost one too many lives of children who commit suicide because they are being bullied. We need to connect with the forces at paly here to give support to the bully and the bullied, as well as extended interventions for the onlooker and families.

4. Substance abuse in schools and in general across communities. Illicit drugs are destroying school children and families who can’t cope with the child who is slowly sucked into the world of drug abuse.

5. Unemployment within the social service sector - there are far too many young excited graduates who end up despairing because of the unemployment situation.

The list can go on and on, however I am flagging the above because they give me and maybe somebody out there sleepless nights. On points 1 to 4, I am challenging all social service practitioners at the coal face of service delivery and their supervisors, not to look away or switch the TV off when the social ills are reported on, but rather gather around and discuss intervention strategies to support both the perpetrators and the affected parties.

On point 4, I am challenging all social service managers and administrators and /or those responsible for policy development to lobby and advocate for transformation of our sector. Members of Council and the Professional Boards should also do likewise to ensure that the interests of the public are protected by unlocking opportunities that supports the growth of practitioner who serve those members of the public.

One love,

Langi Malamba

What’s on

20 February 2020 - World Day of Social Justice
21 February 2020 - International Mother Language Day
1 March 2020 - Zero Discrimination Day
8 March 2020 - International Women's Day
17 March 2020 - World Social Work Day
20 March 2020 - International Day of Happiness
31 March 2020 - final date for payment of annual fees

Click on the word Day to find out more about the specific day.

SHARE your important date or event in this column by sending an email before the end of any month to communications@sacssp.co.za

RESOURCE Corner

The NDP & children
The National Development Plan 2030: Our Future-make it work rallies all South Africans – adults and children - to work together towards the future of the country. The second National Planning Commission has a Commissioner responsible for children’s rights, Christina Nomdo, and her commitment to the rights of children, and in particular their right to be heard and taken seriously, is evident in the work of the National Planning Commission under her leadership that culminated in the following two must read reports:

- The Children's NDP: Final process report (2019)
- Children's participation in governance: lessons from the children's NDP initiative (2020)

Quote for the month
At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents - Jane D. Hull

NON NOBIS - Not for ourselves
Tell us who is Crosby Noko the person?
I was born in 1981 in a rural town called Schweizer-Reneke in the North West Province, the first born of a family four (4) siblings, a very compassionate man, with sense of humility, respect and a committed humanitarian. My belief has always been that understanding the universe and everything in it. This has been I think a primary goal of mankind. I am a voracious reader, and this has always been essential to my intellectual growth and understanding of what I believe, who I am, and what my goals will be. In particular I read the work of Paulo Freire, John Gastil and Steve Bantu Biko which contains profound mediated ideas about human condition and has been cornerstone of my world view and perception of life.

What is the biggest highlight in your career as a social auxiliary worker?
My biggest highlights are too many to mention, but I will single out one if not two. The first one should be the task I was given to facilitate and coordinate the Men’s Forum Dialogue in Soweto that included young boys to have discussion on various issues, but pertinently to child abuse, gender-based violence and rape. It was a journey I could go back to do all over again. The second highlight will be being nominated, and ultimately elected to serve in the current Professional Board for Social Work, a mammoth task I must say, but one I have come to enjoy and have learned from seasoned professionals from different generations. It has been a privilege, an honour and a learning process to be able to contribute immensely towards shaping the profession first hand in various portfolios of Council. I have witnessed the transformation agenda of Council taking shape, the amount of work and commitment by many others to steer the ship to promising horizons, I can safely say I’m proud to have been amongst the best man and woman in this profession.

What is your vision for social service professionals in the country?
Our ability to imagine new ideas, new methods and build up detailed opinions of the world will mark us distinctly different from our forefathers, and those who have walked this path in the name of social services in this country. The examination of human condition and the condition in which humans exist, has sparked the most fascinating this path in the name of social services in this country. The examination of human condition and the condition in which humans exist, has sparked the most fascinating

The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development started in 2010 when 3000 social work representatives and social development professionals came together to set the priorities for the profession until 2020. This significantly successful period of the Global Agenda has been an essential voice in proactively setting and ultimately elected to serve in the current Professional Board for Social Work, a mammoth task I must say, but one I have come to enjoy and have learned from seasoned professionals from different generations. It has been a privilege, an honour and a learning process to be able to contribute immensely towards shaping the profession first hand in various portfolios of Council. I have witnessed the transformation agenda of Council taking shape, the amount of work and commitment by many others to steer the ship to promising horizons, I can safely say I’m proud to have been amongst the best man and woman in this profession.

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