From the desk of the Registrar

The month of June had 5 significant events for me to reflect on, notably the following:

World Oceans Day which was celebrated on the 8th. The observance of this special day challenge us as social service professionals to review our positive behaviour change efforts, because we are change agents in our communities. Each year party revellers who visits our coast lines litter and leave tonnes of non-biodegradable material on the beaches and seafront, which ends up polluting our ocean, and negatively impacting the aquatic life. This reminds me of one of our previous global agenda themes for Social Work Day - Promotion of communities and environmental sustainability. I still feel like we did not do enough as social service professionals to unpack and understand what the theme expected of us and to come up with cogent activities and strategies to bring the theme to life. I challenge all social service practitioners to reflect on our behaviour patterns that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. What are we doing to reduce our own carbon footprint and preserve our planet for the sake of future generations?

The second reflection is around creating safer homes and communities for our children in celebration of child protection week. I salute the MEC of Social Development in the Western Cape, Ms Fernandez, who warmed up to her new portfolio by finding a moment in her busy schedule to have her finger painted to promote happy families ahead of the launch of child protection week. She also welcomed our newly qualified social work graduates and shared her own life story to motivate them to continue rendering their services with passion and excellence.

My third reflection is appreciation for the plights of our youth as we commemorated Youth Day. I salute all our youthful social workers and social auxiliary workers who continue to serve communities in an ethical manner displaying respect for human dignity at all times. Tribute to all the children and youth care workers who selflessly put the interest of children and youth first.

Fourthly, as I reflect upon the hype of Fathers’ Day celebration, I pay tribute to all our social service practitioner fathers who are playing meaningful roles in the lives of their children and those young boys and girls in our communities who look up to them. May you continue to be positive role models as fathers in your households and in society! Please stand up against all forms of violence against men, children, women and other vulnerable groupings – LGBTQI, as the role models as fathers in your households and in society! May you continue to be positive role models as fathers in your households and in society!

Lastly, as the Comrades Marathon was playing itself on our TV screens, I saluted all the known social service professionals who partake each year in the ultra-marathon. Viva, social service practitioners, Viva!

Langi Malamba

What’s on for social service professionals

July is Nelson Mandela Month
18 July is Nelson Mandela Day.
23 July - HSRC Seminar (Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town): Paths into professions and the aspirations gap. Find more information here.
28 to 31 October - International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) 2019 Africa Region Conference (A life lived for others is worthwhile), Kampala, Uganda. Find more information here.
29 to 31 October - The 34th FICE International Congress: Better Future Opportunities for Children and Young People in Multicultural Societies, Tel Aviv, Israel. Find more information here.

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

RESOURCES

This month we focus on an open source online journal as well as an interesting report on social pedagogy.

Social Work and Society Internal Online Journal is an international open access and peer-reviewed journal published two times a year in the fields of social work and social policy. The journal is dedicated to critical analysis of the relationship between social work, social policy, the state and economic forces. It provides a forum in which conventional views can be challenged, theories about the status and mission of social work in society can be developed and ways for social work to act politically and responsibly can be identified. Find out more here.

Insight Report: Social Pedagogy as a Meaningful Perspective for Education and Social Care explores how an understanding of social pedagogy can enrich educational and social professions. The report found that traditions of social pedagogy share important commonalities in how social pedagogy can offer a meaningful perspective for education and social care. Throughout the report the authors seek to outline why a social pedagogical perspective is important in enabling social professions to address contemporary social issues and help individuals, groups and communities to thrive. You can download the Insight Report free of charge here.

Quote for the month

If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one.

Langi Malamba

NON NOBIS - Not for ourselves
Tell me who is Patricia Maqina the person?
I am a child and youth care worker, who started my career working for the Department of Social Development as from 1991 until 2006, where after I was employed by the NACOW (from 2007). I was involved in the piloting of service delivery models and as such gained a lot of experience both at residential care service and community level.

What is the biggest highlight in your career as a child and youth care worker?
I have a few highlights that stand out for me. The biggest highlight was during 1995 participating in the Transformation of the Child and Youth Care System and thereafter the publication of the Regulations for Child and Youth Care Workers, Auxiliary Child and Youth Care Workers, and Student Child and Youth Care Workers in 2014. Also, being nominated to serve on the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work and being recognised as a professional in the field of child and youth care work through professional registration are two other highlights.

What is your vision for child and youth care work as a social service profession in the country?
Firstly, that all child and youth care workers uphold professional and ethical standards in our services to children, youth and families in communities so that we serve them in a good and caring manner. Also, that child and youth care workers advocate for, promote and protect the rights of children in our country. My vision is that child and youth care workers be seen as an exemplary cadre of social service professionals that uphold a good professional code of conduct as prescribed by our SACSSP.

LAW talk for social service professionals
An Act is legislation that is passed by Parliament and can only be amended by another Act of Parliament. However, Regulations, are made by a Minister and Acts usually indicate broadly the type of Regulations that a Minister may make.

Usually a Minister makes several Regulations related to an Act and in some instances more than one Minister can make Regulations to an Act, for example with the Children’s Act 38 of 2005 the Minister of Social Development made regulations, while the Minister of Justice also made Regulations pertaining to children’s courts.

Regulations are generally referred to as “subsidiary legislation” or the rules which are authorised by the legislation. It provides detailed information regarding requirements and procedures related to principle matters covered by an Act, as Acts generally only set out the broad legal matters and principles.

Here are a few important things to remember:
• Regulations need to be published in the Government Gazette to become legal and enforceable.
• The provisions in Regulations are legally enforceable and must be adhered to at all times.
• Regulations should always be in line with the provisions of the Act under which it is made, as well as the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
• In the case where a Regulation contradicts the provisions of an Act, the provision of the Act takes preference to the provision of the Regulation.
• Regulations to Acts can only be amended by a notice published in the Government Gazette. Regulations are amended or changed by a Ministers and do have to go through a parliamentary procedure.

It is important that social service professionals know the Acts as well as the Regulations made under an Act in the execution of their professional duties.