



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The e-Bulletin is a monthly informal communique to persons registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions and other stakeholders.

AUGUST 2020

From the desk of the *acting* Registrar



The impact of corruption on the provision of quality social services by social service practitioners

The recent reports of corruption around COVID-19 funds across all levels, in particular in the public sector is a call for concern. Corruption has been an issue for some time now and it is more disturbing that people take advantage of the dire situation and redirect much needed resources meant to save lives for selfish gains. This is disheartening and inhumane and I share the majority of the South African citizens' sentiment that corruption should be seen and treated as a crime against humanity.

The scourge of corruption and other forms of maladministration of public resources not only robs the vulnerable communities of a quality life, it also deprives social service practitioners of the opportunity to provide quality of social services. Amongst others, practitioners need to be provided with tools of trade and safe and conducive working environment which are consistent with and encourages compliance with the South African Council for Social Service Professions' *Code of Ethics*. This is part of ensuring the restoration of the dignity, prestige and status of the noble social service professions and that clients are treated with respect and dignity. Social service practitioners are at the cold face of service rendering and communities look up to them for hope.

I note and commend leaders of society, in particular government leaders' consistent and necessary message in condemning corruption. However, people want to see action and those responsible being held accountable. Corruption is a behavioural and societal problem and there must be consequences where there is wrong doing.

This reflection is inspired by selfless social service practitioners, who despite all odds will ensure that they sacrifice the little they have to ensure that quality social services are rendered to our people. I salute you for your humanitarian spirit. Though giving back or doing charity work is and will remain part of the orientation of social service practice, it should be voluntary and not because of lack of provision or distribution of resources as a result of corrupt activities.

Despite these discouraging events, I encourage all

social service practitioners to remain resilient and put clients first at all times. We should continue to advocate for the fulfillment of basic human needs and promote social, economic and cultural values and institutions that are compatible with the realization of social justice. We should use our networks and different forums and platforms to highlight the impact of corruption on the provision of social services and basic human needs, as part of our ethical obligation to advocate for resource allocation procedures that are open and fair.

Hitler Sekhitta
Acting Registrar

What's on *for social service professionals*

7 September - International Literacy [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*

A CHILD AND YOUTH CARE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - a FREE CPD accredited in-service training programme designed for all child and youth care workers in South Africa to enable them to safely serve children, families and communities during the COVID-19 crisis. Please see the SACSSP's website or contact the Secretary of the *Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work* at MolebohengM@sacssp.co.za or more details. Access more details [here](#).

RESIDENTIAL CARE CENTERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A SURVEY OF 13 COUNTRIES - The lockdowns declared by many governments created a situation where caregivers and children were locked together in the residential facilities, and had to make the most of this great challenge that was imposed upon them. Read more about this survey's results by *FICE-International* [here](#).

COVID-19 AND CHILD LABOUR: A TIME OF CRISIS, A TIME TO ACT - UNICEF and International Labour Organisation outlines the challenges and potential back-slide in progress toward ending child labour resulting from COVID-19. To mitigate the impact and protect children's rights, several key actions and recommendations are outlined. Click [here](#) to access the report.

Quote

for the month

"When people are determined they can overcome anything" - Nelson Mandela

Contact us

SACSSP
Private Bag X12
Gezina, Pretoria 0031
37 Annie Botha Ave,
Riviera, Pretoria, 0084

communications@sacssp.co.za

0123568302

www.sacssp.co.za

@OfficialSACSSP

@SACSSP1

3 questions to CIVILLEGODU

Member of Council and Council's Executive Committee



Tell us who is Civil the person?

I am rooted in the rural part of the North West, (Jericho), wedded, and a mother of two. A dedicated social worker with more than 30 years of experience, 11 of which were spent at local level across the North West province (Rustenburg, Potchefstroom and Mahikeng). Served on various sector service delivery professional structures and committees to ensure reach and impact realisation. Since 2000, I have been attached to the *National Department of Social Development*. I must say that I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity of serving

in and managing various portfolios across various units and branches of the *National Department of Social Development*.

What is the biggest highlight in your career as a social worker?

Talk of highlights, the list is endless, thus defeating prioritisation. I am truly grateful for the immense opportunities over the years, which contributed to my professional growth and development with many *aha*-moments, but also the sharpening of my comprehensive skills through imparting knowledge and learning from others across the sector. Occupying various managerial positions within the national Department of Social Development, serving in and holding various portfolios gave me an opportunity to be instrumental in many critical processes. As *Chief Director: Professional Support and Older Persons*, and serving as a Ministerial appointee on the *South African Council for Social Service Professions* for the National Department of Social Development, I have contributed immeasurably towards the comprehensive restructuring and transformation of the social development sector, i.e., the development of key programmes, policies and legislative frameworks, is but one key area, to mention a few; the *ISDM*, the *Policy for Social Service Practitioners*, the *Recruitment and Retention Strategy for Social Workers*, the *Social Work Veterans Programme*. The development of the *White Paper on Social Development*, the *Policy on Financial Awards*, etc. I have served in various committees, i.e. the *Ministerial Committee on the Regrading of Salaries of Social Workers*, numerous conference organising committees and presented at such conferences both nationally and internationally. Serving on the organising committee leading to the establishment of the *National Association of Social Workers (NASW) (SA)* and being elected as the President of the first non-racial internationally recognised social workers association.

What is your vision for social service professionals in the country?

At this time more than ever before, when the South African social services workforce joins the globe as an essential service to tackle the realities presented by COVID-19, sacrificing and dedicating themselves to courageously be at the service of others, I wish them safety and protection from the wrath of COVID-19. I must emphasise that this pandemic has also challenged us to make reflections, and one cannot help but acknowledge that the sector needs to change its ways of service delivery in varied ways. Strongly linked to that, my vision for the sector practitioners is multi-pronged; with the first really being, having an expanded unified social development sector workforce, regulated by a single professional body. Importantly, the workforce must function collaboratively, recognising the importance of the varied critical roles that each grouping has to play in addressing the social development needs of South Africa. An approved draft *Social Service Practitioners Bill* for the effective regulation of the practitioners and their accountability is critical as we continue with the absorption of unemployed social workers. Equally significant, is an approved *Social Development Act* giving impetus to collaborative partnerships that the sector needs and guiding all legislation of the Department of Social Development on key amongst others, human capital requirements and resources to ensure that effective, efficient and professional services are rendered to all the vulnerable groups that the broader sector practitioners serve.

I align myself with the mission of merely not surviving, but thriving and doing so with some passion, compassion, humour and some style.

©SACSSP/2020

All care has been taken to ensure that the information in this e-Bulletin is correct. With an identification of the South African Council for Social Service Professions' e-Bulletin as source, this document may be freely quoted, reviewed, abstracted, reproduced and translated, in part or in whole, but not for sale nor for use in conjunction with commercial purposes. Artwork used in this publication was sourced from open sources on the internet that holds no restriction which could be ascertained, regarding copyright for non-commercial purposes.

LOCAL & international NEWS

COMMENT ON THE VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES BILL, 2020

The *Victim Support Services Bill, 2020* was published by Government Notice 791 in the Government Gazette No 43528 dated 17 July 2020 (find it [here](#)). This is accompanied by the Memorandum on the Objects of the Bill (find it [here](#)). The Department of Social Development invites any interested person or body to provide written comments on this Bill within 60 calendar days from the date of publication in the Government Gazette.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION BY CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORKERS

The South African Council for Social Service Professions resolved during its 58th meeting, on recommendation by the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work, that the administration of medication for children in a child and youth care centre established in terms of sections 195, 196, 197 or 197 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005, falls within the scope of practice of a child and youth care worker registered in the professional or auxiliary category of registration. Click [here](#) to download the General Notice 9 of 2020 issued by Council.

THE COVID 4P LOG

CYC-Net has partnered with the *Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures*, University of Strathclyde, and with a range of other international partners, to help develop the [COVID-19 4P Log](#) – a smartphone App created especially for practitioners and policy makers who are working to support children's wellbeing, to log their lived reality and experiences throughout this pandemic. It is designed to better understand the ways practitioners and policy makers protect children, provide for their unique needs, enable their participation in decisions that affect them, and prevent harm, at different stages of the current pandemic. Read more about it [here](#).



BELARUS ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS CALLS FOR THE RESPECT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMANITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

During a time of extreme civil turmoil, the *Belarus Association of Social Workers* has issued the a statement promoting the respect of all people's rights and condemning violence.

IFSW Secretary-General, Rory Truell applauded the position that the Belarusian Association has taken: "*The social work role of peacebuilding in situations of violent polarization is never the easy path as the social workers and their professional associations are often under pressure to support this or that side*". Read the full statement [here](#).

Source: International Federation of Social Workers

In Memoriam

Thokozani, Njabulo Nxumalo (student social worker-40-43206) who graduated from UNISA in KwaZulu Natal in 2018 passed away on 20 June 2020.