



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON THE 61ST MEETING OF SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

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17 May 2021

The South African Council for Social Professions (SACSSP) held its 61st meeting on 20 April 2021 using a virtual platform. A special welcome was extended to Ms Zenuella Thumbadoo, the former vice chairperson who is the newly appointed Chairperson of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. Council noted the appointment of Dr Lesiba Molepo as the Vice-chairperson of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work for the remaining term of the 3rd Professional Board's tenure, which has been extended by the Minister of Social Development until 30 June 2022. Council also welcomed Ms Nontuthuzelo Zulu-Siwela, known as Ntuthu, the nominated representative of the Minister of Higher Education in terms of section 5(c)(vi) of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978.

Council *noted* the extension of term of office that has been granted by the Minister of Social development in respect of the 5th Council and its two (2) Professional Boards which lapse at the end of 30 June 2022. Furthermore, Council noted that the secretariat is operating at full-scale since lockdown level 1, and that continuous vigilance and adherence to the minimum health, safety and social distancing measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 are observed.

Council was briefed by the Registrar on the progress with nominations for persons to serve on the 5th Council, 4th Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work (PBCYC) and 5th Professional Board for Social Work (PBSW). Council was encouraged by the response that the Returning Officer received:

- Nineteen (19) nominations of persons nominated as candidates by social workers for the election of six (6) social workers to serve on Council in terms of section 5(1)(a);
- Six (6) nominations of persons nominated as candidates by child and youth care workers for the election of three (3) child and youth care workers to serve on Council in terms of section 5(1)(b);
- Nine (9) nominations of persons nominated as candidates by social workers for the election of social workers to serve on the Professional Board for Social Work in terms of regulations 3(a), (c), (f) and (h); and
- Eleven (11) nominations of persons nominated as candidates by child and youth care workers for the election of child and youth care workers to serve on the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work in terms of regulations 3(a) and (c).

The names will be published in the Government Gazette in due course. Council noted that the office of the Registrar will embark on dedicated voter education to create awareness of the process. Council noted that in order to ensure maximum participation in the election process by practitioners, the Regulations dealing with the voting procedures needs to be amended to allow for an electronic voting system, and recommendations in this regard have been made to the Minister of Social Development.

Council approved the establishment of the *Fit and Proper Person Panel*, in order to give effect to sections 17, 18 and 18A of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978, which requires that only persons that are declared 'a fit and proper person' be allowed to register with the SACSSP and practise his or her profession. Council also approved the establishment of a *Restorations Panel* to assist with the review of restorations in terms of section 20(3) of the Act, which requires from Council to restore a social service professional that applies to be restored to the Register (after he or she was removed from the Register voluntarily or otherwise, and wishes to register again), after Council is satisfied that the reasons why the person's name was removed from the Register ceased to exist, and that the requirements for registration including being a fit and proper person, are fully met.

Council furthermore approved the appointment of a service provider that will revamp the IT system development. The name of the service provider will be published once the offer has been accepted and a signed SLA is in place. This is a much-needed development as to ensure an up to date, interactive and integrated IT systems is in place to offer an efficient service to the sector and all stakeholders

Council also received reports from the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work on progress made, strategic issues in the sector and challenges that are being addressed (separate statements of Professional Board meetings are issued that contain more detailed information). Council appreciated that the Professional Board for Social Work has completed its review of the Code of Conduct/Ethics for social workers and social auxiliary workers and that it was submitted to Council for review and approval. Council noted with excitement the progress on the planned Summit on the challenges that the child and youth care work profession faces, which will be hosted by the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work to be held on 6 May 2021 as part of *International Child and Youth Care Work Week*.

Council concluded its 61st meeting by expressing appreciation to all social service professionals for their continued work during these challenging times where the country and the world is still fighting COVID-19.

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications

ENQUIRIES:

Lungelwa Mbuzo (Ms) (*Communications and Public Relations Practitioner*)

Office: +27 12 356 8300 | Direct: +27 12 356 8302 Email: communications@sacssp.co.za

ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP/ Council) is a statutory body established in terms of section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act No. 110 of 1978 (the Act). Council has two professional boards under its auspices: the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. Council, in conjunction with its two professional boards, guides and regulates the professions of social work and child youth care work in aspects pertaining to registration; education and training; professional conduct and ethical behaviour; ensuring continuing professional development; and fostering compliance with professional standards. It protects the integrity of the social service professions as well as the interest of the public at large. In order to safeguard the public and indirectly the professions, registration with Council in terms of the Act is a prerequisite before practising social work and child and youth care work. Registration is mandatory for social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers, student social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student child and youth care workers, and student auxiliary child and youth care workers.