



**SOUTH AFRICAN
COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS**

ThisWeek@Council

STRENGTH IN UNITY

The Registrar attended on the 16th October a consultation session on student placements that was organised by Department of Health for universities and social work managers at academic hospitals.

On 18 October 2019, Council convened a dialogue attended by 50 social workers from the South African Police Service, Department of Health, Department of Social Development, Department of Defence, Unisa, PRASA, social workers in private practice and social workers from the Office of the Family Advocate, amongst others, on the value of professional associations for social service professionals at the South African Police Service Tshwane Police Academy. The Registrar, Ms Langi Malamba, started the discussion by asking social workers to remember where the journey of social work started and to imagine a society without social workers. The topics that were discussed reflected on the state of affairs affecting the social service sector in South Africa and how to better reposition the role of social worker associations within the country. Empowerment of communities and promotion of social justice was discussed as one of the core business of social work. Challenges that face the profession such as lack of resources, lack of recognition of the profession by organisations, lack of awareness of services offered by social workers, quality of supervision (and supervision by non-social workers) were also raised.

Council calls on social workers to organise themselves, so as to have a unified collective voice that can offer sustainable professional support in the interest of their profession. Social workers are called upon to attend future dialogues and organised structures like *South African Occupational Social Workers' Association* (SAOSWA) and *Employee Assistance Professional Association* (EAPA) as well as student social work associations can contact the SACSSP's communications office for more information (communications@sacssp.co.za).

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Please share this news with your networks as well.

ThisWeek@Council is a weekly update by Council on matters of interest.

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications (18 October 2019)



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NON NOBIS - Not for ourselves