



CBE's Policy work intray update:

I would like to thank the Registrar for the opportunity afforded the CBE to update the Profession on the Policy work in the CBE's intray.

The approach I would be taking is a progressive walk-through with each intray update by packaging the update in consumable tranches of 6 articles. This inaugural piece will go through the policy context followed by 5 other articles that will deal with the various areas of our work.

Now, who is the CBE?

The CBE is a statutory council created by Act number 43 of 2000, alongside the six current Professional Councils of which SACLAP is part of. The Act mandates the CBE to oversee the six-built environment Professional Councils responsible for regulating their respective professions.

The Council is mandated in terms of the Act to:

- Promote and protect the interest of the public in the built environment.
- Promote and maintain a sustainable built environment and natural environment.
- Promote ongoing human resources development in the built environment.
- Facilitate participation by the built environment professions in integrated development.
- Promote appropriate standards of health, safety and environmental protection in the built environment.
- Promote sound governance of the built environment professions.
- Promote liaison in the field of training in the republic and elsewhere.
- Serve as a forum where the built environment professions discuss relevant issues.

The telling words from the 9 mandate areas are very instructive and indicate the scope and character, and set the level of expectations that the CBE must fulfill. The dominance in the first 8 mandates above of the verbs "promote" and "facilitate" informs the *modus operandi* of what the Council must do. I will deal

with what the Council has done in these areas later in this piece. The 9th mandate provides a clear departure from the preceding mandates with the use of the verb “ensure”, that places a legal enforcement responsibility on the CBE that the “buck” stops with the Council to ensure uniform application of norms and standards set by Professional Councils.

The question then arises as what these norms and standards are? The CBE and Professional Councils share concurrently 13 public functions, for which the Professional Councils must administer, through carrying out these 13 public functions delegated to them through norms and standards set by the respective councils, governed by determined policy. The CBE has on the other hand had to develop policy frameworks for the 13 public functions, another euphemism for guideline documents, to enable uniform application of respective Professional Councils’ policies on these 13 public functions. It must be noted that the CBE may determine, in the course of its monitoring and evaluation of how the respective Professional Councils are administering public function, if a regulation is appropriate versus a policy framework.

The administration of the 13 public functions must muster the requirements set by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000 alongside the Constitution of the Republic and they are:

1. Appeal and Disciplinary Body function (Approved by Council meeting of 26 November 2010, due for communication to all Professional Councils for alignment);
2. Identification of Work Function – in line with the Competition Act 39 of 1998 (Approved, being implemented);
3. International Recognition function (Approved by Council meeting of 26 November 2010, due for communication to all Professional Councils for alignment);
4. Accreditation of BE Programmes function (Approved by Council meeting of 26 November 2010, due for communication to all Professional Councils for alignment);
5. Registration function (Approved by Council meeting of 26 November 2010, due for communication to all Professional Councils for alignment);
6. Determination of Competency standards for Registration function (Approved by Council meeting of 26 November 2010, due for communication to all Professional Councils for alignment);
7. Standard Generating function;
8. Recognition of Prior Learning function (Approved by Council meeting of 26 November 2010, due for communication to all Professional Councils for alignment);
9. Continuous Professional Development function (Approved, being implemented in the Professions);
10. Determination of Professional fees in line with the Competition Act no 89 of 1998 (Approved, being implemented by Professional Councils);
11. Recognition of New professions function;
12. Code of Conduct function (Approved, revisions being communicated to the Professional Councils); and

13. Recognition of Voluntary Associations function (Approved by Council meeting of 26 November 2010, due for communication to all Professional Councils for alignment).

The CBE to date has completed 11 (no's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13) as indicated above and the balance of 2 being numbers 11 and 7, scheduled for the 2011/12 financial year.

Returning to the first 8 mandates in the Act: In order for the Council to meet the obligations of the Act, empirical evidence must be researched by the Council to determine the best informed course of action. In this regard 4 research products have been completed to date dealing with the Skills question; Green House Gas Mitigation; Safety and Health; and State of the Built Environment Professions Industry. The recommendations of these CBE Council approved research products are at differing levels of implementation and/or processing by the Council for dissemination including resourcing action plans.

The last but not least important component of the policy contest, is how in our work we are aligned, responsive and positioned to respond to Government priorities over the term of the current administration's electoral mandate.

The CBE's strategic plan and business plan for the next MTEF is informed by the 2009 Medium Term Strategic Framework document. The CBE also locates its planning within the government's programme of action. Government priorities for the next five years that have a bearing on the work of the CBE can be summarised as follows:

- Speeding up economic growth and transforming the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods.
- Stepping up skills development initiatives and strengthening human resource base¹.
- Massive programmes to build economic and social infrastructure
- A comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform

This component of the Policy context will be the main focus of the last installment of the 6-part inray update. The objective being to bring everything together in a coherent package that locates the role and contribution that the professions can and should play in the developmental agenda of the Republic. This goes without saying that this will happen within the scope of the legislated mandate, delegated and available policy instruments to the 7 statutory Built Environment Councils.

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ⁱ Medium Term Strategic Framework Document, 2009 – 2014