



SAGCTM

SOUTH AFRICAN
GEOMATICS COUNCIL

Established ito Act 19 of 2013

ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

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SOUTH AFRICAN GEOMATICS COUNCIL (SAGC)

REPORT

1. Introduction

The South African Geomatics Council (SAGC) is a statutory body established in terms of Section 3 of the Geomatics Professions Act, 2013 (Act 13 of 2013), herein-after referred to as the GPA. The members and alternate members of the SAGC, to be referred to as Council, are appointed by the Minister in terms of Section 4 of the GPA. The functions of the SAGC are given in Section 7 of the GPA, while the powers and duties are given in Section 8 of the GPA. The SAGC may appoint Committees in terms of Section 6 of the GPA to assist it with the performance of its functions.

2. Objectives:

- To provide for the facilitation of accessibility to the geomatics profession.
- To provide for the identification of areas of work to be performed by different categories of registered persons.
- To provide for measures designed to protect the public from unethical geomatics practices.
- Visit education providers to evaluate programmes and accredit educational programmes that meet the educational requirements towards registration in each of the branches.
- To provide for different categories of registered persons and branches in the geomatics profession.
- Develop and maintain a code of conduct supported by the code of practice.
- To provide for the recognition of certain voluntary associations by the Council.
- To provide for measures in order to maintain a high standard of professional conduct and integrity;
- To provide for the establishment of disciplinary mechanisms; and
- To provide for the establishment of an appeal board and to provide for matters connected therewith.

3. Members of the Council

Appointments made by the Minister in terms of Section 4(11) of Act 19 of 2013 are for a period of four years, effective from the first meeting of the Council which took place on 15 April 2016. Due to the world being faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and the country being placed on hard lockdown, the term of Council which was to end by the end of April 2020 was then extended to 31 October 2020.

The constitution of the Council is as follows:-

| Terms of Appointment | Member | Alternate |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Section 4(1)(a)(i) | M Riba | |
| Section 4(1)(a)(ii) & 7(a) | S Mdubeki | R Salig |
| | Ms N Monyake | A Parker |
| Section 4(1) (b)(i)& 7(a) | G N Mojapelo (Deputy Chairperson) | D Andersen |
| | Prof F Cawood | Dr H Grobler |
| | Ms T Machaba | G Mokhitli |
| | S Dreyer (Alternate Chairperson) | P Newmarch |
| | C Silva | S Khanyeza |
| | Prof J Smit | N Banks |
| | vacant | |
| | | M Letsosa |
| Section 4(1)(c) | Prof S Coetzee | |
| Section 4(1)(d) | Ms K Busgeeth | Prof H Ruther |
| Section 4(2) and 7(2) | AJA Bals | MG Livingstone- Blevins |
| | Ms Z V Mzobe | V Singh |
| | Dr D G Clarke | Dr H Booysen |
| | M B Straughan | S M Cossie |

4. Council Meetings

Due to the Covid-19 impact Council meetings took place virtually on 9-10 June 2020, 5 July 2020 and 1 – 2 September 2020.

Members met on 5 July 2020 as special meeting to discuss and approve the annual financial statements for 2019/2020.

Draft Regulations Published in Terms Of Section 31(1) Of The Geomatics Profession Act No 19/2013

The Council had very limited opportunity to provide input into the proposed Regulations. The initial draft which was merely a skeleton overall framework of the Regulations.

Due to insufficient level of detail provided in the initial draft, it was difficult for members of Council to submit comprehensive comments.

The comments which were submitted were of a general nature and stressed the level of detail which would be required in the final draft of the Regulations.

Further engagement with the Council is required in order to finalise the Regulations as this has had a negative impact on finalising the progress of any ancillary or incidental administrative or procedural matter that is necessary to prescribe for the implementation or administration of the GPA for instance implementing procedures for disciplinary matters, setting up an appeals board. An Education and Training committee cannot be constituted until such time that regulations are in place, at present the Council is still working under the previous Plato Act as the Education Advisory Council (EAC) was appointed by the Minister.

5. Recognition of Voluntary Associations

In terms of Section 18 of the GPA the following Voluntary Associations (VA's) are recognised by the South African Geomatics Council :

- **The South African Geomatics Institute (SAGI)**
- **The Institute of Mine Surveyors South Africa (IMMSA)**
- **The Geo-Information Society of South Africa (GISSA)**
- **The Association of Air Survey Companies (AASC)**

Newly Recognised VA

- **The South African Geomatic Practitioners' Association (SAGPA)**

12 February 2020

The new cycle for the Voluntary Associations is with effect from 2020 for a period of five years. All the respective Voluntary Associations have submitted renewal documentation.

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6. Finance/Management

Finance and Management meetings took place virtually in May 2020, August 2020, and October 2020.

Council Members serving on the Finance Committee:

N Mojapelo (Acting Chairperson)
 A Bals – Chair of Finance Committee
 S Dreyer
 Ms N Monyake
 C Silva
 Ms J Vermaak Registrar
 L Adams Bookkeeper
 Ms P Pedinyane – Admin

- 21 May 2020 – reviewed the audited financial statements which were presented by the Auditor.
- 12 August 2020 - discussions on preliminary draft budget and annual financial statements to be presented to Council
- 22 October 2020 – Agreed to accept extension date for fees due to Covid
 Budget for 2021/2022 tabled for consideration
 Budget for Academic Review Project.

Council Members serving on Management Committee:

N Mojapelo (Acting Chairperson)
 A Bals
 S Dreyer
 Ms J Vermaak (Registrar)
 Ms P Pedinyane (Admin)

- **22 May 2020** - MANCO endorsed the Audited Financial Statement which were presented by the finance committee on the 21 May 2020 which was to be tabled for Council approval
- Mr Dreyer presented a detailed summary report of the disciplinary matters on cases which required the Management committee's intervention
- Mr Mojapelo requested CSG office to extend the Council term of office for six months effective from 01 May 2020 to 30 October 2020.
- Mr Mojapelo will follow up on Council members extension letters which requires the Minister's signature.
- **12 August 2020** - The review of the Academic Framework lead by Dr. Akombelwa is underway, the first reimbursable claims have come in for processing.
- Ms. Vermaak's retirement is managed by the Acting Chairperson.
- The 2020 salary increases have been effected
- The purchase of a third filing cabinet is pending finalization by the Procurement Committee.
- The replacement of the CPD system and membership database remains unresolved – although in the budget this is a MANCO / Council matter
- The review of the Academic Framework lead by Dr. Akombelwa is underway, the first reimbursable claims have come in for processing
- Mr. Mojapelo indicated that he attends the EAC convenors meetings every month wherein the review of the academic framework by four panels is reported and consolidated. There is a lot of progress done by the four panels and the EAC chairperson will prepare a review academic framework report.

- The EAC chairperson will address the SAGPA email communications and respond to SAGPA Mr. Dreyer presented the DC report and he indicated that the transcripts detailing and status of each case have been included in the meeting pack for information purposes. A legal representative from the legal panel must be appointed to investigate the remainder of the
- Prioritization of the drafting of the ICT Policy and Strategy for Council to approve.
 - Timeline for the draft policy by 31 Oct 2020 and Thabitha (Policy Committee) to assist
 - Matter in progress
- Any new procurement of systems or service is ceased for the above to be completed, in order not to complicate the proposed policy and strategy.
 - Urgent matters to be attended to as and when required ICT Committee advising
- Current services rendered be in agreement for six months with clear roles and responsibilities not to hamper service delivery

- **21 October 2020** -Discussion regarding correspondence sent to Minister
 - Procurement committee to provide progress with appointing legal panels for disciplinary cases on improper conduct.
 - Advertisement on Registrar's position
 - Queries received from Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development regarding the grant to be looked at by Chair of Management Committee and Chair of Finance Committee.
 - Review staff salary increases
 - Discussion on issues of supplier contracts
 - Discussion on the matter of computerising a system for on line capturing of CPD documents

6.1 Auditing

The external auditors are responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the Council's annual financial statements. The annual financial statements have been examined by the Council Members at a meeting which took place in July. All queries raised were addressed.

In compliance with Section 12(5) of the Geomatics Profession Act a copy of the audit statement and balance sheet, after endorsement by the Council was open for public inspection at the office of the Council for a period of 14 days. Notice was given thereof to all registered persons by means of a notice sent to all registered members and placed on the website.

A detailed audit report on Income and Expenditure is sent to the Minister and Treasury quarterly.

| Draft Detailed Income Statement | Note(s) | 2021 R | 2020 R |
|---|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Annual fees | | 3,352,584 | 3,125,612 |
| Registration fees | | 8,805 | 51,729 |
| Restoration fees | | 42,771 | 51,109 |
| Government grants | | 4,190,688 | 3,992,000 |
| Examination fees | | 100,307 | 204,151 |
| | | 7,695,155 | 7,424,601 |
| Other income | | | |
| Website, CPD and adverts | | 13,900 | 32,472 |
| Recoveries | | - | 9,360 |
| Other income | | 1,000 | 46,432 |
| Interest received | | 373,791 | 502,350 |
| | | 388,691 | 590,614 |
| Expenses | | (5,507,350) | (6,573,604) |
| Operating surplus and Surplus for the year | | 2,576,496 | 1,441,611 |
| Interest paid | | (904) | (7,153) |
| Surplus for the year | | 2,575,592 | 1,434,458 |

Expenditure:

Funding written off in Support Fees not charged.
for first time registrations

R 52 200.00

Registration fee waiver Breakdown

| | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 6 | GPr ES | Geomatics Professional: Engineering Surveying |
| 7 | GPr GISc | Geomatics Professional : Geographical Information Science |
| 10 | GPr LS | Geomatics Professional : Land Surveying |
| 1 | GPr MS | Geomatics Professional : Mine Surveying |
| 1 | GPr PS | Geomatics Professional : Photogrammetric Surveying |
| 46 | GTc ES | Geomatics Technicians: Engineering Surveying |
| 3 | GTc GISc | Geomatics Technicians: Geographical Information Science |
| 11 | GTg ES | Geomatics Technologists: Engineering Surveying |
| 5 | GTg GISc | Geomatics Technologists: Geographical Information Science |

Bursaries Awarded

| UNIVERSITY | COURSE | AMOUNT |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Cape Peninsula University of Technology | B degree Survey | R30,000 |
| Cape Peninsula University of Technology | B degree Geoinformatics | R30,000 |
| ESRI | Diploma Geoinformatics | R21,000 |
| Stellenbosch University | BSc Geo Informatics | R30,000 |
| University of Cape Town | BSc Land Surveying | R30,000 |
| University of Pretoria | BSc Geo Informatics | R36,000 |
| University of Pretoria | BSc Geo Informatics | R36,000 |
| University of Pretoria | BSc Geo Informatics | R30,000 |
| University of Pretoria | BSc Geo Informatics | R30,000 |
| | | R273,000 |

Projects Planned Year Ending 2022

Accreditation 2021- New Qualifications
Academic Review Framework workshops

High Density filing cabinet (3rd)
Inverters / backup power
SAGC online Management system
Server replacement
Website revamp (once off)

Software development

7. Registration Matters

7.1 LAW & OTHER EXAMINATIONS

MAY 2020

The Council had planned to conduct the Geomatics profession examinations during May 2020 and could not take place due to the country being placed on the lockdown level 5 as a result of the world pandemic of COVID-19.

NOVEMBER 2020

Geomatics Profession Act & Other Relevant Legislation.

The Council planned for the examinations taking place during the November 2020, and the attendance was as follows:

- 50 Candidates wrote this paper.
- 7 Failed.

- 7 Candidate Geomatics Professional : Land Surveying
- 29 Geomatics Technicians: Engineering Surveying
- 1 Geomatics Technicians: Geographical Information Science
- 4 Geomatics Professional : Geographical Information Science
- 2 Geomatics Technologists: Engineering Surveying
- 3 Geomatics Technologists: Engineering Surveying
- 2 Geomatics Professional: Engineering Surveying
- 1 Geomatics Technicians: Mine Surveying
- 1 Geomatics Technologist: Mine Surveying

Surveyors Legislation.

- 14 Candidates wrote this paper 1 **Failed**.

Land Survey Act & Deeds Registries Act (Papers B & C)

- 10 Candidate Geomatics Practitioner: Land Survey Professionals wrote both papers.
- 1 Failed Paper B
- 1 Failed both papers.

GISc Legislation.

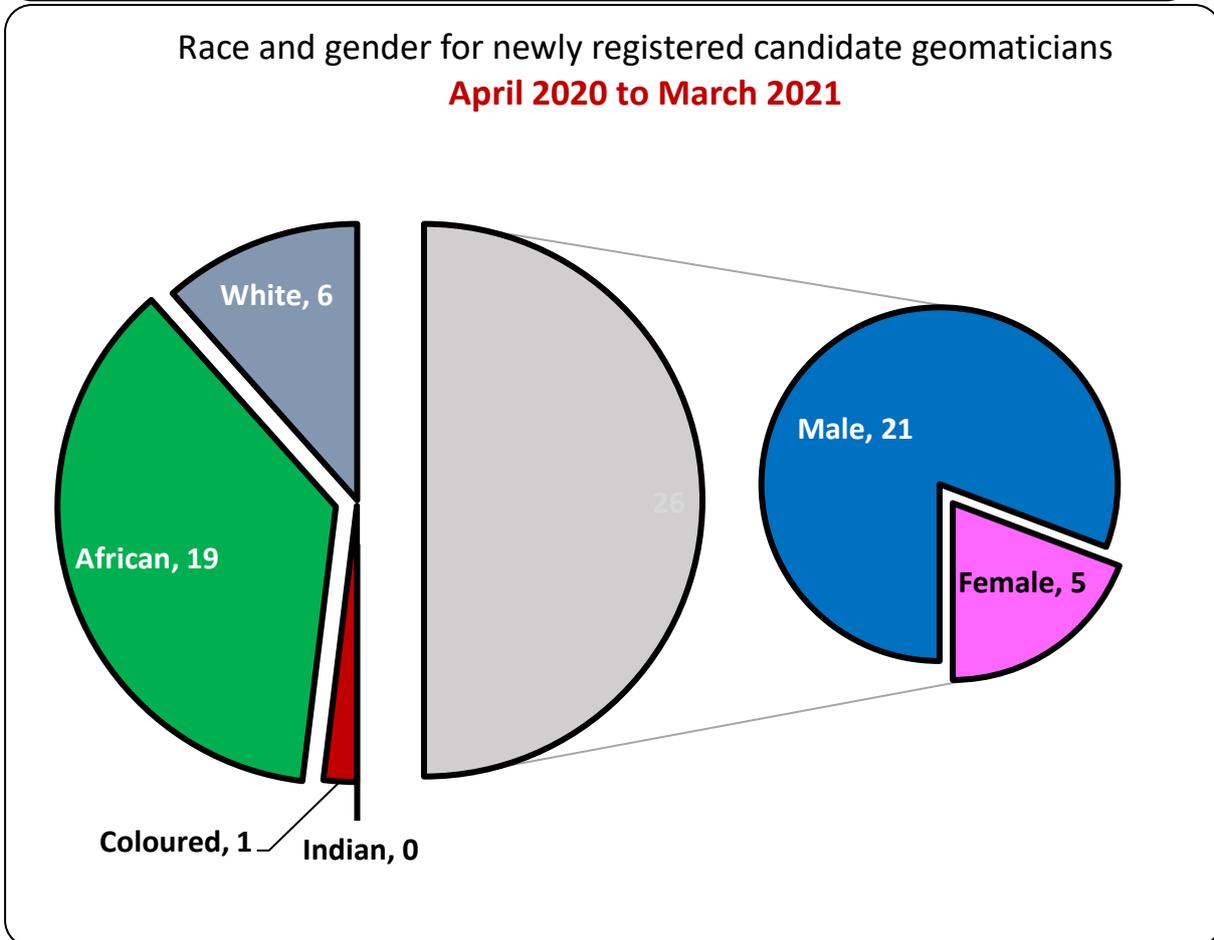
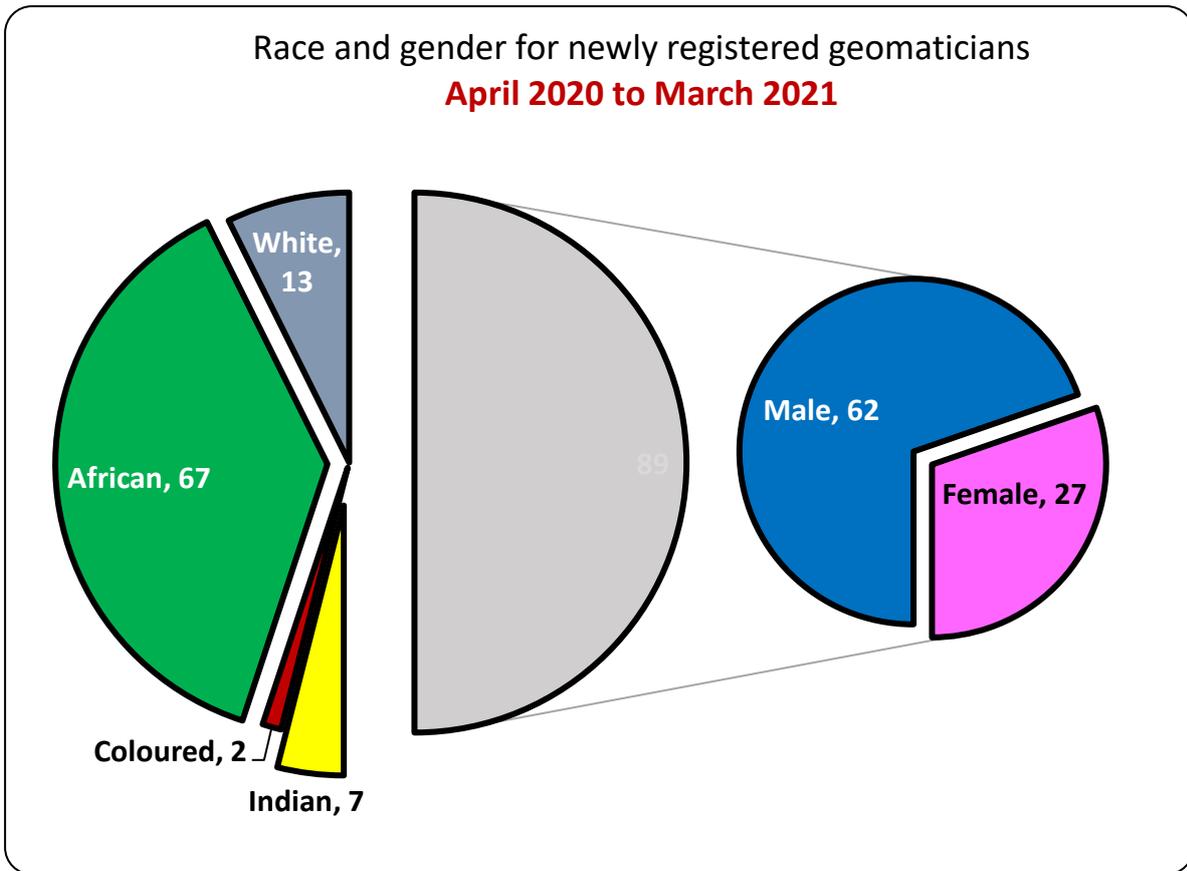
- 8 Candidates wrote and passed this paper.

Mine Legislation.

- 1 Candidate wrote this paper and failed.

7.2

Registered Members - Schedules reflecting the various categories and gender.



8. Education

1) SAGC is mandated in terms of **Section 8(d) of the Geomatics Profession Act, 2013** to conduct accreditation visits to educational institutions offering educational programmes with regards to geomatics at least once in four years.

During 2018 and 2019 Accreditation visits were successfully conducted. Therefore, the universities offering survey will be required to be visited in 2022 and 2023 for GISc.

2) SAGC is required to uphold the highest education standards in the execution of its education quality assurance functions and to manage education processes. The Council approved a review of the SAGC Academic Framework for registration for the following branches: Land Surveying, Engineering Surveying, GIScience and Mine Surveying. The review was proposed by the Education Advisory Committee.

Scope of the Review:

A comprehensive review of the current academic framework for the four branches and their categories of registration in each is in progress, based on future trends in the profession both in South Africa and other countries.

The review considered:

- Current minimum academic requirements for each branch and category, as specified in the SAGC academic framework.
- Tertiary qualifications in other countries relevant to each branch and category.
- Academic requirements for registration or licensing in each branch and category in other countries.
- Feedback and suggestions in reports from previous accreditation visits.
- Any relevant legislation and regulations, such as the Mine Health and Safety Act, Land Survey Act and Spatial Data Infrastructure Act.
- Comments received from EAC, SAGC members, Voluntary Associations, and other institutions.

Process followed outlined:

- Identify the foundational knowledge that is common to all branches.
- Is flexible enough to that it can be readily adjusted to new developments.
- Specifies the minimum academic requirements for each branch in terms of
 1. Knowledge (organised sets of principles and facts that apply to a wide range of situations).
 2. Skills (developed capacities that facilitate learning the performance of activities).
 3. Tasks (specific work activities that can be unique for each occupation).
 4. Examples of work activities (tasks that may be performed as a registered practitioner); and
 5. Relevant legislation and regulations
- Specifies the amount of unspecified content per category and branch, providing higher education institutions with some degree of academic autonomy and allowing them to specialise and differentiate their offering in order to be at the forefront of developments and to provide leadership and Ss

SAQA

In terms of Section 20 of the Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body, registering a Professional Body and registering a Professional Designation for the purposes of the National Qualifications Framework Act (Act 67 of 2008) SAGC is required to re-register every five-year period.

Documentation was submitted to SAQA. Re-registration results are still pending.

9. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The following disciplinary matters have been processed and are still under review.

- 36 cases regarding work undertaken by unregistered persons.
- 1 Section was agreed upon and a letter of remind was directed to the respondent.
- 36 Cases of Improper Conduct are pending. The majority have been investigated by Investigating Officers.
- 11 cases of a general matter
- 7 cases have now reached the stage where the Council has agreed that the respondents be charged. The charges have been sent to the respondents who were given the opportunity to agree or deny the charges.

Section 22(1) of the Geomatics Professional Act states that:

The Council must appoint a disciplinary tribunal to hear a charge of improper conduct if a person is charged and –

(a) Denies the charge; or

(b) Admits the charge and the sanctions contemplated in section 2494)(c) and (d) may be imposed in respect of such charge.

A tribunal has to be appointed where a decision was made to charge the respective respondents.

The hearing and appeal proceedings are prescribed in terms of *Sections 22 – 29 of the GPA*.

Where the Council has concluded its investigations under **Section 20 of the Act** and where the Council requires assistance to conclude the matter in terms of section 22, 23 and 24, advertisements were placed inviting legal panels to provide a quotation to undertake the conclusion of disciplinary matters where a charge has been laid against the respondent.

At present the Council is looking into the appointment of legal representatives to enable the Tribunal Hearing to proceed.

Disciplinary rules and regulations still have to be approved and gazetted by the Minister.

10. CONCLUSION

South African Geomatics Council acknowledges and records its appreciation to all persons and bodies. The year in question was challenging for SAGC and with the continued commitment from Council members will attribute to the on-going success of SAGC. Council members term of office ended in October 2020. Wishing the new Council all the best in bringing in new ideas and understanding on the continued growth of SAGC to its members.

A special word of thanks to the Acting Chairperson on steering the ship through difficult times.

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