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Serving our Nation in Land Reform, Development and Geospatial Information

GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE: **DISTINCTION BETWEEN** **REGISTERED AND UN-REGISTERED SURVEYORS**

EXPLANATION ON REGISTERED SURVEYOR CATEGORIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Geomatics Institute (SAGI), is consistently informing other professionals and State entities about the distinction between registered and unregistered surveyors.

This drive is as a result of an alarming trend where State funds are being wasted and service delivery delayed, due to faulty survey work being carried out by unregistered surveyors. Increasingly, clients are asking SAGI members to fix the mistakes of unregistered surveyors who are not accountable to any organisation.

SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SURVEYORS

Surveyors are governed under the Professional and Technical Surveyors Act No. 40 of 1984 (referred to simply as SAGC – South Africa Geomatics Council). As a government mandated structure, SAGC has four broad categories of registration. Each registration category has certain sub-specialisations such as Land Surveying, Engineering Surveying or GIS for example.

The registration categories with their sub-specialisations are as follows:

1. Professional Surveyors (Land (Cadastral), Engineering, GIS, Photogrammetry, Mining and Hydrographic)
2. Technologist (Engineering, GIS, Photogrammetry, Mining and Mine Certificated)
3. Technicians (Engineering, GIS, Photogrammetry and Mining)
4. In Training (Students)

In the context of our awareness campaign, it is important to note that only people in the Professional and Technologist categories are legally entitled to consult with the public and to be directors of their own survey companies.

Technicians and people in training are **ONLY** permitted to work under the control and direction of a Professional Surveyor or a Survey Technologist. It is also important to note that, by law, when dealing with matters relating to property boundaries or property beacons, only a Professional Land Surveyor can advise on or undertake such work. Land Surveyors also undertake engineering and other related survey work.

Page 2/ By Contrast, ...

*President Mr PN Newmarch, Vice President Administration and Finance – Mr JC Martin,
Vice-President Cadastral – Mr K Jansen van Rensburg, Vice President Marketing & Transformation – Mr MR Maesela,
Vice Present Education & Co-ordination – Mr JH Raubenheimer; Vice President Engineering Commission – Mr C Silva
Vice President GISc – Mr DO Wells; Administration Officer: Mrs MA Grant*

By contrast, unregistered surveyors are people who either have little or no academic training in surveying and are therefore not eligible for registration, or do not want to subject themselves to the legislated code of conduct and disciplinary processes and so choose not to register with the Statutory South African Geomatics Council – SAGC.

The details of all registered surveyors are available on the SAGC website (www.SAGC.org.za).

Clients should take cognisance of the categories of surveyors when appointing a surveyor to undertake a task.

If clients are unsure about the registration status of a surveyor, they are perfectly entitled to consult the SAGC website or simply ask the surveyor for current proof of registration in the form of a letter of good standing from SAGC.

Indeed, it would be prudent when calling for quotes or tenders to insist on the following documents as part of the tender document:

1. Proof of registration with SAGC – as a professional or technologist - in the form of a letter of current good standing,
2. Proof of current good standing with SAGI,
3. Proof of current Professional Indemnity cover.

SOUTH AFRICAN GEOMATICS INSTITUTE

SAGI is a voluntary organisation of Surveyors which focuses on business aspects of the survey industry. SAGI, being a voluntary institute, attracts only passionate and highly responsible members. Professional firms and the public who make use of survey services, should feel confident of receiving the right guidance and a high quality product when dealing with a SAGI member.

SAGI's main purpose is to promote excellence and reliability in the survey profession, address matters of concern to surveyors and to facilitate peer discipline in order to maintain high standards.

SAGI represents approximately 600 members spread across the country and some neighbouring countries. Membership of SAGI is restricted to those who are registered with SAGC. Additionally, SAGI members hold themselves to a higher set of conduct rules than required by SAGC. Our membership base is approximately 60% of all SAGC registered surveyors.

SAGI, like SAGC, has various categories of membership. Only SAGI members who are entitled to run their own businesses and engage with the public are listed on the SAGI “Find a Surveyor” page of the website. This assists in protecting the public and other professionals against the accidental use of a surveyor who is either unlicensed to practise, or who is unregistered and therefore unaccountable to the public and government via SAGC.

SAGI offers a value-added service to the public on its website by offering a “Find/Verify a Service Provider” feature on the SAGI website (www.sagi.co.za). This feature allows a user to geographically obtain a list of surveyors in a particular area of interest.

Page 3/ State Departments

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State Departments and other professional firms are most welcome to place their tenders or survey requirements with our institute secretariat for notification to members, either as a group, regionally or even locally.

In conclusion, SAGI encourages all State Departments and professional firms which require survey services for developmental projects to ensure that the survey firms which they appoint are members in good standing with both SAGC (the Council) and SAGI (the Institute).

For more details or information on the support which SAGI can offer your organisation, please contact any of the people below

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