**GISSA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

**Mission**: to represents the Geo-Information community in SA as a national, unified, representative body to promote and protect the interests of its members on all forums.

**Aim**: to unify South Africans with an interest in Geo-Information Science and act as an umbrella body for its members.

* **Members are directly and/or indirectly benefiting through GISSA servants involvement at various forums to representing the interests of the profession and industry to growing and being relevant, with the following but not limited to below, it must also be noted that this is conducted on voluntary service.**

**Focus Areas:**

1. Statutory mandate
2. Skills Development & Training
3. Institutions of Higher Learning
4. Research & Development
5. Occupation Specific Dispensation (OSD)
6. **Statutory mandate**
   1. **Geomatics Professional Act No. 19 of 2013**

*To provide for the transformation of the geomatics profession; to provide for the establishment of the South African Geomatics Council (SAGC) as a juristic person; to provide for the facilitation of accessibility to the geomatics profession; to provide for different categories of registered persons and branches in the geomatics profession; to provide for the identification of areas of work to be performed by the different categories of registered persons; to provide for the recognition of certain voluntary associations by the Council; to provide for measures designed to protect the public from unethical geomatics practices; to provide for the establishment of disciplinary mechanisms; to provide for the establishment of an Appeal Board; and to provide for matters connected therewith.*

**Role of GISSA:**

* + 1. Recognised as the Voluntary Association and realize the aim and mission of GISSA;
    2. Representation in multiple committees to influence change regarding the Geo Information Science profession:
       1. Academic framework review to have broader institutions of higher learning teaching/lecturing the Geo Information Science accredited
          1. Key to prepare for the recognition of prior learning (setup conditions, rules to accommodate professionals from non-accredited institutions of higher learning)
       2. Drafting of the Work/job reservation
       3. Drafting the tariffs of charge
    3. Other
  1. **Spatial Data Infrastructure Act No. 54 of 2003**

*Intention of the act is to: establish the SA Spatial Data Infrastructure, Committee for Spatial Information (CSI) & an Electronic Metadata Catalogue; to provide for the determination of standards and prescriptions with regard to facilitation of the sharing of spatial information; to provide for the capture and publishing of metadata and avoidance of duplication of such capture; and to provide for matters connected therewith.*

**Role of GISSA:**

* + 1. Representation in the CSI and subcommittees to influence the agenda of the SASDI and Geo Information Science within the state.
       1. Recommended the draft Regulations and Rules to be gazetted for public comments;
       2. Drafting of the amendment of the SDI Act
    2. Continue to strengthen, advance and collaborate with the National Spatial Information Framework (NSIF) Directorate for the common cause relating to the Geo Information Science.

* 1. **South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) Act No. 27 of 2003**

***Mission*** *is to establish, direct, sustain and ensure a high level of professionalism and ethical conscience among its scientists.*

***Objectives:***

*To promote the practice of the natural science professions in SA; ensure and administer the mandatory registration of natural scientists as required in terms of Natural Scientific Professions Act of 2003; to exercise control over the standard of education and training of natural scientists; set standards for the recognition of education and training of natural scientists; and to ensure that prospective registrants meet the educational standards required for registration.*

**Role of GISSA: pending**

* + - 1. Engagements to collaborate started about 3.5 years ago and needs to be accelerated;
      2. Enrol with the SACNASP as recognised Voluntary Association;
         1. This will need volunteers to hit the ground running
         2. When is the term of office ending for call of nominations
      3. Provide advisory and necessary support regarding the profession and industry, and established committees;
      4. Provide assessors, moderators, examiners, etc. to assist with the professional registration and CPD support.
  1. **Opportunity: What about having a GI Science Bill/Act?**
     1. Who should drive the project? Which department?
     2. Other professions within the Geomatics Profession Act have operational acts, hence, strategically positioned in decision making**:**
        1. Land Survey Act No. 8 of 1997 to regulate the survey of land in the Republic and to provide for matters connected therewith;
        2. Mines Safety & Inspection Act of 1996 imposes general duty of care provisions to maintain safe and healthy workplaces at mining operations and protect people at work from hazards.

1. **Skills Development & Training**
   1. **Organization of frequent Regional meetings & national AGM with CPD points:** big thanks to the businesses that supported this meetings and continue doing so.
      1. This keeps attendees to stay abreast with innovation, technology, profession and industry developmental advancements.
   2. **Conference organization and hosting with CPD points:** big thanks to businesses that supported the conferences and exhibitions, also providing the financial support.
      1. Continuous support of local & international conferences, summits and workshops;
      2. Organisation and hosting of the GISSA Ukubuzana Conference & Exhibition in October 2012 at Kempton Park, GP;
      3. GISSA played a critical role in uniting the Geomatics profession by co-founding the Geomatics Indaba Conference and Exhibition together with Institute of Mining Survey of South Africa (IMSSA) & South African Geomatics Institute (SAGI):

Successfully hosted:

* + - * 1. GI2015 Kempton Park, GP;
        2. GI2016 Kempton Park, GP and
        3. GI2017 Durban, KZN.
    1. GISSA, IMSSA & SAGI are founders and owners of the CONSAS Consortium which organizes the Africa GEO every 4th year to advance the continental agenda of the Geo-Information Science and Technology applications:
       1. Africa GEO 2011 Cape Town, WC;
       2. Africa GEO 2014 Cape Town, WC;
       3. Africa GEO 2018 Kempton Park, GP.
  1. **Placement and training of GI Science Technicians & Technologists candidates:**
     1. Mentorship provided by registered Geomatics Practitioners with 5 years plus experience after registration with the SAGC or formally PLATO;
     2. Collaboration between South African Geomatics Institute (SAGI) and GISSA to implement the training of the GIS in training Technicians and Technologists funded by the National Treasury, LG SETA and Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA);
     3. Assist the department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development with placements at local level as already budgeted;
     4. Continue to influence the placement of students, recent graduates at public and private sectors to gain experiential training and Work Integrated Learning (WIL).
  2. **Adopt a School (Geo-Mentoring)**
     1. Assist the Geography teachers with the practicalities of the Geo Information Science applications:
        1. Madiba day celebrations;
        2. GIS Day & week celebrations.
     2. Continuous support of the GI Science career awareness’s at schools;
     3. Influence the public & private sector, and non-profit organisations to make software, data available to schools:
        1. Position municipalities’ role to advancing the GI Science applications and use at local communities, in support of the District Development Models.
        2. Leverage and collaborate with the Chief Directorate: National Geo-Information, SA National Space Agency and other organizations to advance the map awareness programme, i.e. distribution of maps to all schools.

1. **Institutions of Higher Learning influence (Geo-Information Science/Geography)**
   1. **Advisory Role**
      1. Engagements with the Council on Higher Education to influence the accreditation of the Geo Information Science programmes, teachings in alignment with the global trends;
      2. Some GISSA members are already providing the advisory services and assisted with the accreditations of some universities and institutions of higher learning, e.g. UP, WITS, UFS, Stellenbosch, UCT, Cape Peninsula, ESRI-SA
   2. **Provide support to non-accredited universities for them to meet requirements**
      1. Fort Hare, UKZN – advanced stage of accreditation
      2. NW, UJ, UNISA – in progress and has resources to be accredited
      3. Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Sol Plaatjie – visited and challenges still high
   3. **Need of external moderators**
      1. Universities are looking for distinguished moderators on the GI Science for all levels, thanks to those already rendering the service.
   4. **Opportunity:**
      1. Forge relationships with the Society of South African Geographers;
      2. Forge formal relations with the South African Geography Teachers Association (SAGTA), currently led by Ms. Bridget Flemming; and
      3. Any other society or institution with matters connected therewith.
2. **Research & Development**
   1. Continuous support by the universities providing the skills audit survey of the profession as and when required;
   2. Opportunity to collaborate with research institutions for the advancement of the geo information science;
      1. Establish relationships with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC);
      2. Establish relationships with the National Research Foundation (NRF);
      3. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and
      4. Any other institute with matters connected therewith.
   3. Continue collaboration with the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS);
   4. Continue the support of the South African Journal of Geomatics editorial and compilation.
3. **Occupational Specific Dispensation (OSD)**
   1. This are revised salary structures that are unique to each identified salary in the public service, **NOT ALL Departments are complying with this agreement**.
      1. Need to assist GI Science staff falling victim to non-compliance;
      2. Opportunity to engage South African Local Government Association (SALGA) on implementing the OSD at the local government sphere.
4. **Other**
5. **Other**

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**MORENA J LETSOSA, GPr.GISc.P1216**