



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

22 November 2024

SACSSP MOURNS THE DEATH OF FORMER 4TH SACSSP PRESIDENT, DR MARIA MABETOA

Like many in the social service sector, we found ourselves wide awake early on Tuesday morning mourning the death of our former 4th South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) President, Dr Maria Mabetoa. A renowned academic and astute administrator, Dr Mabetoa was elected as the 4th SACSSP President at the inaugural meeting of the 4th Council held on 22 June 2016 for a five period, which was extended by one year until June 2022, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a Council member and President, she chaired both Council and Executive Committee meetings and served on various committees including the Professional Conduct Committee and the CPI Appeals Committee. She also attended other governance committee meetings, as an *ex-officio* member.

Some of the critical highlights during her tenure at the SACSSP was the attention to the registration of the social service professionals with the reduction of the registration backlog and the introduction of digital registration certificates; improved communication with the sector. She led the SACSSP delegation to address the Portfolio Committee on Social Development on the challenges of the SACSSP and the professions of social work and child and youth care work. She actively participated in public hearings on the draft Bill for Social Service Practitioners. Her passion for education showed in the energy and enthusiasm she brought to the SACSSP which led to the development and finalisation of the Continued Professional Development policies for the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. It was under her leadership that the 4th Council established the CPI appeals Committee in ensuring that ordinary members of the public get access to free services for the matters to be heard internally by the SACSSP instead of matters being referred for review in the High Court.

Dr Mabetoa was a proud social worker who lived up to the values and principles of her profession since she was registered with the SACSSP in 1982. She cared deeply for her profession as during her career she played several key roles in the development of several programmes and legislation including the White Paper on Families and the Older Persons Act. Around 2010, whilst still working for the Department of Social Development

she was appointed to serve on the 3rd Council of the SACSSP where she contributed immensely to the professionalisation of the child and youth care worker profession.

Between 2012 and 2013 she was involved in the establishment of the National Social Work Veterans' Forum to address the shortage of social work professionals and provided mentoring to newly qualified professionals.

We have lost a caring and valued leader who meant so much to many. She leaves behind an indelible mark that represented passion, dedication and humility that should be emulated to advance the profession of social work.

Our thoughts and heartfelt are with the Mabetoa family as we all mourn the loss.

The SACSSP together with the Department of Social Development, ASASWEI and UNISA will host a joint memorial service on Monday, 25th November 2024 from 14h00 at UNISA main campus, Pretoria (Mirriam Makeba Auditorium) to celebrate her life. The memorial service will also be streamed Live on the [SACSSP YouTube channel](#) and on Microsoft Teams on this link [Join the meeting now](#)

ISSUED BY: Mr. Hitler Sekhitla
REGISTRAR