

JAARVERSLAG VAN DIE PRESIDENT/ ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. G N van Zyl

*Algemene Jaarvergadering, 23 Oktober 1986.
Annual General Meeting, 23 October 1986.*

DIE TOEKOMSTIGE ROL VAN DIE INSTITUUT

THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE INSTITUTE

In plaas van die gewone jaarverslag wat 'n korter of langer oorsig moet gee oor die werksaamhede van die Instituut van die afgelope jaar, wil ek liever 'n enkele onderwerp inlui met die oog op bespreking. Die onderwerp is naamlik die rol wat die S.A.I.S.S. behoort te speel nou dat die Wet op Stads- en Streekbeplanners, 1984, in werking is en die S.A. Raad wat kragtens die Wet ingestel is, in sy werksaamhede gevestig is.

Ons is bewus daarvan dat daar van ons Lede is wat voel dat die S.A.I.S.S. se rol nou uitgedien is; dat daar nie eintlik plek vir twee organisasies (met name: nasionale rade) in ons professie is nie; dat dit darem 'n bietjie duur raak om lidmaatskap- of registrasiegelde aan twee Rade te betaal en dat hulle gevolglik nie voel om hul lidmaatskap van die S.A.I.S.S. te hernuwe nie. Laat ek dit dadelik duidelik stel: ek het self geen begeerte, en ek is oortuig daarvan dat ek namens al die ander Lede van die Raad praat, om my tyd en energie, veral nie sonder vergoeding nie, aan 'n organisasie te wy wat nie 'n bestaansreg en 'n definitiewe rol het om te speel in ons professie nie. Dit is ook vanselfsprekend sinneloos vir lede om aan 'n organisasie te behoort wat nie duidelikheid het oor wat sy funksie is nie en wat nie entoesiasies is oor sy bestaansdoel nie. Dit is waarom ons in hierdie stadium van die georganiseerde professie objektief moet voorraad opneem van watter funksies daar vir ons in die S.A.I.S.S. oorgebly het en of daardie funksies van voldoende belang is om entoesiasme by die lede op te wek.

Funksies van die S.A. Raad, ingevolge Wet Nr 19 van 1984.

Laat ons in die eerste plek kyk na daardie funksies wat ingevolge die Wet deur die S.A. Raad van Stads- en Streekbeplanners hanteer *kan* en, in sommige gevalle *moet*, word. Daardie Raad het, afgesien van 'n hele aantal meer administratiewe take, die bevoegdheid om –

1. stappe te doen om lede van die publiek te beskerm in hul transaksies met stads- en streekbeplanners;
2. die integriteit van stads- en streekbeplanners te handhaaf;
3. die status van stads- en streekbeplanners te verhoog;
4. die standaard van die dienste wat deur stads- en streekbeplanners gelewer word, te verbeter;
5. die standaard van die akademiese kwalifikasies van stads- en streekbeplanners te verbeter;
6. navorsing te doen of aan te moedig oor die stads- en streekbeplannersberoep en dan, voortvloeiend daaruit;
7. advies of hulp te gee aan enige opvoedkundige inrigting, beplannersinstituut of eksaminerende liggaam i.v.m. opvoedkundige geriewe vir en die opleiding en onderrig van voornemende stads- en streekbeplanners;
8. die Minister te adviseer oor soorte werk wat moontlik vir stads- en streekbeplanners voorbehou moet word;
9. publikasies m.b.t. beplanning te finansier, te druk, te versprei ens.;
10. die vereistes voor te skryf waaraan 'n vereniging van stads- en streekbeplanners moet voldoen om te kwalifiseer vir erkenning as 'n stads- en streekbeplannersinstituut

(die S.A.I.S.S. word reeds ingevolge die Wet erken);

11. eksamens (kursusse) te erken vir die doeleindes van registrasie as stads- en streekbeplanners;
12. die praktiese ondervinding voor te skryf waaraan persone moet voldoen vir die doeleindes van registrasie ingevolge die Wet;
13. ondersoek in te stel na beweerde onbehoorlike gedrag by geregistreerde persone en sekere strawwe op te lê;
14. reëls uit te vaardig en te administreer m.b.t. 'n hele aantal sake, ingeslote 'n gedragskode, tarief van gelde en vereistes waaraan professionele werk moet voldoen.

In die meeste van hierdie funksies wat die Raad mag vervul, kan hy ook deur die Adviserende Onderwyskomitee van raad bedien of bygestaan word.

Hiervolgens is dit duidelik dat dit wel moontlik is dat die S.A. Raad alle funksies wat as van belang vir ons professie beskou kan word, self *kan* vervul. Indien hy in staat sou wees om al hierdie take doeltreffend te onderneem, is daar klaarblyklik, afgesien van enkele tegniese punte in die Wet waarby ek aanstons sal uitkom, nie veel sinvol wat 'n instituut soos die S.A.I.S.S. sal kan bydra nie.

Functions of town and regional planning institute.

The S.A. Council of Town and Regional Planners has at this stage not drawn up a list of functions that it intends handling itself, but it is quite clear that the Council will either not be able to undertake a number of these functions in its present form and under present staffing arrangements, or it will strategically be in a weak position to do so since it has

no mandate to act on behalf of the members of the profession. The following may be mentioned:

1. The S.A. Council is strategically not in a good position to undertake "the enhancement of the status of, and the maintenance of the integrity of town and regional planners," because in order for it to have the necessary credibility to do this, it would need some mandate from members of the profession.
2. The S.A. Council can do very important work with regard to the maintenance and improvement of the standards of services rendered by town and regional planners, including the standards of academic qualifications, but here again it may be very strongly argued that it must have some mandate to do this on behalf of the profession as a whole.
3. Similarly, publications and conferences on town and regional planning matters should be organised by a body representing the profession.
4. The same argument applies to the monitoring and formulation of comments or standpoints on development proposals, draft legislation etc. on behalf of the town and regional planning profession in South Africa and also to
5. the initiation of improvements to the remuneration of town and regional planners and to the recommended scale of fees for consultants.

Stated in general terms, the basis of the difference between the tasks of the S.A. Council and institutes, as I see it, is the fact that the Council is primarily concerned with the interests of the public, whilst institutes as elected bodies are in the best position to look after the interests of planners and planning on behalf of the town and regional planning profession in South Africa.

Furthermore, even should the profession in South Africa be prepared to be represented by the S.A. Council in all matters, it should be realised that, in order for that Council to be put into a position to perform all the functions that it *can* in terms of the Act, quite a few more willing planners and more permanent staff will be needed to do the job properly.

The two technical points in the act, to which I referred earlier, which make the existence of town and regional planning

institutes a necessity are:

1. the fact that, in terms of Section 3 (1) (a) of the Act, a list of names of at least ten town and regional planners have to be drawn up by town and regional planning institutes for submission to the Minister for the appointment of eight members of the S.A. Council; and
2. the fact that it is a requirement for the registration of a town and regional planner to be a member of a town and regional planning institute.

On the second point the Institute Council obtained a legal opinion to the effect that it cannot be regarded as a requirement for continued registration as a town and regional planner in terms of the Act, that a registered person should *remain* a member of a recognised institute. In other words, a person may become a member of an institute with the sole purpose of qualifying for registration, whereafter he may resign as a member of that institute.

If it is accepted (as I believe one should in terms of what I have said before) that there is a definite role and function for (a) town and regional planning institute(s), particularly in the field of the improvement and promotion of planners and planning, then every town and regional planner should have a moral obligation to belong to and participate in the activities of a town and regional planning institute. It should be realised by all that we need one another in the profession, particularly because we are a relatively small profession. We must promote and improve our profession in a co-ordinated and organised manner. Therefore, we need to stand together, talk together and work together.

I am personally convinced that there is an essential role for a body or bodies representing and working on behalf of planners and planning. Even more so than in the past, it will be necessary for planners to participate in their institute's activities with enthusiasm. Our attitude must not be one of only seeing how much we can get out of our profession. We must also be willing to put something back into it. In the final analysis it is also in our own interests to adopt this attitude, because in this way we will improve the quality and the image of our work, which must result in an improvement in the demand for our services.

Die toekoms van die S.A.I.S.S.

Alhoewel die S.A.I.S.S. amptelik in die Wet erken word as 'n stads- en streek-beplanningsinstituut, word voorsiening gemaak vir die totstandkoming van meer institute. Ek wil aanvoer dat dit nie in ons belang of in die belang van die professie sal wees om meer institute tot stand te bring nie omdat ek glo dat ons te min lede in die professie is om onself in meer institute te fragmenteer – ondanks belange wat op die oog af mag verskil langs beroepslyne (munisipaal, privaat, akademies, staat) of langs sosiale en politieke oortuigings.

Oor verskille binne die beroep sou ek graag heelwat wou sê oor die laaste Nasionale Konferensie en Konvensie wat in Natal gehou is en wat ek dink 'n baie suksesvolle geleentheid was omdat dit so aktueel was en juis daarom ook die skerp verskille in oortuigings by ons lede na vore gebring het. Maar my tyd is beperk. Genoeg om te sê dat ek oortuig is daarvan dat om oor ons verskille te debatteer, gesond is. Dit kan en moet opbouend wees. Dit dui daarop dat ons denkende mense is wat omgee oor wat om ons aangaan en dat daar baie ruimte is om by mekaar te leer.

Om meer spesifiek te wees: ons hoef nie gesprekke oor die politieke raakvlakke van beplanning te vermy omdat ons bang is vir verskille nie. Verskille kan veel meer verrykend wees as om saam te stem, mits ons motiewe suiwer is en ons ons verskille positief en opbouend benader. Ons mag nie mekaar se integriteit in die proses in die gedrang bring nie.

Ons moet kan aanvaar dat die mede-beplanner wat van my verskil, dieselfde uiteindelijke oogmerk nastreef, nl. om die lewenskwaliteit van die samelewing te handhaaf en te verbeter. Oor die metodes wat ons gebruik om ons oogmerke na te streef kan ons verskil, maar ons verskille moet nie verdelend wees nie.

Many planners must already be experiencing the fact that we are undergoing changes in South Africa for which past experience have not prepared us very well. We are already (and will more and more be) confronted with situations and problems that we cannot solve by drawing upon stock solutions. I would go as far as to say that we will be acting irresponsibly if we should isolate our-

selves as individuals or as groups from our fellow professionals in South Africa. We have so much to work together for. There are so many *basic* reasons why we should stand together. Let us not divide our ranks because of lesser or temporary differences. As a group of professionals in South Africa we are already very isolated from the rest of the world – and many of us experience the negative consequences of this.

As far as the organisation of the Institute is concerned, the Council during the past year investigated some alternative approaches. I mention the two most important ones that were considered.

1. To abolish the national Council and leave it to the various provincial branches to apply for recognition as independent institutes in terms of the Act. A national co-ordinating committee representing all the institutes may then be formed in the place of the present Council.
2. To retain the basis of the present system, but to delegate more functions and powers to the branches, possibly also with stronger representation from branches on the Council.

Without going into the details here, I can mention that the Council weighed up the various alternatives

against the present system and came to the conclusion that it could not recommend any drastic alterations that would result in a better organisation than what we have at present. The existing rules of the Institute were then thoroughly reviewed and, hopefully, improved and these will be sent out to Members for a ballot any day now.

Hoe sien ek dus die toekoms van die georganiseerde stads- en streekbeplannersprofessie in Suid-Afrika?

1. 'n Registrasieraad soos wat dit alreeds kragtens die Wet bestaan, met die hoofsaaklike funksie om na die belange van die publiek om te sien.
2. Een instituut vir stads- en streekbeplanners, naamlik die S.A.I.S.S., min of meer soos wat hy tans georganiseer is, met aansienlik aangepaste funksies wat rondom die bevordering van die professie sentreer.
3. En, onder die koördinerende vleuel van die Instituut se nasionale Raad en sy onderskeie takkomitees, kan verskillende belangegroepes spontaan tot stand kom indien daar groepe lede is by wie daar so 'n behoefte bestaan. Noue en formele skakeling tussen hierdie groepe en die Raad en Takkomitees is egter noodsaaklik,

onder meer d.m.v. onderlinge verteenwoordiging op besture. Sodoende kan verseker word dat die maksimum aantal lede hulself binne die georganiseerde professie uitleef en terselfdertyd ook meewerk om hulself en ander lede te verryk met nuwe idees, asook om die beeld van die beroep te bevorder.

Die Raad se besluite oor, of my siening van, die Instituut se rol en organisatoriese opset hoef glad nie die laaste woord hieroor te wees nie. Dit moet, in teendeel, met verloop van tyd voortdurend aangepas word namate behoeftes of probleme geïdentifiseer word. Die Raad sal graag enige voorstelle ontvang en bespreek vir die verdere uitbouing van die doelstellings van die professie d.m.v. beter organisasie.

Die Instituut is reeds in 'n nuwe era waarin hy meer aandag sal moet gee aan die belange, aspirasies en behoeftes van sy lede. Dit berus in 'n groot mate by daardie persone wat verkies is om die belange van Lede in die Raad en die Takkomitees te behartig om nuut te dink oor die rol van die Instituut en om daardie rol met entoesiasme te speel. Maar alle Lede moet ook aktief betrokke wees sodat verkose verteenwoordigers ingelig kan bly oor wat Lede van die georganiseerde professie verwag.