

13 September 2016

### **EEP designation set to professionalise B-BBEE verification industry**

Practitioners in the Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) verification industry can now register to earn the professional designation of Economic Empowerment Professional (EEP). This comes after the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) formally recognised the custodians of the designation – the [Association of B-BBEE Professionals \(ABP\)](#) – as a professional body.

The ABP is the only body legally entitled to certify B-BBEE professionals in South Africa, authorising them to provide professional services in this area and to issue companies with certificates verifying their B-BBEE status.

David Ndou, chairperson of the ABP, says that the recognition by SAQA of the ABP as professional body is another important milestone in the development of B-BBEE. “The ABP is mandated to create and enforce a code of conduct for the B-BBEE industry, set the necessary academic and other qualifications, and provide continuous professional development.”

In its letter confirming the registration of the ABP as professional body, SAQA states that it trusts that the ABP recognition and registration of the EEP professional designation will be to the benefit of economic empowerment as a whole by contributing to skills development and professional service delivery in South Africa.

Prior to being recognised professional body, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) also recognised the ABP as the sole body representing and governing all members of the B-BBEE industry. This recognition was in the context of the drive by the DTI to harmonise accreditation and verification practices in line with the amended B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice and the amended Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, which came into effect in October 2014.

In July 2015 the amalgamation of the former Association of BEE Professionals (ABP) and former National Association of BEE Consultants (NABC) was announced, together with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA). These agreements allows for a single code of conduct for all industry players, standardised qualification criteria and a single Continued Professional Development (CPD) programme for all members, and the consistent application of the B-BBEE codes with the same interpretation.

**ENDS**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Juanita Vorster, 079 523 8374, [juanita@thatpoint.co.za](mailto:juanita@thatpoint.co.za),  
[www.atthatpoint.co.za](http://www.atthatpoint.co.za)