

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

ABP CALLED TO RETRACT MISLEADING STATEMENT REGARDING ITS ACCREDITATION AS AN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROFESSIONAL

The B-BBEE Commission has instructed the Association of B-BBEE Professionals (ABP) to publicly retract the statement it issued suggesting that it is a regulatory body for verification professionals in South Africa, which is misleading and untrue. The statement was carried in various media published on 13 September 2016.

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, has authorised only two government regulators, SA National Accreditation Systems (SANAS) and Independent Regulatory Body of Auditors (IRBA), to accredit and approve verification professionals under the B-BBEE Act. IRBA will however cease to play this role in respect of auditors that are also verification professionals on 30 September 2016, which will leave SANAS to accredit all verification professionals.

Therefore, the B-BBEE Commission would like to emphasise that ABP is a voluntary membership based association of consultants, practitioners and verification professionals in the B-BBEE space, but is not a regulatory body for verification professionals, and should not be passed off as such to the market. ABP may and can recruit membership on a voluntary basis but membership to ABP is not a pre-requisite or compulsory for verification professionals to practice.

Given the concerns that the B-BBEE Commission raised about the apparent lack of integrity in the verification process given the issuing of fraudulent certificates and unethical practices observed, government needs to tighten controls to eradicate fraud and fronting. Therefore, ABP, as a voluntary association, is not recognised in terms of the B-BBEE Act to accredit, approve or authorise verification professionals to practice, as the statement they issued suggests. Only the government agencies referred to above have that mandate.

The regulatory framework is clear, and any misleading messages to the contrary undermine the objectives that the B-BBEE Act seeks to achieve, and further frustrates the work of the B-BBEE Commission, especially of supervising and overseeing the implementation of the B-BBEE Act.

Any person who practices as a verification professional must be accredited by SANAS and the requirements are available on its website www.sanas.org.za. The B-BBEE Commission has embarked on a drive to enhance credibility and confidence in the B-BBEE certificates issued to entities in this country.

ABP has issued a retraction yesterday, 14 September 2016 and has apologised for the confusion created. The B-BBEE Commission appeals to all players in this industry not to engage in conduct that undermine the objectives of B-BBEE as stern action will be taken.

ENQUIRIES:

Sidwell Medupe-Departmental Spokesperson

Tel: (012) 394 1650

Mobile: 079 492 1774

E-mail: MSMedupe@thedti.gov.za

Issued by: the dti for the B-BBEE Commission

Follow us on Twitter: [@bbbeecommission](https://twitter.com/bbbeecommission)

LinkedIn: <https://za.linkedin.com/in/bbbeecommission>