

# ASOCSA REPEATS CALLS FOR MORATORIUM

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Despite ASOCSA having been unanimously mandated by its members and other institutions attending its last Heads Forum calling for a moratorium on all future accreditation visits by the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP) this call has gone unheeded. ASOCSA has repeated its call and threatened to meet with the Ministers of Public Works and Higher Education and Training if it is again ignored.

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Most of the institutions offering quantity surveying degrees are either busy re-curriculating or have already re-curriculated their offerings in response to the new unitary higher education landscape in South Africa. With effect from 2016/17 the previously offered degrees by mainly Universities of Technology will be replaced with new qualifications from which there have as yet not been a cohort of graduates. ASOCSA and its members have argued repeatedly that accrediting these defunct qualifications made no sense. Instead they have asked for the new qualifications to be accredited once there have been graduates from them which is most likely in 2018 at the earliest. Affected universities see no reasonable justification to address any deficiencies in the old qualifications at this stage given that they are being phased out. Instead they are committing their time, effort and resources to the new offerings. ASOCSA has requested that all institutions affected by curriculation be given a blanket provisional accreditation status by SACQSP until their new programs are accredited after the first visits in 2018. To date the SACQSP has dug in its heels and refused. It is insistent on continuing to conduct accreditation visits despite the futility of the exercise. In response to the argument that SACQSP has to conduct such visits within the life of each Council, ASOCSA has suggested that SACQSP inform the responsible Minister in terms of the Quantity Surveying Act of the reasons why visits during this interim transitional period are inopportune and should be postponed. There has been no response from SACQSP to this suggestion. If this silence continues ASOCSA will meet with the Ministers and present the case of its members after engaging with the Council for the Built Environment which oversees the SACQSP and other Councils.