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MEDIA RELEASE

Itumeleng Mothibeli, New SAPOA President, Champions a Bold Vision for Growth, Collaboration and Skills Development in South Africa's Property Sector

Itumeleng Mothibeli steps into his role as the new President of the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA) with a clear and ambitious vision: to steer the property sector towards inclusive growth, innovation, and transformation.

As the Managing Director for Southern Africa at Vukile Property Fund, Mothibeli brings both industry expertise and a forward-looking strategy focused on education, research, and collaboration. He is determined to empower the property sector to drive solutions for some of South Africa's most pressing socio-economic challenges.

"Our industry is at a pivotal moment," Mothibeli said during his inaugural address at the SAPOA Annual Convention 2024. "We have the power to not only shape the skylines but also to shape the future of our country. By investing in education, embracing research, and strengthening partnerships, we can ensure that our growth is both sustainable and inclusive."

Investing in Education and Mentorship: Unlocking Potential and Employment

A cornerstone of Mothibeli's vision is the critical role of education and mentorship in addressing unemployment and fostering opportunity. He plans to amplify SAPOA's internship and bursary programmes, ensuring that talented students and interns find meaningful employment within the property sector. Currently, the industry boasts an 80% absorption rate of interns into full-time positions—a figure Mothibeli is determined to increase.

"By working closely with our members and industry partners, we can make a tangible impact on unemployment," Mothibeli explained. "At a micro level, this is how we can drive real change—by creating opportunities for young professionals to grow and succeed in our industry."

SOUTH AFRICAN PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NPC t/a SAPOA – REG NO 1966/008959/08

Board of Directors | Mothibeli (President), S Brown (President Elect), J van Niekerk (Immediate Past President), N Gopal (Chief Executive Officer), M Kekana, A König, L Razack, N Radebe, S Nosarka

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Research and Advocacy: Creating Data-Driven Solutions

SAPOA’s dedication to research remains unwavering under Mothibeli’s leadership. As part of his strategy, he aims to leverage SAPOA’s comprehensive research reports—spanning topics like operating costs, sustainable development, and water infrastructure—to guide informed advocacy efforts and policy interventions.

“We’re committed to releasing research that offers real insight into the trends shaping our industry,” Mothibeli said. “Informed advocacy is crucial for creating long-term solutions that not only address the needs of property owners but also contribute to broader national objectives, such as land reform and sustainable urban development.”

Empowering Transformation Through the Bursary Programme

Education is also at the heart of SAPOA’s Bursary Programme, a key initiative supporting university students studying property and construction from underprivileged backgrounds who aspire to careers in property. Mothibeli emphasized that expanding access to education is vital for creating a more diverse and inclusive property sector. “This programme, alongside our focus on internships, is laying the foundation for the next generation of leaders,” he noted.

By supporting education through financial assistance and practical experience, SAPOA is ensuring that future professionals are not only equipped with the necessary skills but also have the opportunity, to participate in shaping South Africa’s property landscape.

Strengthening Partnerships for Broader Impact

Mothibeli underscored the importance of partnerships in achieving SAPOA’s goals. Collaborations with industry bodies like SAREIT Association and South African Institute of Black Property Practitioners (SAIBBP), and engagement with broader organisations such as Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), are key elements of his strategy to strengthen the property sector’s influence on policy and national development.

“Our ability to create meaningful change lies in how well we collaborate,” Mothibeli said. “Together, we can tackle some of South Africa’s biggest challenges, from housing shortages to employment creation, by pooling our resources and ideas.”



Economic Impact: Leading Transformation in Property

SAPOA's members are major contributors to South Africa's economy, collectively managing over R500 billion in property assets. The property sector employs more than 500,000 people, and its impact on urban planning, infrastructure, and development is significant. Under Mothibeli's leadership, SAPOA will continue to prioritise transformation efforts to ensure that this sector opens doors for historically marginalised groups and reflects the diversity of the country.

"Our industry has the capacity to not only generate wealth but also to drive social change," Mothibeli remarked. "We must be proactive in creating opportunities for all South Africans, and that starts with how we approach transformation."

A Call to Action: Shaping South Africa's Future Together

Drawing inspiration from Nelson Mandela's vision for a just and equitable South Africa, Mothibeli closed his address with a call to action. He urged the property industry to step up and play a proactive role in addressing national challenges. "The issues we face—housing, unemployment, education—are not just government problems. They are our problems too," Mothibeli said. "If we work together, ideate, and commit to sustainable growth, we can create a brighter future for South Africa."

As the property sector continues to evolve, Mothibeli's leadership signals a renewed focus on collaboration, innovation, and purposeful action. With a clear agenda and the backing of SAPOA's diverse and influential membership, he is confident that the property industry will play a pivotal role in driving South Africa forward.

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