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HOW PSSA WORKS



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Introduction

PSSA is a company registered with the Registrar of Companies of South Africa. The management of PSSA is therefore governed by the South Africa Company's Act.

Founding of PSSA

The late Rev. Dr A.D. (Kin) Bensusan was the driving force behind the founding of PSSA. Kin contacted the leading photographers of the time and held several meetings in order to gain support for the formation of a national photographic society, "to unite all persons interested in the promotion and science of photography". It was to be registered in terms of the Companies Act, as a non-profit making body in the public interest, under section 21 of the Act. An attorney, Bob Murray and a chartered accountant, Brian Penny, who incidentally was also Chairman of the Krugersdorp Photographic Society, drafted the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were required (and still are required) when registering a body such as ours. It is for this reason we have the Memorandum and Articles of Association and not a Constitution.

This Memorandum and Articles of Association was then signed by about a dozen leading photographers in different parts of the country and it was agreed to hold a congress of photography in Durban in July 1954 at which time the Photographic Society of Southern Africa was endorsed. The first board of Directors was formally elected and Kin was appointed as our first President.

What is the Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A)?

The M&A is a 36 page document which prescribes how the company, in our case PSSA, is run. It covers aspects such as membership, office bearers, elections, meetings, accounts, notices etc. Members wishing to view the document can log onto the website where they will find it under the "About PSSA" tab.

It is clear that the founder members spent a lot of time and effort in drafting this document, rather than using the generic one which was available, so much so that it is still in use today. It is lodged with the Registrar of Companies.

Over time a few amendments have been made and these are made in the form of a Special Resolution by the Board of Directors, which is then filed, on a prescribed form, with the Registrar.

Two of the major amendments are:

- 1978 - the conversion of PSSA to a "Company not for Gain". The new company's act of 1973 made provision for a "company not for gain", which was better suited to PSSA's purposes.
- 2008 - name changed to - The Photographic Society of South Africa



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The new company's act of 2008 came into effect on 1 May 2011. All existing companies at that date are deemed to have been converted in accordance with the new act which means that the new act is applicable to PSSA as from 1 May 2011. We are currently updating the Memorandum and Articles of Association in accordance with the new law, the due date being 30 April 2013.

What is covered in the M&A?

The M&A states that the main objective of PSSA is "to unite all persons interested in the promotion and science of photography".

It further describes how the company is to be managed in order to achieve this objective.

How is PSSA managed?

The affairs of the Society are managed by a Board of Directors whose aim is to advance the objects of the Society. The Board is elected by the Members with each individual member having the power to both nominate and to vote for any member in good standing to serve as a Director. All affiliated clubs also have a vote.

The board currently consist of 18 directors, 8 of whom are elected on a national basis and 10 on a regional basis. Each director receives a portfolio to chair or participate in. This ensures the effective and smooth running of the Society. It is important to stress that all directors serve on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration for their services.

A director's term of office is 2 years. After which he/she can immediately stand for re-election. The election of the national and regional directors takes place in alternate years to ensure continuity on the board.

From amongst their number the Board will elect the President and two Vice Presidents, each for a two year term. The President may not stand for a second term without at least serving as 2nd and then 1st Vice President prior to his/her second term of office.

The Board appoints, from their number, a Chairman and at least two other persons to be designated as the Executive Committee who are responsible for the day to day affairs and running of the Society.

The Board creates divisions and committees for specialised activities and appoints Chairpersons to run these divisions.

PSSA belongs to the members but relies heavily on the hardworking individuals who make up the Management team. If you would like to become more involved please offer your services either as a Director or as a member of one of the divisional sub-committees.