

# MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



This factsheet outlines the benefits accrued to members both tangible and intangible. There are direct material benefit, innate benefit as well as intangible benefit, by virtue of association.

The ABP has as its forerunners The Association of BEE Verification Agencies (ABVA) and the National Association of BEE Consultants (NABC), its roots stretching back to 2005. The Institutional memory vested in the ABP as a sector – specific representative body is a ready resource to all members.

The ABP is a member – based, member – driven and member – supported organisation where volunteerism ensures participation and contribution.

Our founding organisations have been at the cutting edge of the economic transformation journey in South Africa resulting in the development and standardising of the B-BBEE MDP Programme, recognised as a key qualification for B-BBEE Professionals, whether Technical Signatories, Practitioners or Consultants.

The ABP is also formally recognised as a Professional Body by SAQA with a Professional Designation of Economic Empowerment Professional (EEP). Only ABP members can work towards having this designation after their names. Continuous Professional Development is part of our ethos as we ensure that members are kept abreast with latest legislative and sectoral developments.

Representing the interest of you the member has been a strength of the ABP from inception and this has always been on the mandate of membership. The ABP engages with all statutory structures as they relate to the sector being the JTC of the DTI and relevant structures within the DTI, relevant SETAs, the Services SETA, in particular, Sector Charter Councils and The BEE Commissioner. The ABP is formally recognised by these structures as representing members. The ABP is therefore at the cutting edge of all developments in the sector and able to keep members abreast at all times.

The ABP works closely with Industry Associations such as SAIPA and the EDCSA where their member interests with regard to B-BBEE are addressed through the ABP, strengthening sectoral representation. We share common values.

The ABP is a recognised brand in the market place, this allows for clients of our members having a level of comfort knowing that they are dealing with service providers who subscribe to a Code of Conduct and values and that in the rare event that a member transgresses, there is a means of recourse. The ABP logo, however, is only authorised for use by Practice and Corporate members.

The diverse nature of membership, being direct as well as through MOUs, allows for excellent opportunities for members to network, collaborate and grow their individual businesses. It also allows for intellectual engagements around key sectoral developments with the sharing of insights and personal growth through engagement. The key is engagement once membership has been achieved and active participation by the member.

The above are some of the benefits accrued to members, benefit is a relative term, and it all depends on what you require as an individual or company. We look forward to welcoming you as a member where our offering intersects with your need.

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## The benefits of membership (Summary)

- ❖ Receive EAP targets and Industry Norms;
- ❖ Kept up to date with pertinent information;
- ❖ Attendance at training workshops, seminars and Annual General Meeting (AGM);
- ❖ You may stand for election and be voted to become part of the ABP Board at ABP's elective AGM every two years;
- ❖ Listing on the ABP website in the appropriate category;
- ❖ Access to the ABP Members only certificate database (once a Member, you will receive a username and password that allows you to upload your own client's BEE certificate onto our certificate database);
- ❖ In addition, queries that are technical or interpretive in nature, can be submitted to the ABP who will raise these, in the approved format with **the dti** and SANAS to provide support in respect of requests for clarification and the management of these with **the dti**;
- ❖ The ABP will co-ordinate Members' interests to better serve the interests of Transformation by formally requesting clarity, consultation or participation in key strategic events, policies or pronouncements relating to transformation;
- ❖ Greater emphasis on access to information, centralised databases and shared data will support our Members;
- ❖ Stronger lobbying on issues that create uncertainty and legal conflict;
- ❖ Ethics and disciplinary committee to address professionalism and governance
- ❖ Regular events, training and information sharing; and
- ❖ Co-ordinated emphasis on Professionalisation as a means to reduce confusion within the industry, conflict amongst the member groups and most importantly to root out bad business practice.

The Association of B-BBEE professionals, a good choice!