

Comparative Study of the Surveyors Council of Nigeria Enabling Act and South Africa's Geomatics Profession Act

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Key words: Legislation; Professional practice; Standards; Acts; legislation; policies; Nigeria; South Africa; Geomatics; Profession

SUMMARY

Colonialism in Africa significantly altered the structures of governance, replacing indigenous systems with externally imposed administrative models. These changes continue to shape the management and administration of professional institutions, including the geomatics profession. Today, the regulation of geomatics relies on formal legislation, which varies across African countries partly due to differing colonial legacies and post-colonial reforms. This study analyses the Surveyors Council of Nigeria Enabling Act No. S18 LFN, 2004, and South Africa's Geomatics Profession Act No. 19 of 2013, to explore how these legal frameworks impact the practice of geomatics. Using secondary data (Legislation, Policies, and official Acts), the paper offers a reflective critique grounded in the authors' professional experiences in both Nigeria and South Africa. Drawing lessons from South Africa's regulatory framework, the study proposes key recommendations for strengthening Nigeria's legislation. The findings are relevant for policymakers, professional bodies, and academic institutions involved in shaping laws that govern geomatics practice and support professional mobility across the continent.

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(13677)

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FIG Congress 2026

The Future We Want - The SDGs and Beyond

Cape Town, South Africa, 24–29 May 2026