



The Congolese Professionals Network

Executive Summary, Mission and Objectives

The Congolese Professionals Network is a platform that was initiated by Young Congolese Professionals in direct response to the growing need for collaboration and networking among young professionals originally from Congo that have been going through the same challenges without necessarily having people to consult or get advice from, or good connections that could assist them in their growing careers.

The goal of the platform is to identify the skills and service offering of the young professionals within the community, connect them with other professionals within similar fields and also with those having similar interests in order to promote collaboration and communication. The focus is slightly different at each level of service and conversation, but the goal remains the same; empower the young person to make positive changes in our community.

The Congolese Professionals Network, also known as “243Network” is a community organization providing a platform for networking, collaboration, mentorship as well as business ideation and implementation for the young professionals from Congo based in South Africa and extending beyond the South African borders.

We aim to promote unity among the Congolese community in South Africa by fostering an environment where young professionals work together, assist and refer each other and advise each other, and ultimately consume each other products. A community of people that is mentoring the younger generation, facilitating a cross-pollination of ideas and projects that could benefit the Congolese community in general and our country on the larger scale of things.

Your network is your net worth; it is with the same mentality that we would like to increase the network of young professionals within the community.

The actions of the platform will be focused around 8 themes:

1. Advertising of product and services
2. Posting of Job opportunities
3. Posting of Request for services or products
4. Posting of Job seeking requests
5. Professionals Mentorship Program
6. Business Ideation and Financing
7. Business Sponsoring and Mentoring.
8. Social Actions within the community

We look forward to collaborating with each of you. United we are stronger.

Code of Conduct

1. All business requests should be sent to administrators and not posted directly on the group.
2. All members should be treated with respect and dignity.
3. No swearing will be tolerated during opened exchange sessions.
4. Always keep to the purpose of the group! Do not share irrelevant messages about other topics.
5. Do not spam the group
6. Share your message in one single chunk of text with a graphic summary if possible.
7. Do not have one-on-one conversations in the group. Switch to private messages.
8. Do not post in the group between 21:00 and 07:00 unless it is an all-out emergency.
9. If a message asks for a positive response like an RSVP, don't reply in the negative. Only say if you are able to attend. Don't double RSVP if a second call to action is sent out for the same event.
10. If someone asks a question and you don't know the answer don't respond with "I don't know". Just wait for someone who knows the answer to reply.
11. Please don't send in a hundred "thank you" messages. If you feel gratitude towards someone – tell them in a private message.
12. If someone asks a question of a personal nature (like asking for advice) don't respond if someone else has already answered, or else respond to the person directly in a private message.
13. The group is not a political nor a religious platform. No arguing, no heated opinions, no fear mongering, no hyped-up drama, no fake news. Check your sources before you share.
14. Never EVER use the group to berate someone else or air grievances. If you have an issue address it one on one with the relevant person.
15. Don't send data-insensitive messages.
16. Hit "Mute" on your WhatsApp group during discussions if you are busy. This is a sanity saver. You will still receive all the messages, but your phone won't buzz or make a noise for every one of them.

N.B: All these rules are in place in order to make the group healthy and productive, and for its sole purpose of empowering each and every one of us. Without those guidelines, the group will quickly become saturated and eventually people will start leaving and we do not want that. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

Regards, The Team



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