



science & innovation

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# AN ENGAGED UNIVERSITY FOR AN ENGAGED CITY/REGION

Sol Plaatje University in Conversation with its communities



04 & 05 August 2022



09:30 - 16:00



SPU South Campus Multi-Purpose Hall and Breakaway Rooms

How can a new university relate to its local context to support social, economic, and cultural development while thriving for national and international excellence and recognition? This is one of the questions that the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and Sol Plaatje University (SPU) researchers have attempted to respond to in the last three years by means of a collaborative research project. The project has engaged with a wide range of stakeholders in the city of Kimberley and the Northern Cape province to establish a common understanding of the role that SPU can play in the city, region, province, and beyond.

The HSRC and SPU are now inviting a range of stakeholders to a knowledge-sharing workshop to present some of the evidence gathered by the project and stimulate constructive conversations that will inform the way forward. In the main, the workshop is guided by SPU's strategic mission to “engage critically with communities of discourse and communities of people in order to search out pathways to equitable development.”

## Conversations will be guided by the following questions:

- What is the mandate of SPU and how is that mandate being accomplished? Who are the relevant stakeholders in achieving this mandate?
- How can local resources be leveraged towards stronger collaboration and partnerships between the university and community-based stakeholders for equitable development?
- How can stakeholders work with the university to contribute to social, economic, and cultural development for Kimberley, the Northern Cape, and the region?
- What opportunities, challenges, strengths, and caveats for universities in the city and the region?
- What way forward for engagement?

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