



**Developmental, Capable
and Ethical State**

Making
GOVERNANCE
work

5TH EDITION



THOUGHTS FROM THE DIVISIONAL HEAD

Whether it was expected or not, this newsletter reaches us at a time when we are experiencing a severe third wave in South Africa mostly caused by a new highly transmissible variant of the COVID-19 virus known colloquially as "Delta". We were placed under an adjusted lockdown Level 4 and the end of the pandemic is not in sight with very few South African having been vaccinated. As the system gradually opens up for registration, I would encourage everyone to play their part in moving us towards vaccine immunity as is being seen in large parts of Europe. Please see the end of this newsletter for some facts and information on vaccines.

Despite it all we continue to work from home, with a number of our colleagues having contracted the virus and many losing close family members. Our condolences go out to all those who have lost loved ones. The pain is immeasurable and we hope that you find solace in warm memories and the comfort of those who are still with you. With everything spiralling, staff morale has been effected and to measure the effects we will be conducting a second internal online survey soon to test the mood and opinions of colleagues in DCES. The results will be shared in our next newsletter.

The good news is that we have had even more new colleagues and interns joining us and you will meet them in these pages. We also share news of the impact of our UJ/HSRC COVID-19 democracy survey on vaccine hesitancy and the newly concluded contract with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) on local government elections and other exciting projects we are involved in.

Lastly, we say farewell to Professor Modimowabarwa (Barwa) Kanyane who is leaving us at the end of July. Having worked with Barwa for all my ten years at the HSRC in DGSD and now DCES I wish to personally thank him for his consistent support, diligence, professionalism and the immeasurable contributions he has made over the years. Barwa, may your journey be smooth and your future bright. We look forward to working with you in your capacity as Executive Dean of Management and Law at the University of Venda. Hamba Kahle my friend.

On that note I hope that you enjoy reading our latest newsletter lovingly put together by Ithuteng Sekaledi, for which we are very grateful.

Please see the end of this newsletter for some facts and information on vaccines.

I thought I would share a poem written by a colleague on "having a touch of COVID"

A TOUCH OF COVID

I have a touch of Covid, they say.
How much is a touch? I ask.
It's a light touch, they say. It's Covid Light.
How can you tell? I ask.
Your symptoms are light, they say:
You have a mild fever, a slight cough,
A few aches and pains.
Will it stay that way? I ask.
We don't know, they say.
Some show no symptoms
Some show mild symptoms
Some can't breathe
And some die.

How did I get Covid? I ask.
The Covid Cupid shot his arrow, they say,
And it stuck.
Yes, but was the arrow golden, silver, or steel? I ask.
We don't know, they say. Only Cupid knows.
If his arrow was golden, your symptoms will pass.
If silver, your symptoms will linger.
And if steel, your symptoms will stay.
Okay, I say. I can live with that.

Michael Cosser
29 May 2021

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Human Sciences
Research Council

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ITHUTENG UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL DR YUL DEREK DAVIDS

Meeting Derek: I grew up in the Northern Suburbs of Cape Town in Bellville South very close to the University of the Western Cape (UWC). My father was an electrician and mother a nurse and both considered education is an important way out of poverty but even more importantly as a tool to liberate the mind. My father was very political and through his participation in sport advocated for 'no normal sport in an abnormal society'. Those older colleagues will know that SACOS played a key role in opposing apartheid through sport. This is probably why I from an early age engaged in politics. At high school I withdrew from being a prefect to be on the Student Representative Council to make sure I participate in the struggle against apartheid. I still remember the days in the 1980s when I walk from Bellville High School to the UWC's Main Hall to attend political meetings and to plan demonstrations. I was particularly keen to hear Desmond Tutu and Allan Boesak speak at these meetings. I eventually landed up studying at UWC and became a teacher and later pursued a career in research by completing all my post graduate studies part-time under trying and difficult circumstances.

My career: As a teacher I enjoyed working with teenagers and to be part of their forming years. I was Bellville

South High School's guidance teacher and arranged educational and recreational tours for the learners. The annual career days was an important event for me because it provided the learners the opportunity to first-hand meet with people from various institutions where they intend to study. After leaving teaching I started working at the Manenberg Community Health Centre as a counselling expert where I was responsible for the leadership of the Men's Programme. This is also where my interest in research started, and Chris Giles at the Centre supported me with my MA Degree studies in Research Psychology. After completing my MA degree, I got a job at the HSRC in Pretoria to complete my research internship. I am particularly grateful to Reneitte du Toit and Elize van Zyl for their guidance and support during my first years at the HSRC. I left the HSRC in Pretoria to Co-ordinate the Afrobarometer project at Idasa in Cape Town. This is where I developed a passion for survey research under the leadership of Professor Bob Matters. As part of the Afrobarometer project I managed surveys in seven Southern African countries. I consider this period probably as one of the most adventurous in my research career. My fieldwork trips to Malawi and Tanzania were very exciting because I had the opportunity to do scuba diving and to meet and engage with the local people. It





was also through the Afrobarometer project that I was able to attend the Survey Summer School at Michigan University. My research network is throughout Africa and most of these contacts are a result of my work on the Afrobarometer project. It is because of these networks that I was able to do consultancy work for Management Systems International (MSI) in Nigeria, USAID in Tanzania as well as for the International Foundation for Elections Systems (IFES) in Uganda.

My research career was further boosted when I moved to the HSRC as a research manager. I first started working in Population Health, Health Systems and Innovation (PHHSI) programme and later moved to the Democracy Governance and Service Delivery (DGSD) programme as Senior Research Manager. I have also work in the area of democracy, governance and social cohesion. My key expertise is project management, project conceptualization, proposal writing, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), large-scale surveys, community fieldwork, focus groups and key informant interviews. I hold a PhD in Political Science from Stellenbosch University and have published extensively and has represented the HSRC both at national and international conferences. I have consolidated my partnership with Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and play a strategic role in giving effect to the CPUT / HSRC MOU. I successfully managed the Automated RPL Screening Tool project and currently am an Advisory Committee Member of the Department of Applied Legal Studies at the CPUT and continue to provide strategic input to the development of the curriculum of the Honours Community Paralegal Degree. I also work closely with the School of Public Health at the UWC and teach annually at their Summer School to both undergraduate and post graduate students. Besides engaging with HDU, Derek is also working with the Community Advice Office (CAO) sector to continue his passion of addressing the socio-economic rights of people, especially marginalised groups such as the poor, women and children. I love working at the HSRC and made friends for life. For example, I am now working for than ten years with Jaré and Ben and have fond memories of the work we are doing for the IEC.

What I value most: Although I can adequately do presentations and liaise with the media, I prefer to work behind the scenes and to provide support for colleagues as well as directly engage with study participants. I get great gratification to see a smile on survey participant or workshop participant than talking to a newspaper reporter. I love my family and enjoy spending the little time I have with them. Michelle and I like to have a glass of wine when we catch up after a long day. As a family we love the sea and anything that involves water. I am a qualified skipper and enjoy going out on my boat to catch fish or just enjoy the sun or what nature has to offer. I also try to fit in a game of golf every month but with COVID-19 it is now every three months! For those of you who do not know I was a good sportsman and played rugby, cricket, and soccer. Top secret – I am a great dancer and can still perform a step or two.

IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

PROF MODIMOWABARWA KANYANE'S REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER AT THE HSRC



I decided to write this farewell message in poetic form to express my thoughts and feelings!

The time to go has arrived. The time to say goodbye is now imminent. It is hard. It is even difficult and emotional to pen this down on paper.

I tried postponing this eventuality, but the moment has arrived as three months' notice just vanished through thin air with the tick-tock of a clock.

In the past I resisted temptations to leave against my will, as I thought I would be leaving in 5 years' time at the end of my contract. Five more years were added, fixed term contract converted into permanent, and cannot believe it is now just over a decade at the HSRC.

This is my home! There are good people here at the HSRC. It took some time to be where we are together. We are a "lovely bunch of people" concerned about each other. Research is a lonely journey and challenging, but together, we have made it fun, holding hands together as a winning team, met deadlines, targets, and produced quality clients' reports on time. *This, I will miss, as I leave!*

I led difficult and technical projects, City Support and SOEs among others, but despite that, we rolled up our sleeves and wrapped them up and brought them to successful completion. Some clients were micro-managing and scope creeping, but we sailed through all that together. As a team, we overcame and delivered quality outputs. It was all hands on deck! *This, I will remember!*

Fond memories flash to mind of when we transitioned from SD to DGSD and from DGSD to DCES. We underwent a metamorphosis, but we all did not want to part ways or join other divisions because we are one big family. Rather, we recruited others to come on board to row the boat together. *This, I will also miss!*

As I leave the HSRC, I will continue to value the opportunities I had to build bridges. Bridges are not to be burned but used to cross when we need them. Institutionally and individually, I realize we will need each other more as we give back to society with our research

that makes a difference. *This, I commit to sustain through partnerships!*

We often miss the administrators amongst the pack of researchers, yet they are our technical support who we cannot do without. For that, I remain thankful to have enjoyed support of our administrators. I was actually the lucky one: perhaps I was the most difficult, but the support remained unwavering. *That, I will remember!*

I worked closely with two CRS who are now RDs. The two RDs always made my appraisal easier as I know they always perform above average annually. The support from all over the DGC was overwhelming. *Without mentioning names, I remain thankful to all of you!*

To PaSS, you are an essential part of an amazing puzzle, we worked together across the two units, in different projects without any buffers and silos. I do not like this title of Strategic Lead but the two of us, we were real strategic leads even in these tumultuous times of the pandemic to support our Divisional Executive. *That I will miss also!*

To our Divisional Executive, you chose a tough job. It is really difficult to lead a team from diversified backgrounds, but it was all hands on deck! We worked together for close to a decade now. We remained focused to steer this ship! It was not always rosy due to the nature of our research which is not "sexy" to attract funding, but through your leadership we made it! There are some learnings I have picked up from you; one of those was to give me enough room to work and grow. *That I will remember!*

It's emotional to say goodbye, but it is also fulfilling to receive assurance of working together on the other side. I take on new responsibilities at UNIVEN as an Executive Dean: Faculty of Management, Law and Commerce from 1 August 2021. It is a demanding job but I'm prepared to face the challenge. I do not imagine any challenge can be my match after climbing a tough mountain at the HSRC with many steps during close to 11 years. ***For that I remain thankful and to God be the glory!***



PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW **BILLIE-JEAN**

I had a colourful and long history at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), having only completed my undergrad when I joined in 2008.

I have been employed by HSRC for the past 12 years and held various positions within the organisation. Serving as a Data Processing Assistant, capturing data, checking and editing captured data and was involved in the conception of the data curation project in the former Knowledge System Unit. I was redeployed to the Business Development and Ethics office as a result of the HSRC restructuring in 2010. The position was later advertised and I was appointed as a Funding Search and Support Officer, after participating in a competitive interview and competency exercise process. The Business Development unit merged with the International Liaison to form Business Development and International Liaison (BDIL) in 2012. I was then transferred to BDIL, where I continued to provide business development and partnership support to the HSRC. While serving in this capacity, I was mentored and trained by both Dr Christa van Zyl and Ms Carla Pheiffer. I served as a DST assistant National Contact point from 2011 – 2013 for Social Sciences and Humanities for the EU Framework programme and also underwent training in the United

States of America at the National Institute of Health (NIH) Regional Seminar. I gained so much knowledge and skills in my time at the HSRC, enabling and exposing me to sourcing and responding to opportunities from the EU and US governments.

I applied for and was appointed as the HSD Programme Administrator in the Pretoria Office, where she was responsible for providing administrative support to researchers, it was in this role that I got engage with support services more regularly and later developing good rapport with many of my colleagues.

Then in 2020, in response to the new 5-year strategic plan, I was recruited to support the Developmental Capabilities and Ethical State (DCES) division with identifying and responding to funding opportunities in order to meet its financial targets.

I have certainly been around in the organisation but nothing will take from the experience I gained, the valuable friendships I have been blessed with and the opportunity I had working with the best minds in the country!

It has been a ride, one that I will not forget. The HSRC was my home for many years, I came in as single woman and left with a beautiful family which was celebrated with many of my colleagues.

My cup runneth over and although my season at the organisation has ended, I will always be watching as the HSRC soars to higher heights!

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Congratulations on your new jobs Dr Yul Derek Davids & Dr Tim Hart. It makes all of us here at DCES so happy to watch you chase your dreams (and catch them)! We are celebrating the dedication you have shown on the way to this achievement. You have earned every bit of the success you are enjoying. You are proof that good things come to those who are willing to sacrifice to reach a worthwhile goal. Words can't express how proud we are.



APPOINTMENT OF DR YUL DEREK DAVIDS

I recently applied for the position of Research Director after acting several times in the position. I was therefore delighted to be appointed on 1 May 2021 in this position and to be part of the strategic leadership of DCES. My research area includes the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable people such as the poor and quality of life and wellbeing. I have managed and worked on more than fifty national representative surveys. I am extremely passionate about uplifting marginalised and deprived communities and therefore work closely with the historical disadvantage universities (HDU).



APPOINTMENT OF TIM HART AS A CHIEF RESEARCH SPECIALIST

DCES is happy to announce the recent appointment of Dr Tim Hart as a Chief Research Specialist within DCES for a period of 5 years. Tim holds a PhD in Social Anthropology and is a Research Fellow in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Stellenbosch university. He is currently leading the HSRC's involvement in two projects financed by international institutions: UKRI-Newton GCRF GCRF_NF362 "Socio-economic, wellbeing and human rights related experiences of people with disabilities in Covid-19 times in South Africa"; and the Secretariat of the International Commission on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (CoSAI) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Project "Selecting the Most Effective Funding Approaches and Instruments to Invest in Innovation in Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (SAI)". Tim has a keen interest in disability and also longer-standing interests and research experience in rural-urban development, agriculture, land reform, food security, gender and innovation. He has an internationally recognised background and expertise in participatory research methods and indigenous knowledge.

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE NEW RESEARCHERS!



THE FREE SPIRITED YET FORMIDABLE **DR NEO MOHLABANE** FROM THE KINGDOM IN THE SKY

Neo is a free spirited, fun-loving 'ngoanana oa Mosotho' (Mosotho girl) born and bred in the mountain Kingdom. She has two great children, a boy and a girl. Neo is the fifth born child of six children. She is a Senior Research Specialist whose research interests lie in the areas of gender, sexuality, agency, GBV, intersectionality and decoloniality. In 2020, she graduated with a PhD in Sociology from the university of Pretoria. Her doctoral project is titled 'Re-construction of womanhood in Lesotho: Narratives of unmarried Basotho women'. Prior to enrolling for PhD studies she obtained a Masters degree in Public Health (2011) and thereafter proceeded to do an honors degree in Sociology (Gender studies) both obtained from the University of Pretoria. Neo's research career began at the HSRC when she joined the HIV, AIDS, STI and TB (HAST) research program as a Masters intern in 2011 and subsequently, a PhD intern in 2015. She is an

experienced researcher with a demonstrable history of working in social sciences program and evaluation research using qualitative and quantitative research approaches. Neo has written abstracts, research manuscripts for publication as well as presented research findings at different research forums. She has collaborated actively with researchers on several other projects including manuscript and book writing.

What Neo has learnt so far from being a researcher? That she has a passion for 'seeing' and trying making sense of the world through the eyes of others. You get to understand their inspirations, disappointments and vulnerabilities. At the same time, this reminds her of the persisting social injustices and the amount of work that lies ahead to making the world a better place for us all.

Thoughts on working with the DCES team thus far? There has not been a dull moment, she has had to step out of her comfort zone but she is grateful for the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to new areas of research. The team spirit within the unit is astounding... Wow! Working from home has not been easy but she quickly learnt that it requires her to be more intentional with her time and plan her days very well. Long distance running, hiking, reading, traveling and enjoying live theatre are some of Neo's leisure activities.

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THE AWE INSPIRING **DR RACHEL ADAMS**

Dr Rachel Adams is a Chief Research Specialist at the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa, where she is leading various projects exploring the impact of artificial intelligence in Africa, data for inclusive development, and data governance. She has degrees in Jurisprudence (PhD, University of Cape Town), International Human Rights Law (MPhil, University of Cape Town) and English Literature and Philosophy (BA, Royal Holloway, University of London). Rachel advises the UK and South African governments and the United Nations on the ethics of artificial intelligence, and is member of the Independent Advisory Group of the Surveillance Camera Commissioner for the UK Home Office. Rachel is further an Editor of the South African Journal on Human Rights. She is the author of *Transparency: New Trajectories in Law* (Routledge, 2020), and the lead author of *Human Rights and the Fourth Industrial Revolution in South Africa* (HSRC Press, 2021). Rachel is currently working on a monograph entitled *On Decolonising Artificial Intelligence: The Fight for the Freedom of the Future*, with Polity Press.

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THE SUBLIME DR TLOU MILLICENT RAMOROKA

Dr Tlou Millicent Ramoroka holds a Doctor of Administration in Development measuring in planning and governance in relation to development issues. As a planner and development specialist, she has completed her Master in Town and Regional Planning with the University of Pretoria. Dr Ramoroka also holds another Masters Degree of Administration in Development, Honours degree in Development as well as the Bachelor of Sciences in Community Water and Sanitation Services which were all obtained from the University of Limpopo. She recently obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education and Training with the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. With over 12 years of experience in academia, Dr Ramoroka has a number of teaching and learning achievements inclusive of ability to teach at both post-graduate and undergraduate levels in the fields of Urban Development Planning, Spatial Development Planning, GeoSpatial Technology for Development Planning (GIS) and Research Methodology and Paper. Dr Ramoroka's research interests include Planning, Management and Governance; Spatial Development Planning; Settlement Planning; Urban Development Planning; and, Development Management. Additionally, she supervises Honours mini-dissertations, Masters dissertations as well as Doctoral theses in the field of Development Planning and Management and Public Administration. Through several research projects including the Capricorn District Municipality Socio-economic Study and the TV White Spaces Project, a number of research links were established, offering her rich returns to internationally minded scientists. Given her knowledge, she has made it a point that she contributes to building and expanding her research acumen through international research collaborations evident in her publications with both national and international scholars. Up to date, she has published 11 subsidized accredited articles in national and international journals; 9 non-subsidized accredited journal articles; 1 subsidized accredited book chapter as well as 9 subsidized accredited conference proceedings. She has also presented a substantial number of papers in local, national and international conferences. With her qualifications, skills and experience, Dr Ramoroka hopes to add a remarkable value to the HSRC as a Chief Research Specialist in the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State Unit.

WELCOME ABOARD

OUR BRAND NEW INTERNS

Congratulations and welcome to the DCES team Nande and Sandisiwe!

We are excited to have you at DCES. We know that you are going to be a valuable asset to our company and are looking forward to the positive impact you are going to have here.



My name is Nande Bija. I am an intern at Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), under the PYEI program, in the DCES department. I graduated for my Honours degree in the year 2020 at the University of the Western Cape, and currently enrolled for my Masters degree, in the department of Geography, Environmental Studies and Tourism. My area of expertise is Geography, specifically

GIS and Environmental Management. I have been volunteering for the Western Cape Wetland Forum where I gained ecosystem management and rehabilitation skills.

My hobbies include photography, and that is what I mostly do with my free time.



Sandisiwe Ndlazilwana is my name, and I'm 25 years old. I grew up in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, and I have a Bachelor of Technology in Public Management and a Diploma in Local Government Finance. I sing in a choral group, and in my leisure time I enjoy watching news and looking up current events on the internet. I'm a research assistant intern at the HSRC, working under Dr. Davids supervision.

A YOUNG AND DYNAMIC RESEARCHER ON THE MOVE



"Joining the HSRC was the best opportunity ever to come my way," says Fhulufhelo Tshililo, a Ph.D. intern in Peace And Sustainable Security (PASS) and a Ph.D. candidate in Operations Management at the University of Johannesburg. Prior to joining the HSRC in 2018, Fhulufhelo completed her MSc in Agrometeorology with the University of KwaZulu-Natal and worked for the Agricultural Research Council Institute for Soil Climate and Water as an MSc candidate in the Agrometeorology division. Her research interests are in system dynamics modeling, water management, crop production, food security, and climate change.

Fhulufhelo shares how exciting and equipping the journey has been for her in the HSRC. She recounts how exciting and challenging the journey has been in the HSRC, having worked on some of the major projects, interacting with great scholars and experts, learning all the technicalities of research, being on the ground, and interacting with communities to ultimately producing positive research outputs that make a difference not only in academia but also in society. As COVID-19 wears on and moves into yet another wave, Fhulufhelo also reflects on how the past 15 months were the most challenging time for her because of the pandemic and the many challenges it posed; having to adjust to new working norms and limited resources, getting ill in the midst of the pandemic, overcoming COVID-19 anxiety and still finding time to do her job and school work. Despite all the challenges, she has managed to produce a number of manuscripts, some under review and some already published. In the past financial year, she co-authored two peer-reviewed journal articles and two book chapters. This is a milestone for Fhulufhelo, who has been faced with so many challenges. As a young researcher, Fhulufhelo continues to work hard to complete her Ph.D. She looks forward to far more great opportunities and life beyond the HSRC.

OUR INCREASING ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES

ONLINE FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS DURING A TIME OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Gregory Houston, Maree Harold, Marilyn Couch, Phelele Bhengu, Theresa Saber and Darian Smith

A team of researchers, led by DCES's Dr Gregory Houston, that is conducting research for a project on covid vaccine hesitancy in Wentworth, Durban, recently held four online focus group discussions (FDGs) between 30 June and 2 July 2021. The FDGs were originally scheduled to be held on 28 and 29 June. The announcement of the ban on indoor meetings by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday 27 June forced the team – which includes non-HSRC research assistants Maree Harold, Marilyn Couch, Theresa Saber and Darian Smith, as well as doctoral candidate Phelele Bhengu – to rapidly come up with an alternative, giving rise to the online focus groups.

The Wentworth research team is one of four research teams working on a joint project of the HSRC, Medical Research Council of South Africa and the Sarraounia Public Health Trust in four wards in different parts of the country: Wentworth, Sweetwaters, Rylands and Alexandria. The focus of the study is the impact of COVID-19 on individuals, families and communities in South Africa, and to understand how people feel about the COVID-19 vaccine. The results of this study will inform the development of capacity for national and local ward-based stakeholders to support vaccine uptake. The focus groups were the last stage in the fieldwork that included observation, interviews with fifteen Key Informants, four expression sessions and a survey conducted with 300 Wentworth residents.

The team decided to arrange four online FDGs as quickly as possible to meet deadlines. Consideration had to be taken of the following:

- Selection of an online platform for meetings that is appropriate;
- Identification of potential participants who have the means to engage in online meetings;
- A process for inclusion of potential participants who do not have these means; and
- Safe spaces where the latter participants could participate in the FDGs while conforming to lockdown regulations.

The team opted, under the circumstances, for Zoom meetings, which allows for free sessions of approximately 30-minutes each. A list of participants was then drawn up for the various FDG sessions with individuals identified who had the means – smart cell phones, laptops and personal computers as well as Wi-Fi – to participate in the FDGs and

those who did not. Four members of the research team live in Wentworth and have Wi-Fi at their homes. It was decided that those participants who did not have the means to participate in their own homes would be taken to the homes of three of these research team members, while the moderator would conduct the focus group without any participant in his/her presence.

The first FDG with a female group aged between 30 and 59 was held from 18h00 on 30 June and moderated by Darian Smith; the second with a mixed group aged between 18 and 29 was held from 11am on 1 July and moderated by Dr Gregory Houston; the third with a male group aged between 30 and 59 was held from 18h00 on 1 July and moderated by Marilyn Couch; and the fourth was with a mixed group of participants over the age of 60 years held at 11am on 2 July that Dr Houston moderated.

These FDGs illustrated that online focus groups during a time of lockdown are quite possible. But a number of lessons can be drawn from them.

- It is important to ensure that all participants who are based at their own homes during the FDGs have downloaded the Zoom app and are familiar with Zoom meetings. It is vital to have a technical person on hand and the contact details of all such participants. There were several instances in our FDGs where participants were using the app for the first time and it was necessary to guide them during the course of the FDGs. The moderator must constantly monitor to ensure that all participants are connected at all times, and ensure the technical person takes the necessary steps to ensure that connectivity is rapidly brought back for any participants who lose connection;
- It is important to ensure that the Zoom meeting can run for at least two hours. We made use of the free Zoom sessions, and there was a need every 30 minutes to re-connect with the new links to the meeting sent to all participants. Even if the FDG is expected to take an hour-and-a-half, schedule the meeting for 2 hours to accommodate any challenges that may arise such as connectivity problems faced by some participants, as well as instances where some potential participants do not pitch up. In the latter case, always have potential participants on standby who can be called upon to fill in for people who drop out at the last minute. This

happened several times with the Wentworth FDGs;

- It is important to carefully determine the number of participants and questions. In our focus groups we had an average of 9 participants (including the moderator), which allows, on average, close to 7 minutes speaking time per participant in each hour of the FDG. The questionnaire had 17 questions, with a total of 52 additional probing questions. In the 120-minutes that three of the four FDGs took with 17 questions and the 52 additional probing questions, the moderator had to note that each person had, on average, only a few minutes to speak. The fourth FDG took three hours, and some speakers spoke much more often and for longer periods than others. It is important that from the outset the moderator states in very strong terms that the participants have to be as brief as possible to ensure that everyone gets a chance to speak. The moderator must also be prepared to intervene when participants talk for too long. Despite the large number of questions, this worked quite well in three FDGs, while the fourth had a number of dominant personalities. Nevertheless, with the latter, which lasted for three hours, a significant amount of useful material was generated and insights obtained.
- This brings us to the fourth issue, which is the importance of selecting the approach the moderator takes when asking questions: (a) either by having a

list of names of all participants and asking each one by name to respond one after the other to each question consistently throughout the focus group (at the very least, the first few questions, including the initial one where participants are asked to introduce themselves, should be done in this manner) (the challenge here is that participants who may not have answers to some (and in some cases, many) questions posed will be forced to respond); (b) randomly selecting names from the list of participants and asking a select few to respond to a particular question consistently throughout the focus group (the challenge here is that some people who may wish to respond to a question and are not asked may feel ignored or return to questions they were not asked when they are asked another question and respond in a manner that shifts the focus); or (c) posing the question and asking for a response from any participant who wishes to do so consistently throughout the focus group (the challenge with the latter is that you might have a situation where a few dominate and crowd out others). The moderator could, of course, adopt all or a combination of any two of these approaches. There was a mixture of use of these approaches in all four Wentworth focus groups.

What our experience has shown, is that online focus groups can work – even in future where there are no restrictions on gatherings.

DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND CITIZENSHIP (DGC) CORNER

THE INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (PREVIOUSLY, THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE – ‘COST’) SOUTH AFRICA SCOPING STUDY

The Auditor-General of South Africa’s (AGSA) annual audit reports have noted growing corruption and maladministration in the design, procurement and delivery of infrastructure projects in South Africa. The AG has regularly highlighted the ‘fruitless and wasteful expenditure’ not only by SOEs, but also by other national entities and provincial and municipal authorities. In his 2017/18 annual report (AGSA 2018), the AG highlighted that fruitless and wasteful expenditure had increased by 200 per cent to R2.5 billion among national entities; while more than half of the auditees had engaged in uncompetitive and unfair procurement processes, amounting to R28.4 billion among SOEs.

The HSRC was commissioned (CoST) to undertake a scoping study to –

- a) Identify how **transparency and accountability** within the current **systems for planning, procuring and delivering** infrastructure may need to be improved at national and sub-national level.
- b) Identify **attitudes towards transparency and accountability** in general, and CoST in particular, amongst individuals and institutions across government, industry and civil society.

- c) Establish a **baseline measure of ‘transparency’ in publicly funded infrastructure projects** (national and sub-national).
- d) Explore **how the CoST approach** to transparency and accountability, and its core features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder collaboration and social accountability **could add value to current systems** for planning, procuring and delivering infrastructure (national and sub-national).

THE COST MODEL

CoST promotes transparency by disclosing, validating and using data from public infrastructure investment. This helps to inform and empower citizens, enabling them to hold decisionmakers to account. Informed citizens and responsive public institutions can influence the introduction of reforms to reduce mismanagement, inefficiency, corruption and the risks that poor infrastructure pose to the public.

KEY FINDINGS

The HSRC’s research found considerable support for the CoST methodology and for its core features of disclosure, assurance, multi-stakeholder working and social accountability. Many respondents were hopeful that the model could offer a practical and systematic platform to increase transparency and accountability and restore mutual trust and cooperation towards the achievement of shared national objectives.

INCREASING INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSPARENCY

The study showed that significant improvements could be made in promoting transparency in public infrastructure. While the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2000 (PAIA) provides a framework for disclosing information reactively (upon request), the legal framework for proactive disclosure is less explicit and practice is extremely diverse. Our analysis indicated that a high proportion of the CoST-Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standard (OC4IDS) data points has to be legally disclosed in terms of South African law. This information is likely to be proactively disclosed in the procuring entities’ required reports to legislatures. However, it is important to note that while this disclosure is welcome, it is far too late in the infrastructure procurement and delivery process for it to be useful to any stakeholder responsible for or interested in enhancing the real-time effectiveness and efficiency of the infrastructure

procurement and delivery process. The law also requires that information on several stages of the procurement and delivery process be disclosed proactively by the procuring entity and on the National Treasury’s e-Tender Publication Portal. However, we found that actual disclosure is much more limited than the law stipulates, and is uneven in practice. Mismanagement and corruption are therefore not identified until it is too late to undertake preventive or corrective action.

INCREASING THE EVIDENCE BASE TO IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY

More broadly, there is significant confusion about the legal requirements for infrastructure procurement, a lack of capacity and experience in some procuring entities, and paralysing fear on the part of many officials regarding the potential legal and personal financial

consequences if they get it wrong. This includes the legal requirements for public participation in the planning and delivery of public infrastructure, and the definition and requirements for local content. CoST’s independent assurance review could be of great assistance in producing evidence from practice that could help clarify several of these issues.

RESTORING TRUST AMONG STAKEHOLDERS

Several stakeholders acknowledged that experiences of corruption in the private and public sector have contributed to a breakdown in mutual trust. CoST’s multi-stakeholder process and (confidential) assurance review of both disclosed and non-disclosed information could help facilitate the restoration of trust through the careful sharing of information from independent and credible sources, and would be widely welcomed.

These findings were shared directly with national and provincial treasuries, and with civil society organisations, and in an HSRC Policy Brief and in an article in the HSRC’s quarterly Review. They were also shared by CoST with various ministers.

As a result of these outputs and engagements, the HSRC was invited in May 2021 to join the newly-established multi-stakeholder **Infrastructure Build Anti-Corruption Forum (IBACF)**. Based on our research findings, the HSRC has been asked to provide the Forum with research support to identify, gather and analyse available data to help identify priority risk areas for use by the Forum in its corruption prevention mandate.



DEVELOPING OBJECTIVE RATING METRICS FOR CORRUPTION WATCH

DCES has been contracted by Corruption Watch to develop objective rating metrics for a scorecard to assess South Africa's compliance with Articles 5, 6, 8 and 10 of the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption (AUCPCC). These Articles relate to strengthening anti-corruption institutions, money laundering, illicit enrichment, and political party funding. Advocate Gary Pienaar and Dr Derek Davids have been leading the project with a capable research team. The study has utilised a mixed-methods approach in collaboration with Corruption Watch to develop the metrics for the scorecard. In accordance with this approach, the research has included a desktop literature review, an online survey of experts and individual key informant interviews with other individual experts some of whom were from institutions involved in preventing and combating these forms / areas of corruption. After completing the fieldwork, we held a consultation with an interdisciplinary panel of independent experts who reviewed our draft metrics and provided feedback. A draft final report with proposed metrics has been submitted to Corruption Watch for their review. The final report is due for submission in the near future.

DIALOGUE ON INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY PLANNING AND MONITORING: 8TH CONTINENTAL AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY DAY (APSD) CELEBRATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION (DPSA) FRONTLINE SERVICE DELIVERY DIALOGUE



Dr Yul Derek Davids was invited to present DCES research on service delivery. The virtual dialogue took place on Thursday 24 June 2021 from 8.30 to 14.30. The dialogue brought together key government departments and institutions involved in frontline service delivery. The dialogue took place against a background of low levels of trust in government and particularly in local government. This has prompted DPSA to enhance our focus on a capable, ethical and developmental state as key priority. Furthermore, the link between 'legitimacy of the State and trust' and achieving public value, supported by an active citizenry, partnerships in society and participatory democracy is extremely crucial. For example, the Edelman Trust Barometer has shown that in 2019 only 21 % of citizens trusted government. Of concern was that trust in government was lower than business, NGOs and the media. Government's performance in service delivery is a key element of restoring the trust in Government. Other factors that prompted this engagement with key stakeholders are 1) the large-scale service delivery protests as a result of the non-responsiveness of government and dissatisfaction with the slow pace of service delivery and the uncoordinated approaches in dealing with frontline service delivery monitoring.

Purpose of the dialogue was therefore to create a platform for collaboration and start a process towards the streamlining, coordination, alignment and establish how the various initiatives can be used to strengthen and contribute collaboratively to the overall approach, methodologies and processes for frontline service delivery. The specific aim of the engagement is focused on addressing the Role of the Public Service at the heart of ensuring effective response, inclusivity, and participatory governance to develop an efficient and effective developmental state. The following key government departments and institutions were therefore requested to make presentation: COGTA, DPSA, DPME, GCIS, PSC, Stats SA and the HSRC. Derek outlined the DCES division work and projects with regards to frontline survey delivery. In essence, DCES have adopted a multi-sectoral approach to service delivery. We look at service delivery from various perspectives and levels (national, provincial and local). For instance, from the service provider perspective the focus is on the public official / municipalities), from the service beneficiary perspective the focus is on the citizen, public, or community, and the

role of other stakeholders such as CSOs, business is also included. The following projects were highlighted: South African Social Attitude Survey (SASAS), Public Officials Skills and Capacity Assessment Study (Municipalities, Community Advice Office Study (CSO and NGO Perspective), City of Cape Town Community Score Card study (Public Official & Community Perspective) and A Synthesis Evaluation Study of District Development Model (DDM) – the case of the three piloted municipalities in Limpopo, Eastern Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces.

Compiled by Yul Derek Davids

DCES LAUNCHES NATIONAL COVID-19 SURVEY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

COVID-19 Disability Rights survey for Persons with Disabilities in South Africa

In collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies, in the UK, the Human Sciences Research Council and the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities is conducting a survey specifically for persons with disabilities. This independent study is funded by the United Kingdom Research Institutes.

This study explores the experiences of persons with disabilities during different stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Definitions of disability vary, and it is up to each person to decide whether they identify as a person with disabilities or not. In the survey there will be some questions about what type and level of difficulty you have, and it is up to you to decide about this. The study is not linked to any official information about your or your impairment. It is completely anonymous.

We encourage you to go to the following website and complete the survey. Participants will be credited with an airtime voucher after completion of the questionnaire, irrespective of your cellular network service provider.

Should you have any challenges in going online you may ask this Association for Persons with Disabilities to use one of their computers to complete the survey. Access can also be obtained from the NCPD head office.

The survey will run from 1 July 2021 until 29 July 2021.
Click [here](#) to participate

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd70Wk7yWj-2G3awuahHWYcHs7QwZ4CAI9GI5yRP2eWP1LvXg/viewform>

Are you a person with a disability and want to share your experiences and thoughts about disability and COVID-19 in South Africa? Complete this survey and have your voice heard.

The Institute for Development Studies (UK), the Human Sciences Research Council (SA) and the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities (SA) are pleased to announce the launch of the national online survey to understand *the socio-economic, wellbeing and human rights-related experiences of people with disabilities in COVID-19 times in South Africa*. This survey covers various impairments and disabling circumstances and looks at specific challenges faced by people with disabilities during the pandemic. The survey also elicits ideas for better responses to the needs of people with disabilities in times of crisis.

We are looking for around 4000 responses and encourage you to complete the survey. The survey is only for persons with disabilities, but family members, caregivers and friends can assist them. Parents are encouraged to help their children to complete the form. People who complete and submit the form will receive an airtime voucher to cover the data costs.

Please distribute this link among your family, friends and colleagues who may be disabled, have a disabled child, care for a person with disabilities or work with people with disabilities. The survey will run from 1 July 2021 until 29 July 2021.



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd70Wk7yWj-2G3awuahHWYcHs7QwZ4CAI9GI5yRP2eWP1LvXg/viewform>

[UK Research and Innovation](#) fund the study through the [UK Government's Global Challenges Research Fund \(GCRF\)](#) and the [Newton Fund](#).

For further information and updates, please contact Tim Hart at thart@hsrc.ac.za, Nthabiseng Molongoana at nthabiseng@ncpd.org.za and Mary Wickenden at m.wickenden@ids.ac.uk

VACCINE HESITANCY



ROUND 3 OF THE UJ/ HSRC COVID-19 DEMOCRACY SURVEY.

The third round of the survey, which made use of the datafree biNu Moya Messenger app and other social media platforms ran from 29 December 2020 to 6 January 2021. The intention was to capture attitudinal and behavioural dynamics under adjusted lockdown level 3, and as cases surge again with the onset of the second wave of the pandemic. The results of the survey were circulated to the media and we had high impact relating to vaccine hesitancy. Presentations on vaccines were made to Ministers Nzimande and Mkhize and GCIS as well as the COVID communicants command council, a sub-committee of the NCCC.

Three op-eds were published on these topics, the most important finding of which was that 67% of South Africans are willing to take the vaccine.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-01-24-a-hesitant-nation-survey-shows-potential-acceptance-of-a-covid-19-vaccine-in-south-africa/>

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-01-27-sa-survey-sheds-some-light-on-what-lies-behind-coronavirus-vaccine-hesitancy/>

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-02-09-approval-rate-of-ramaphosas-handling-of-the-pandemic-linked-to-whether-south-africans-comply-with-regulations/>

VACCINE ROLLOUT

Registering to get vaccinated is easy!

Citizens aged 50 years and above need to register for their COVID-19 vaccination

WWW.
Any device with Internet Access

Connect device to the internet and go to:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>

USSD
FREE on all South African Mobile Networks

Dial
***134*832*IDNumber#**
No ID Number?
Just dial ***134*832#**

WhatsApp
Internet access or data required

Send the word
REGISTER to
060 012 3456 on
Whatsapp

Hotline
Toll free on all South African Mobile Networks

Register by calling
0800 029 999

Monday - Friday
7am to 8pm
Saturday, Sunday and
public holidays:
8am to 6pm

You will need the following information when registering:

- Your **identification number** (Passport, Asylum seeker number, RSA ID or refugee number)
- The **location** where you want to be vaccinated (home or work)
- If you are a member of a medical aid you will need your medical aid provider name and your medical aid number

#IChooseVacciNation

Should you encounter problems during the registration process contact the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999

INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Thursday 1 July, 2021 registration was opened for South African residents aged 50 and older to register to enrol in phase two of the countrywide Covid-19 vaccination drive.

Vaccines are an important part of stopping the spread of COVID-19 in the country. This is because they offer protection to an individual, by reducing their risk of infection or the severity of their symptoms, and also at a population level, referred to as *population-immunity. The vaccination programme is a priority in the fight to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Please enroll on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) on <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/>

Please direct questions to Support email: evds.hcwsselfregistration@health.gov.za

DOH website: <http://www.health.gov.za/>

Vaccine information https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_documents/Covid-19Vaccine-brochure.pdf



Photo by Pawel Janiak on [Unsplash](#)

As I write this, parts of South Africa - and especially KZN and Gauteng - are literally burning. Citizens are living in fear of both the COVID-19 virus and the extreme public violence we are witnessing and even experiencing personally. Some of our colleagues are struggling to sleep as they listen to gunshots all night and our sense of well-being and belonging is tenuous. We can only hope that the resilience of our people as witnessed in the past will lead to a resolution as we push back against looting and criminality. It is also important to urgently address inequality and poverty in South Africa to attain some level of social stability. Most importantly we need to protect our Constitution and the rule of law in the face of unprecedented attacks. Nkosi Sikelela South Africa.

- Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller



Thanks for reading!

I hope what you read is interesting and informative. This newsletter can only tell so much, so if you would like to partner with us, comment or ask for more information, please feel free to contact me:

isekaledi@hsrc.ac.za

*Or just complain about the weather. That's cool, too.
Until next quarter, many thanks! Ithuteng*

www.hsrc.ac.za

Pretoria: Private Bag X41, Pretoria, South Africa 0001, Tel: +27 12 302 2000
Cape Town: Private Bag X9182, Cape Town, South Africa 8000, Tel: +27 21 466 8000
Durban: Private Bag X07, Dalbridge, South Africa 4014, Tel: +27 31 242 5400

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You Tube : https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwic9TgXjAZNtu-y_Kt00Gg



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