



## Developmental, Capable and Ethical State

# *Making* **GOVERNANCE** *work*

6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION



## THOUGHTS FROM THE DIVISIONAL HEAD

The roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccines is well underway in South Africa with all ages over 18 eligible to be vaccinated. But progress is slow. Despite the sluggish pace, the Constitutional Court held that the local government elections cannot be postponed beyond the constitutionally mandated term and so the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) must scramble to ensure that the vote proceeds on 1 November 2021. DCES is part of this frantic scramble as the South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) is preparing to go to field for the pre-election survey as I write this. There is never a dull moment.

DCES is also involved in two high level, high impact projects: along with our HSRC knowledge management colleagues we are supporting the Zondo Commission to wrap up it's essential work on corruption and state capture, and we will be going online with Round 5 of the UJ/ HSRD COVID-19 democracy survey mid-October. You can read about other relevant public good projects in this latest edition of the newsletter.

It feels unreal that we are half way through our financial year already, with so much still to do.

DCES is involved in a wider HSRC conversation on working from home. The pandemic forced us to find new ways of working at home and from home. For some it has been easier than for others, and we are looking at all these factors as we adapt and adopt a new hybrid working model. Our second short DCES working from home survey shows that it's not all bad, but that younger colleagues would prefer our offices to open completely and that many of us don't feel that we have sufficient "tools" to work from home, especially when it comes to data. Some of the results are included herein.

Congrats to Namhla and Ithuteng for graduating with their MA degrees and to those colleagues who have exceeded and greatly exceeded expectations during such challenging times. A special shout-out to Joleen, Kombi, Diana, Ngqapheli and Fhulufhelo on their well-earned and well deserved promotions!

Sadly we are losing another valued colleague, Dr Rachel Adams, who has chosen another path after her brief stint with us. May your onward journey be smooth Rachel.

Lastly, thank you to Ben for taking on the Strategic Lead role in an acting capacity to support Charles and myself as we chase our targets and strive for excellence as a team.

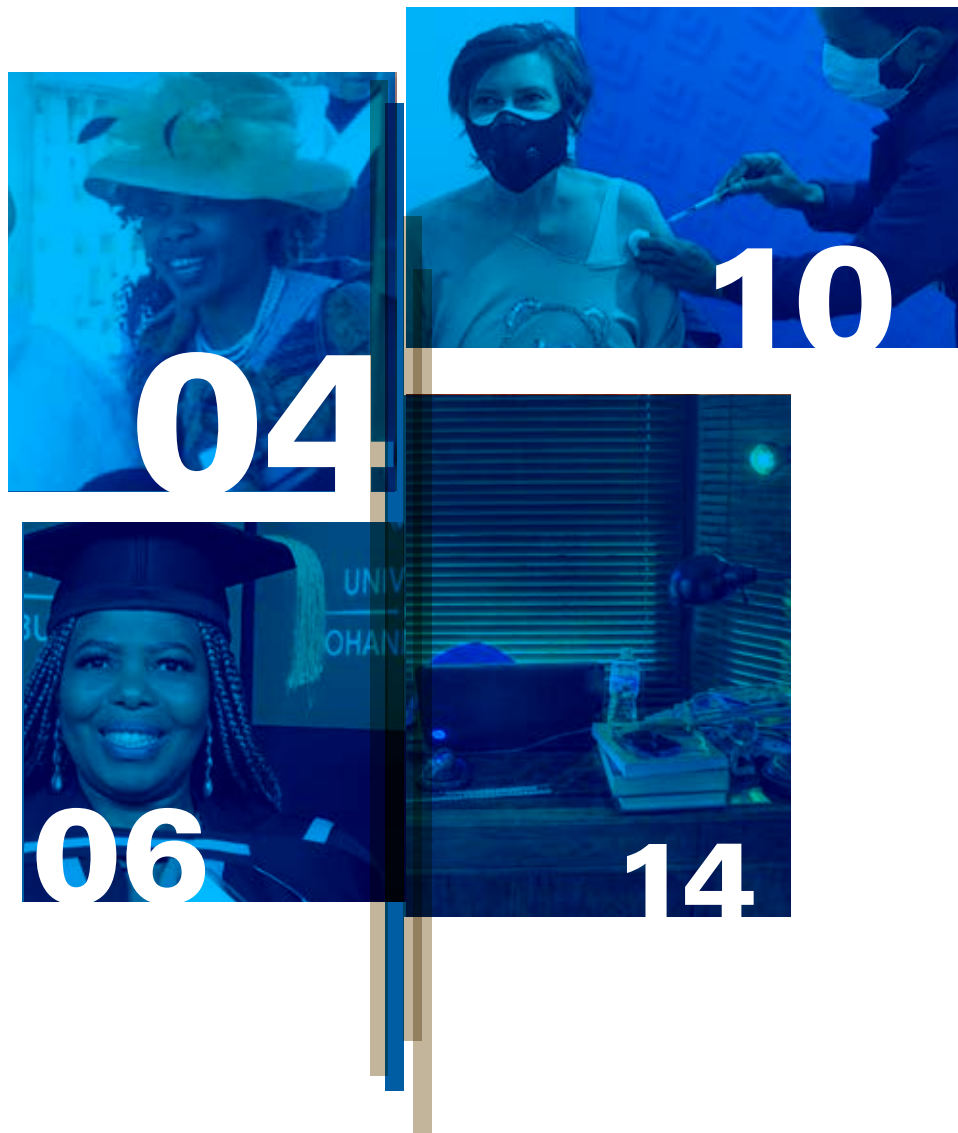
Aluta continua



## DR BENJAMIN ROBERTS WAS CALLED TO BE THE ACTING STRATEGIC LEAD AND HE SAID, "HERE I AM NARNIA TO SERVE WITH DILIGENCE"

Benjamin is a Research Director and Coordinator of the South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) series. He has a PhD in Social Policy and Labour Studies from Rhodes University, an MSc Urban and Regional Planning (Development) (with distinction) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and a BSc Town and Regional Planning (cum laude) from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). He has extensive experience of the micro-econometric analysis of household surveys, with a particular emphasis on the measurement of attitudes, poverty and subjective wellbeing. He has coordinated the SASAS series since its inception in 2003, as well as the HSRC's electoral survey series on behalf of the Electoral Commission of South Africa for the last decade.

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Human Sciences  
Research Council

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## ITHUTENG UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL DR YAZINI FUNEKA APRIL

### ***Tell me about where you grew up and what your family life was like.***

I grew up as a nomadic child due to my parent's refugee status. I was born in Lady Frere in the Eastern Cape. My father was a University of Fort Hare graduate and an activist with my mother. Their activism resulted in us to flee into exile in Botswana with nothing but the clothes on our backs.

Being a refugee child is not easy as you get caught up in dynamics that are above your level. Along with the aforementioned dynamics, there was also a social and cultural dimension of fitting in. As a child, acceptance of my non-Tswana names such as Ncumisa, and Funeka, made me stand out -creating a lack of belonging. Yazini became a long term easier option pronunciation wise. Moreover, not being able to go and visit relatives (cousins, grandparents) in South Africa due to my parents' refugee status, further deepened the lack of belonging I was yearning for. I would indeed envy my age mates who were always travelling to visit their extended families during school breaks.

Travelling to the US further affirmed my lack of belonging as I had to use the UN passport blue book. I recall the nationality section which was headlined as "Stateless." However, going to the United States positively changed my life. No one cared about my strange name, and Americans were indeed more sympathetic of my stateless citizenship. I also learnt to become more assertive and more appreciative of my background.

### ***How did your parents influence you?***

My parents influenced me to be productive and influenced me spiritually as a Christian. My mother was a hardworking woman who made things work for us despite the circumstances. Perseverance and hope were my mother's middle names.

### ***Where did you go to school?***

I attended various schools in Botswana, Crescent, Seepapitso etc. Moving to the US gave me more stability as I stayed in one place for a long time and managed to become more grounded. There was also a much more positive energy also about the Apartheid struggle in the US with civil rights marches. We would trek to TransAfrica at Washington for the Free South Africa conferences. Watching the push for sanctions which forced the SA government to capitulate, and Former President Nelson Mandela being freed was a special moment as it led to my obtaining my first South African passport. The Blue UN book became history.

### ***Who have been your strongest influences in life?***

My mother. She was a very strong woman who found a way to get us a through under difficult circumstances.



***What led you to your career?***

I never planned to be in academia. Even though I had worked at the International Studies Association in the US, I planned to go back to the US and continue my legal journey. But after my father died, my mother became ill requiring me to stay in SA and look after her which turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

***What was your first impression of the HSRC?***

I came through the incorporation between AISA and HSRC. There were so many rumours about HSRC, some of us were scared. For example, we were told there are cameras all over the place to watch even when we cough. Some AISA people even quickly left AISA for other jobs not wanting to take their chance with HSRC. Most of the rumours were false demonstrating the need to not utilise them too much regarding first impressions of people or institutions.

***What's your first memory of working here?***

Going to chill out at the cafeteria for a cup of coffee and the huge scones. I also liked hanging out at the 13th floor for some very odd reason.

***What's the best/worst thing to happen since you started working here?***

The best thing is that I have been forced to come out of my comfort zone as there is more research competitiveness.

***If you could change one thing about the HSRC, what would it be?***

The Pretoria building. It needs a facelift. It currently does not match the status of other Think Tanks that

are based in much more quiet, upper scale, clean environments.

I am also not sure that the HSRC is reaching the potential or heights that it really could. It is great to see how the current Department of Science and Innovations leadership has thrust HSRC into the spotlight through the COVID-19 surveys and media presentations.

***What do you wish other people knew about the HSRC?***

I am not sure people are truly aware of the work HSRC does of programs it has such as the Research Ethics Committee.

***When your friends/family find out that you work for the HSRC, what do they say or ask?***

The HSRC has been a lot in the media coverage due to COVID-19 surveys and more collaboration with DSI which has helped most of my friends get a better understanding of what the institute does.

***How would friends and acquaintances describe you?***

Acquaintances would say that I am a perfectionist. Close friends would call me spiritual.

***What might (someone) be surprised to know about you?***

I like making outside fires to cook traditional dishes on 3 legged pots.

***What are you most proud of accomplishing?***

Still working on it.

***What would you do differently if you had a chance?***

Spend more time with my daughter.

***Share with me something about yourself that you want to improve.***

Patience.

***Describe a scene of your vision for the future***

A South Africa without tenders.

***What would you tell someone who is thinking about being a researcher?***

They won't have a life as it is not a 09:00 to 05:00 job, and the work requires passion.

***If you weren't a researcher, what would you be doing instead, or what would your life be like?***

I would definitely be a successful fashion designer! Designing clothes

***What do you do when you aren't working?***

I enjoy cooking.

***What would you like to see the BRICS Centre develop?***

The BRICS Research Centre is well placed within DCES and it is essential for the country's economic and foreign policy interests, as the BRICS countries remain prominent regional players. Moreover, due to the current global state of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre is essential in providing research that ensures that South Africa is strategically positioned. Digitisation of the Centre's content would be one of the best ways of advancing it into post-COVID era. In promoting research development, I trust that the BRICS Centre will become a digital one stop shop for all BRICS related research and events.

# ACHIEVEMENT CONGRATULATIONS

Please join us in congratulating Namhla and Lthuteng on completing the requirements for their certification. Doing all of that extra work while continuing in their full-time jobs was extremely ambitious, and took a lot of effort and dedication on their part.



## **A GENDERED PERSPECTIVE OF POST-APARTHEID POLITICAL KILLINGS: A CASE STUDY OF UMZIMKHULU, KWA-ZULU NATAL.**

A gendered analysis of political violence is important to explore if we are to better understand how patriarchy and hegemonic masculinities contribute to political killings within local government. The gendered motive appears when perpetrators preserve hegemonic men's control of politics. Moreover, political violence can be gendered especially when men use coercion, intimidation, and ultimately violence to maintain the status quo of masculine hegemonic political dominance. Both men and women experience violence that is specifically designed to deter their involvement and participation in politics. Although, women who participate in politics find that their cultural, political, and social environment is unfavourable or even violent. This study aims to investigate the prevalence of political violence and killings in uMzimkhulu in the post-apartheid era. Attention is drawn to

the region's threat, intimidation, and killing of politicians and councillors. The study also focuses attention on enhancing theoretical specificity on how political violence is gendered and explores the perspective of political killing at the local level. This research uses exploratory qualitative research methods to gain an understanding of the underlying reasons for the political killings in uMzimkhulu.

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## **HARVESTING RAINWATER AND GREYWATER TOWARDS/FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT: THE CASE OF HATSELA IN MOHALE'S HOEK, LESOTHO**

The thesis was motivated by the devastating effects that result from the lack of access to water in the village of Ha Tsela, Lesotho resulting from climate change, unprecedented population growth, and inadequate water management strategies. Adopting a qualitative research paradigm, the study evaluated the strategies and technologies put in place to aid the vulnerable communities experiencing water scarcity in Ha Tsela. Data was collected using research survey (questionnaire), participant observation, document analysis, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions. The findings showed that the solutions presented are not sustainable in the long term as strategies and technologies were not derived from vulnerable communities. There was no value for money in terms of operating the project on a larger scale. Recommendations were that communities be consulted in order to identify appropriate strategies and technologies that are acceptable to the community. Training and educating the locals on the maintenance of the complex technology are a must for sustainable longevity of rainwater and greywater harvesting.

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# PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **HARD WORK AND DEDICATION PAYS.**

Hard work pays off, they did it! They have achieved new milestones.  
They are promoted. Congratulations colleagues on your promotions.

### **JOLEEN STEYN KOTZE**

#### **FROM SENIOR RESEARCH SPECIALIST TO CHIEF RESEARCH SPECIALIST**

Prof. Joleen Steyn Kotze is a Chief Research Specialist in Democracy and Citizenship at the Human Science Research Council and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Gender and African Studies, University of the Free State. She is a former Associate Professor of Political Studies at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. Her research specialism is political dynamics of development, transformation, and democratization, substantive democratisation and inequality, the politics of belonging, and democratic development in the global South. She holds a D.Litt et Phil in African Politics from the University of South Africa. She is a C2 NRF Rated Researcher and was awarded the Award for Research Excellence in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences by the Common ground Publishing in 2009 and selected as one of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chambers' Top 40 Under 40 in 2014. She is the former President of the South African Association of Political Studies (2014-2016) and the former Editor of *Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies* (2015 - 2019). Prof. Steyn Kotze has published 20 scientific articles in both local and international peer-reviewed academic journals, 14 book chapters, and one book.





## KOMBI SAUSI

### FROM POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW TO RESEARCH SPECIALIST

Kombi Sausi holds a PhD in development Anthropology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal with a focus on understanding the dynamic gender relations and women's vulnerability and dangers they face while trying to access water. He is a Researcher Specialist at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in the Developmental Capable and Ethical State division. He has more than 10 years research experience with a focus on access to health services and service delivery. Over the years he has managed and coordinated more than 13 projects. He has experience managing projects in the Southern African region. He was the co-principal investigator of the UNICEF funded Lesotho age validation project. He was the Project Manager of a multi-year prospective randomized clinical trial study of strategies to optimize community-based ART initiation, monitoring and resupply among HIV-positive persons in South Africa and Uganda (DOART). Since joining DCES in 2020, He has contributed to several projects and proposals namely, OSF-SA Public Official's Skills and Capacity Audit Study, Synthesis Evaluation of State Capacity with a Special Focus on DGs and HoDs, South African Social Attitude Survey, Local Government Service Standards and Associated Implementation Guidelines Framework.



## DIANA SANCHEZ

### FROM CHIEF RESEARCHER TO RESEARCH MANAGER

Diana Sanchez Betancourt is a Chief Researcher in the DCES division at the HSRC. She did her Masters at the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Uppsala in Sweden and her BA in government and international relations at Universidad Externado in Colombia. Her career started working for the Colombian Government (her home country) monitoring multi-stakeholder collaborative mechanisms to assist IDPs (Internally Displaced Populations) and populations at risk in conflict areas.

She is an ISSC World Social Science Fellow on sustainable urbanisation, and is a co-founder of the citizen-based urban movement Open Streets Cape Town. Some of her work includes; thematic leader of the citizen engagement for National Treasury's Cities Support Programme; field work and participatory research coordinator of the international comparative project (South Africa - Brazil) funded by the Safer and Inclusive Cities programme on social cohesion and safety, thematic coordinator for two inter-continental learning alliances (on Citizen Oversight and Human Rights) for the UK funded Evidence and Lessons from Latin America Programme- ELLA..





## NGQAPHELI MCHUNU

### FROM PHD INTERN TO SENIOR RESEARCHER

Ngqapheli Mchunu is a Social Sciences researcher with a keen interest in the academic research areas of corruption, governance, public opinion, and service delivery. Whilst enrolled for a master's degree, he held an internship position at the Human Sciences Research Council he was involved in high-level research projects for the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), the office of the Presidency and the Electoral Commission. He is competent in qualitative social sciences research methods including questionnaire design, data collection and analysis and has developed competencies in quantitative social sciences research.

Mchunu holds a Master of Social Sciences degree in Political Science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, his masters research looked at corruption challenges in procurement and recruitment in the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government and their impact on service delivery. Currently, he is enrolled for a Doctoral programme in Political Science at Stellenbosch University where he is examining challenges facing anti-corruption mechanisms in a dominant party democratic state: A case study of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, 2004-2019.

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## FHULUFHELO TSHILILO

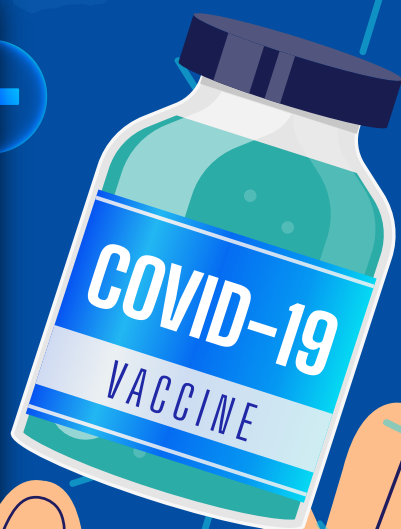
### FROM PHD INTERN TO SENIOR RESEARCHER

Fhulufhele Phillis Tshililo is Doctoral Researcher at Peace and Sustainable Security at HSRC. She holds an MSc in Agrometeorology from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal and is currently registered for PhD in Operations Management at the University of Johannesburg. Before joining HSRC, she was at the Agricultural Research Council Institute of Soil Climate and Water, where she held a position of an MSc candidate in the Agrometeorology division. She has worked on several projects on water-energy-health nexus, climate change impacts on food production, renewable energy, and food security and nutrition. Her main research interests include but are not limited to climate change, agriculture, food security, sustainable water management, and water-energy nexus and systems thinking. She has experience in project implementation and management, monitoring, and evaluation.

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# DCES LEADING BY EXAMPLE

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA SEND US  
TO **GO AND VACCINATE** AND WE LISTENED.





# NAVIGATING TREACHEROUS WATERS THROUGH THE STATE OF THE NATION

- LAUNCH OF SON

The 10th edition of the State of the Nation book series focused on two key themes; inequality and politics. Some of these issues had been previously explored in earlier versions of the book, however, this time around, they center around the concept of ethics. In the second half of South Africa's democracy, ethics, whether in governance or health care provision has featured prominently in the national discourse. The recently concluded testimonies at the commission of inquiry into state capture have highlighted how important ethical leadership is along with reiterating the integral role that ethics plays in potentially avoiding misgovernance and malfeasance.

In a first of its kind, the 2021 State of the Nation book was launched virtually organised by the HSRC's DCES Dr Yul Davids and his team. Over 200 participants attended the launch which featured four-chapter presentations including two which are co-authored by academics from the HSRC.

The launch of the State of the Nation book series was capped off by an engaging question and answer session with all four presentations leaving the participants with lots to ponder. The four academic presentations tackled a divergency of issues that South Africa faces whilst also articulating them in a manner that displayed scholarship par-excellence. More importantly, the launch presented an opportune moment for the DCES research division to showcase its academic contributions through this enticing book which will keep scholars and academics engaged for years to come. As South Africa attempts to navigate its way around the corona virus pandemic, efforts to rebuild the country's economy will require a great deal of ethics and accountability whether in education, health care access, governance, or electoral participation.

## VIRTUAL LAUNCH STATE OF THE NATION | 20 JULY 2021 | 14:00-16:00



Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Mr Buti Manamela will on Tuesday 20 July 2021 launch the 2021 edition of the State of the Nation, a flagship publication of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC).

The 2021 edition titled, Ethics, Politics, Inequality: New Directions is a timely publication in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent events in South Africa, which have brought to the fore the deep inequalities and levels of poverty in South Africa.

The publication is edited by Professor Crain Soudien, former CEO of the HSRC; Professor Vasu Reddy, Dean: Faculty of Humanities at the University of Pretoria; and Professor Narnia Bohler-Muller, Head of the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) division.

Media is invited to attend the launch of this publication by clicking [https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?mtg95a2xyskr6aerji\\_pBsSaZi](https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?mtg95a2xyskr6aerji_pBsSaZi).

The virtual event begins at 14h00.







## DCES WORKING ON “THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY” FOR THE ZONDO COMMISSION

The Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector including Organs of State (the ‘Commission of Inquiry’/‘Zondo Commission’) which is chaired by Deputy Chief Justice RMM Zondo, is a public inquiry established in early 2018 (Government Gazette Vol. 632, No. 41436, 9 Feb 2018). The terms of reference of the Commission indicate that it was “appointed to investigate matters of public and national interest concerning allegations of state capture, corruption, and fraud”.

The Commission of Inquiry was established in accordance with one of the recommendations made by former Public Protector, Advocate Thuli Madonsela, in the report prepared based on her investigation into allegations of state capture (entitled *State of Capture*, Report No.6 of 2016/17). Due to the large volume of evidence presented to the Zondo Commission and the large number of testimonies heard by the Commission, coupled with disruptions to proceedings due to the national lockdown regulations, the operational timeframe of the Commission of Inquiry has been extended a few times to enable it complete its investigative work and prepare its final report.

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) has agreed to a request by the Commission to provide funding for various forms of support by the HSRC (including DCES and the eKRC) and the CSIR to undertake research for the Commission, and to help properly organise its vast records into a coherent library and archive.

The library needs to be available for several purposes, including to assist the likes of the Hawks and the National Prosecuting Authority with ongoing investigations and possible prosecutions, and to provide an evidentiary repository for any legal challenges to the Commission’s report. In addition, the Commission needs assistance to ultimately convert the library into a public archive for purposes of future research.

DCES’ main responsibilities will be to conduct an online survey of peoples’ perceptions of the work of the Commission and to prepare a research report entitled *The Future of Democracy* that will locate the work of the Commission within South Africa’s political and socioeconomic context, and the likely implications of the Commission’s work and final report for the country’s constitutional democracy.

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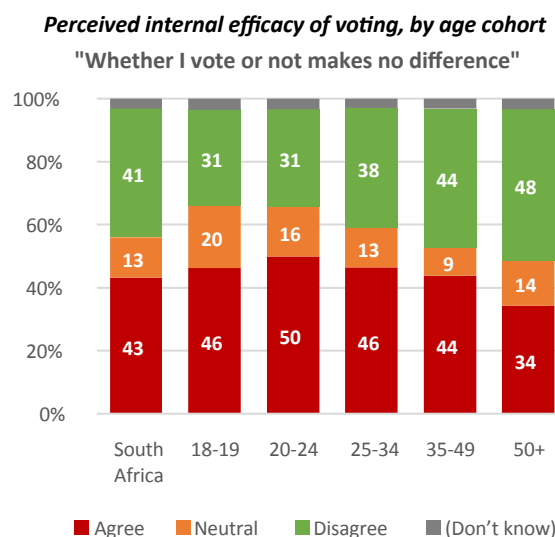
# ELECTORAL RESEARCH:

## DYNAMICS AMONG THE VOTING AGE PUBLIC

The DCES team is also busy with research relating to the 2021 Local Government Elections. Since the late 1990s, the Electoral Commission of South Africa has partnered with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), a statutory research institute, to undertake a programme of electoral research. This focuses on generating survey-based as well as qualitative insight to inform operational planning and outreach. To better understand the electorate and maximise the reach and impact of outreach efforts, the Electoral Commission follows a specific framework of survey-based research on electoral matters. This framework of surveying includes a pre-election survey, *the Voter Participation Survey (VPS)*, and an Election Day survey, *the Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS)*. Both surveys are nationally representative series which have been conducted in a similar format for national and provincial as well as municipal elections for more than a decade.

The intention of the **VPS series** is to enable the Commission to get a broad view of the socio-political landscape in the lead-up to successive national, provincial and municipal government elections. These studies use the HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) research infrastructure to draw representative samples of South Africans aged 16 years and older to evaluate voting preferences, experiences, and behaviour, and ascertain interest in and perceptions of elections. The findings have been used to inform operational planning for elections in the country. **The ESS series** assesses the opinions and perceptions of a representative sample of voting stations and voters on Election Day to determine whether the elections are regarded as having been free and fair. The survey series further aims to assess the operational efficiency of the Electoral Commission. The survey results are available 48 hours after the election and form part of the Commission's official announcement declaring the elections free and fair. Post-election, the results are used to inform operational decision-making in preparing for successive elections.

Additional ad hoc research studies have been conducted, focusing on internal surveying of electoral staff, as well as research into ballot paper design, usability and spoiling. Most recently, we conducted an online survey for the Commission focusing on issues of COVID-19 and elections. This provided key insight into registration, voting intention, electoral attitudes, and the role of COVID-19 in shaping these predispositions.



Source: HSRC IEC COVID-19 and Elections online survey

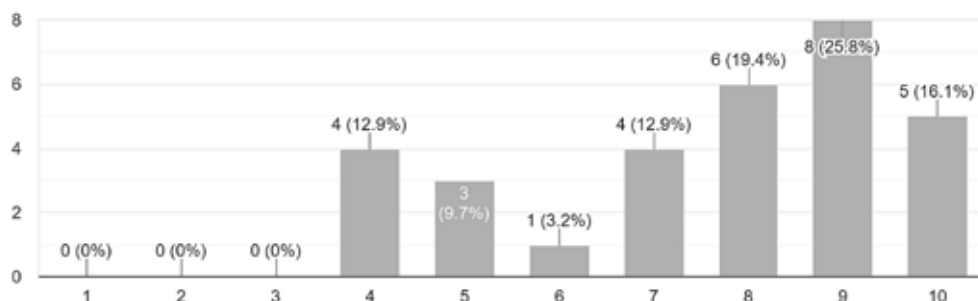


# DCES WORKING FROM HOME

As DCES we work in challenging times, most notably in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic that had disrupted our “normal” and saw us having to recreate a “new normal” under very challenging conditions. Through various lockdowns and restrictions that affected every aspect of our lives, for the greater good, the impact of COVID-19 is felt in all aspects of daily lives as individuals, as family members, as members of our community, and in the workplace. As the pandemic extended into its second year, increasingly we saw a focus on conversations around “lockdown fatigue”, “pandemic fatigue” and “COVID-19 fatigue”. These conversations highlighted the psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals in their personal and professional lives. Increasingly organisations became aware of the impact of lockdown fatigue and took measures to assist employees to cope with ever-changing working environments as we move towards virtual and online work, the impact of isolation when working from home, as well as encouraging employees to manage stress and take breaks when needed. In this context, DCES launched the second “work from home” survey to scan the organisational environment of the research programme and flag potential areas where colleagues may need assistance. The aim was also to determine to what extent colleagues in our research programme are coping with the new pressures of working from home and lockdown fatigue.

Do you have all the resources and tools you need to effectively work from home during the lockdown? Please tell us on a scale of 0 - 10 where 0 means NOT AT ALL and 10 means COMPLETELY

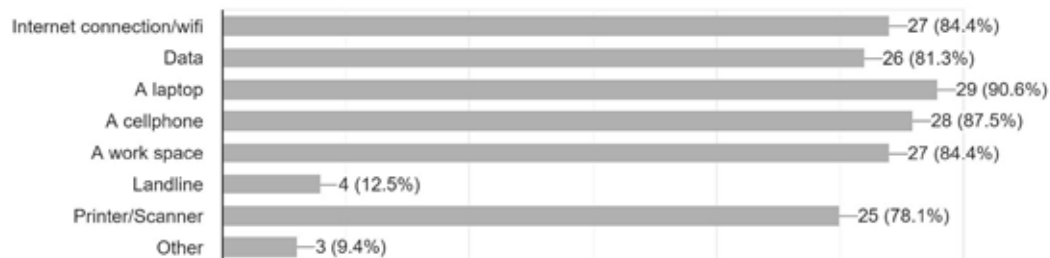
31 responses





### Which of the following do you regard as essential to do your job from home? (Tick all that apply)

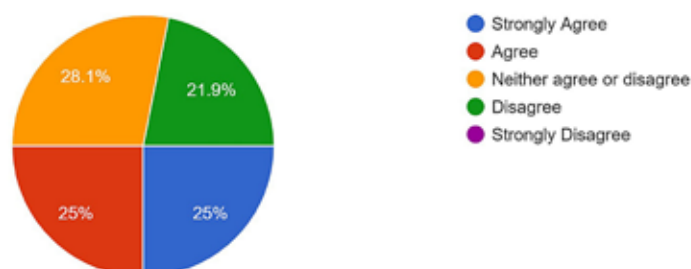
32 responses



The overall story revealed through our working from home survey in DCES is one of resilience amid adversity. It also showed us the importance of interaction and having support and resources during these trying times. Critical to successfully working from home included sufficient wifi and data, a dedicated workspace, and a cellphone and laptop. A key observation from participants stressed that having a sufficient workspace could facilitate the maintenance of a balance between home and work life; an area where the proverbial lines can often blur, resulting in exhaustion and stress. As DCES, we also noted other softer resources needed to facilitate a comfortable working environment. This included a comfortable office chair, a desk, and sufficient stationary.

### To what extent do you agree or disagree that you have all the emotional and psychological support that you need to help you cope with working from home?

32 responses



Emotional wellbeing of our colleagues is of critical importance. We are proud of our colleagues who showed high resiliency through their efforts to “make a plan” when stressed (78 %). This even though our colleagues experienced great disruption (87 %) in their daily lives due to COVID-19. Colleagues also expressed feelings of stress (75 %) and frustration (53 %), which possibly impacted on sleeplessness (34 %). Our survey also showed that around 50 % of colleagues had sufficient emotional and psychological support, indicating that the HSRC need to make resources for support more readily and easily accessible. Colleagues also flagged key coping mechanisms as we move towards the “virtual office”. These included maintaining a daily routine, finding a balance between work and personal/family time, eating healthy and exercising, going outside for fresh air, staying in touch with family members and doing things they enjoy. Here the DCES programme has started investigating initiatives to facilitate a sense of togetherness in the “virtual office” through exploring a bi-weekly coffee meet up for various offices, exploring training initiatives around time management, life balance, and relaxation techniques. Given the insights of our working from home survey, we are hopeful that such a survey would be undertaken by the HSRC as a whole to determine how we can minimize the impact of lockdown fatigue, facilitate a sense of cohesion and togetherness, and support each other in difficult times.

# OSF-SA MUNICIPAL SKILLS AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT STUDY

The main purpose of the study is to conduct a skills and capacity assessment of public officials working at municipalities in South Africa to inform training and capacity building interventions. We have completed assessments in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Felize Dabi District Municipality in the Free State; Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality and Makana District Municipality in the Eastern Cape, Elias Motsoaledi Municipality and Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality in Limpopo; and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality and Bonajalo Platinum Municipality in the North West. On the 31 October we hosted Results Validation Workshop that was attended by our Project Steering Committee Members, Prof Barwa Kanyane (Executive Dean at the Faculty of Management and Law at the University of Venda), Dr Tyanai Masiya (Senior Lecturer at the School of Public Management and Administration at the University of Pretoria), Prof Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu, SARChI Chair for Inclusive Cities based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Dr Isaac Khumbule (Lecturer at the School of Built Environment & Development Studies also at the University of KwaZulu-Natal). The preliminary findings showed that the lack of skills and capacity at municipal level impact tremendously on the service to communities. Municipal officials also indicated that theft of cables is another cancerous problem that further impact on the quality of service they deliver.

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**Figure 2: The ugly face of cable theft**

Source: <https://www.nmmdm.gov.za/ugly-face-water-and-sanitation-infrastructure-vandalism>

# NDA CIVIL SOCIETY REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS



One of the seven priorities of the Sixth Administration announced by President Ramaphosa in his State of the Nation Address on 20 June 2019 is to focus on 'A capable, ethical and developmental state'. Such a state cannot be achieved without an active and fully participating civil society sector. Historically, civil society has had a profound influence on the emergence, shape and nature of South Africa's democratic society. An active and independent civil society sector is necessary to help ensure that the state, the private sector, the general public, as well as the sector itself, fulfil their respective obligations in terms of the Constitution.

The National Development Agency (NDA) commissioned the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) to conduct a research study with the main purpose of reviewing and analysing the current legislative, policy and regulatory environment for the sector and its impact on the functioning of civil society in South Africa. The NDA envisages that the output of this study will ignite debate and engagements between the state (i.e. the legislature and executive branches), and civil society sector leaders, structures and general membership on the legislative frameworks required to support functions of the civil society sector. The outcome is to ensure that South Africa has comprehensive legislation, policies, regulations and procedures that promote and enhance the effective functioning of South Africa's civil society sector.

The NDA and the HSRC co-hosted a webinar on 19 August 2021 at which the HSRC and its research partner, the Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) –

- Presented the findings of their research and recommendations to the civil society sector, government and the business sector given their critical role in supporting the civil society sector in a coherent and integrated manner; and
- Provided an overview perspective of the current regulatory frameworks in meeting the needs of the civil society sector from various experiences;

The objective of the webinar was to start developing a road map for the sector, based on research and experiences on how the sector can lead the process of designing and developing comprehensive national regulatory frameworks that are acceptable and work effectively for the sector.

The webinar was well-attended by participants included representatives of the civil society sector, labour organisations, state-owned entities, government departments, academic institutions, business organisations and members of the public.

The NDA was represented by senior officials, including Mrs Thamo Mzobe, Ms Mpho Mngxitama, Mr Xolile Brukwe, Mr Bongani Magongo (Executive Director: Development Management and Research Unit, NDA), Dr Nthabiseng Kraai and Mr Thami Ngwenya.

The HSRC was represented by Adv Gary Pienaar and the FHR by Dr Zaid Kimmie.

[https://www.nda.org.za/newsroom/posts/research\\_findings\\_reveal\\_a\\_weak\\_civil\\_society\\_sector](https://www.nda.org.za/newsroom/posts/research_findings_reveal_a_weak_civil_society_sector)



# NATIONAL TREASURY'S FOA PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

Since March 2020, DCES has been participating in a multi-stakeholder Advisory Group convened by National Treasury to help it to improve public participation in budget planning.

For many years, National Treasury has been correctly commended by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) for its budget transparency. South Africa regularly ranks in first position globally in the IBP's budget transparency index. However, this transparency doesn't include the entire budget cycle, and one consequence is that public participation is limited to parliamentary proceedings, by which time budget decisions have, for practical purposes, already been taken. The result is that government accountability for macro-economic choices and budget decisions has been limited.

However, section 195(1)(e) of the Constitution stipulates that 'People's needs must be responded to, and the public must be encouraged to participate in policy-making'. Section 195 also requires that the public administration must be accountable, and that transparency must be fostered by providing the public with timely, accessible and accurate information (emphasis added).

With the support and assistance of the IBP and the Global Initiative for Financial Transparency (GIFT), National Treasury has agreed to participate in the 'Fiscal Openness Accelerator' (FOA), which seeks to support five African countries to improve public participation in budget planning. The countries are Benin, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. The project's overall objective is to build the technical capacity of these selected governments, enhance fiscal transparency and to support the implementation of a public participation pilot in the national budget cycle.

In South Africa, the Advisory Group agreed to support National Treasury in piloting pre-budget hearings or consultations. This is the first time that the public has had an opportunity to make submissions on South Africa's fiscal strategy, which provides the context within which budget priorities are identified and budget allocation decisions are taken.

## THE PILOT IS INTENDED TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING PARTICULAR PURPOSES –

- To enrich the national budget process and/or policy/ies with inputs from nongovernment stakeholders, and other relevant sectors towards better alignment of national government fiscal policies with citizens' needs and concerns.
- To improve government practice and policy/ies on public participation and closing the feedback loop on the budget process (i.e. ensure documentation of inputs

from citizens and government response for stronger accountability), increased government responsiveness and public accountability.

## THE AGREED SCOPE OF THE HEARINGS WAS GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL STRATEGY –

Budget 2021 confirmed government's fiscal strategy of returning the public finances to a sustainable position through ongoing restraint in expenditure growth and implementation of structural reforms to support economic growth. In this context, the fiscal strategy aims to:

- Narrow the deficit and stabilise the deb-to-GDP ratio, primarily by controlling non-interest expenditure growth.
- Provide continued support to the economy and public health services in the short term, without adding to long-term spending pressures.
- Improve the composition of spending, by reducing growth in compensation while protecting capital investment.

The 2021 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS, scheduled for November this year) allows for the opportunity to review this policy position. National Treasury solicited the public's views on South Africa's Fiscal Policy, specifically -

- (a) What improvements can be made to the budget to deal with the challenge of long-term fiscal sustainability?
- (b) In light of limited resources, how should South Africa finance key priorities?

The outcomes from the public consultations are intended to inform National Treasury's proposed budget strategy to be considered by Cabinet in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, which is an important step in the planning phase of the budget process.

All submissions will be published via National Treasury's Vulekamali online portal: <https://vulekamali.gov.za/>.



Presentation by Ms Prudence Cele, National Treasury, on Fiscal Policy and the MTBPS

# WE ARE LED - THE W20 DECLARATION

DCES Executive Head, Prof Narnia BohlerMuller flying the DCES flag globally as South Africa's official representative on W20 and head of the team on the environmental sustainability. <https://w20italia.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/W20-Italy-Communique%CC%81.pdf>

[https://www.frauenrat.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/W20-Declaration-of-Support-for-Afghan-Women-and-Girls\\_August2021-002.pdf](https://www.frauenrat.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/W20-Declaration-of-Support-for-Afghan-Women-and-Girls_August2021-002.pdf)

Women20 (W20) is an official G20 engagement group forming a transnational network of women's organizations, female entrepreneurs associations and think tanks. The

main goal of Women20 is to promote women's economic empowerment as an integral part of the G20 process. In a broad dialogue facilitated by digital tools, expert meetings, roundtables and the final W20 Summit, W20 jointly formulates concrete recommendations to advance gender equality in G20 negotiations

The Engagement Groups are independent collectives that are led by organizations from the host country. They work with other organizations from G20 countries to develop policy recommendations that are formally submitted to G20 leaders for consideration. W20 is

the official G20 engagement group focused on gender equity. Its primary objective is to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into G20 discussions and translate into the G20 Leaders' Declaration as policies and commitments that foster gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union. The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

## MASS PREFERENCES FOR THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN AFRICA

The African Union (AU) has identified opening borders to cross-national mobility as a prime strategic goal, and AU leaders have heralded interregional free movement as a vital tool for economic growth and skills development on the continent. The African Union Commission (AUC) prepared and published Agenda 2063, a strategic framework that lays out a roadmap for regional integration on the continent. In the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2014-2023), the AUC made clear that free movement of persons was central to that roadmap. In 2018, at the 30th Ordinary Assembly of the African Union (AU), African leaders met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss visa liberalization and adopted a protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Rights of Residence and Right of Establishment (known simply as the Free Movement Protocol). The Free Movement Protocol was followed by the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) and its plan of action for the period 2018–2030. The eventual goal of the MPFA is to harmonize member countries' immigration control regimes and work towards the establishment

of a continent-wide visa-free zone.

Little is known about the level (or determinants) of public support for opening borders in the AU. This article examines public preferences for free movement among thirty-six African countries. Data from the sixth round of the Afrobarometer Survey (N=53,935) was used. A significant share of the AU public holds anti-integration attitudes and the potential for a backlash against the Free Movement Protocol (and its accompanying Draft Implementation Roadmap) is real. The long-term success of the MPFA (and Agenda 2063 as a whole) may be undermined if such attitudes are ignored. The anti-integration reaction in many parts of the AU demonstrates the danger of ignoring public opinion and permitting resentments to fester. To help avoid a backlash to the Free Movement Protocol, policymakers must draw lessons from this paper and be proactive in building support for open borders on the continent.

First, opposition to an integrated visa-free zone is not derived from hosting a population of international migrants. Restricting foreign-born settlement will, therefore, not improve

attitudes towards free movement in the AU. Indeed, AU citizens are more likely to support free movement if they live in countries where the political and economic system is fragile or failing. Second, there was relationship between macro-economic conditions and attitudes towards this issue. Opposition to intra-regional mobility is more likely to come from the wealthier AU nations. In addition, middle strata of any African country than from the poorest or most affluent in society. Addressing the concerns of this middling group will be key to avoiding backlash. Third, combatting anti-immigrant prejudice will increase public backing for visa liberalization. The former is particularly important in more affluent AU countries, where the relationship between pro-immigrant sentiments and free movement attitudes appears to be stronger. By following these recommendations, policymakers can avoid a backlash against the Free Movement Protocol in the AU.

The article is entitled "Mass Preferences for the Free Movement of People in Africa: A Public Opinion Analysis of 36 Countries" and can be accessed at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183211026243>



# THE MILITARY VETERANS PROJECT





# ENABLING COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS THROUGH GRASSROOTS SOUTH- SOUTH COOPERATION

Over the years DCES (previously DGSD) has conducted various projects on sustainable urbanisation and local governance challenges. The unit is participating in two years comparative international project through a collaboration with UCT looking at informal urbanisation processes in Cape Town (SA), Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Bogota (Colombia).

Using some of the insights and lessons gained working in informal settlements such as Nyanga and Vrygrond, researcher Diana Sanchez, has been coordinating community based research in Ciudad Bolivar, the biggest marginalised neighbourhood in Bogota. In this area, infamous for complex social and governance processes around land occupations and evictions, but also collaborative efforts around participatory neighbourhood planning, DCES has built a working relationship with a local field researcher and community leaders to implement an Action Research methodology and facilitate social innovations to improve governance processes.

The methodology entails a series of workshops and exchanges with a small group of community stakeholders to expose them to some of the experiences in South Africa, supporting them to co-develop (community and researchers) indicators and guidelines to support the forthcoming implementation of an Action Plan with the local municipality, signed in July 2021 after more than 2 years of public meetings and local discussions.

Since the implementation matrix of the Action Plan has various components, the agreement was to focus on one item, namely, 'the sustainable management of local community gardens'. Following this agreement, the first workshop between DCES (represented by Diana), was a virtual meeting on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of August where 10 community stakeholders participated and were exposed to the South African context and citizen monitoring methodologies through a PPT presentation and interactive Q&A session (see pictures).

The series of engagements that will take place over the next 6 months are part of a larger effort to push forward DCES' commitment around community innovations.



## OOOOOHHHH DR RACHEL ADAMS PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

The knowledge that Dr Rachel Adams shared with us and the learning she brought cannot be compared with anything. She has been a true and amazing colleague. Her achievements have brought our team great pride and satisfaction.

Thank you so much for everything. Your new co-workers are going to gain a truly wonderful person. May all the success bestow upon you!

## INTRODUCTION

The current global health climate the BRICS countries find themselves in, requires the BRICS Research Centre (BRC) to become strategically positioned in addressing the BRICS Grouping in the post COVID-19 era. To maintain relevance, the BRC will ensure that its research contributes towards policies for immediate, concrete impact on the strategic economic, social and geo-political policies of the BRICS countries, the region, and the global community. The BRC which falls under the auspices of the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES), continue to address the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) agenda which seeks to increase economic and financial reforms, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform, ensure global food security, and address climate change.

Research focus include BRICS and South-South cooperation, BRICS partnership for global governance and security, sustainable development, and quality of life.

### The three over-arching questions that guide the research interventions are:

- Determine what BRICS means for Africa and South –South Cooperation;
- How to strengthen effective economic and political global governance reforms in the post-COVID-19 era; and
- How to ensure sustainable development through global governance measures.

## THE BRC WILL FOCUS ITS WORK ON THE FOLLOWING THREE MAIN AREAS:



cont...



## THE BRICS GLOBAL VACCINATION PROJECT

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic presents an era-defining challenge to public health and the global economy. Compounded by a changing international landscape, its political and socio-economic consequences, both short and long-term, have dire implications for the developing world. Vaccine diplomacy will be crucial in the global political economy for the next two years. It is rapidly emerging as an important diplomatic tool amongst BRICS members as they seek to expand their geostrategic influence amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through their vaccine manufacturers, all the BRICS countries have a substantial and increasing role in the global vaccine market. According to WHO, BRICS countries have increased the production capacity for vaccines with a high global demand and vaccines that are required specifically in the developing world. BRICS are also generally replacing multinational corporations as sources of traditional vaccines. Of the 40 vaccine manufacturers in 14 nations that are part of the Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network, only one is African: the

Biovac Institute based in Cape Town, South Africa, which currently delivers over 25 million doses of vaccines each year for illness such as measles, polio and tuberculosis.

Setting up a BRICS vaccine global research project is critical in light of the current impact of the BRICS countries on vaccine development, and due to the Vaccine Centre the BRICS countries agreed to set up in South Africa at the 2018 Summit. The research will also evaluate the impact of that growth on the global vaccine market, by comparing vaccine production in each of the five countries, BRICS vaccine cooperation and its impact on Africa. The BRC will also identify some of the current limitations of BRICS' vaccine-related strategies and vaccine diplomacy in shaping public health amongst BRICS countries and the global community.

Contact us on: [bricsresearchcentre@hsrc.ac.za](mailto:bricsresearchcentre@hsrc.ac.za)

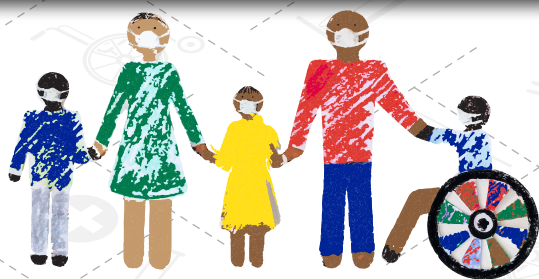


# PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING COVID-19

DCES is pleased to announce that the online survey that formed part of the *Socio-economic wellbeing and human rights-related experiences of people with disabilities in Covid-19 times* in South Africa is now complete. Done in partnership with the Institute for Development Studies (based in the United Kingdom) and the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities (based in South Africa), the United Kingdom Research and Innovation funds the study. The survey was available online from 1 July to 31 August 2021 and received 1891 responses, of which 1857 respondents provided consent to participate in the study. The survey focused specifically on persons with disabilities living within South Africa and explored their experiences during COVID-19. The qualitative and some quantitative data will be analysed and presented to stakeholders on 13 October 2021. Please see the attached invite below that enables you to register for this event. The interdisciplinary research team, composed of several persons with disabilities, looks forward to discussing the findings with as many stakeholders as possible and exploring the way ahead for the greater inclusion of persons with disabilities during the pandemic and beyond.

## VIRTUAL WEBINAR - 13 OCTOBER 2021

Socio-economic wellbeing and human rights-related experiences of people with disabilities in Covid-19 times in South Africa. Findings from a Survey



[Click here for audio and visual description of invite for persons with hearing and visual disabilities](#)

COVID 19 has exacerbated the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by many South Africans and particularly persons with disabilities – one of the most marginalised sectors of society. Their lives have been profoundly impacted by COVID-19. A study led by the Institute for Development Studies (UK) and in partnership with the Human Sciences Research Council (SA) and the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities in South Africa has now completed the survey. We invite you to attend a webinar where we will present key findings from over 1800 respondents in South Africa and invite you consider the way forward for greater inclusion of persons with disabilities during the pandemic and beyond.



The webinar will be in two parts:

1. presentations and Q and A to enable participants to hear about the findings, and
2. an interactive session where participants/delegates can share their ideas for creating a more disability inclusive South Africa.

You are welcome to attend just the first part if you are short of time. There will be a short break between parts 1 and 2.

**Note: A South African Sign Language interpreter will be present and there will be real time transcription/ open captions of the presentations and discussion.**

### VIRTUAL WEBINAR INVITATION

13 OCTOBER 2021 | 10:00 – 13:00 |

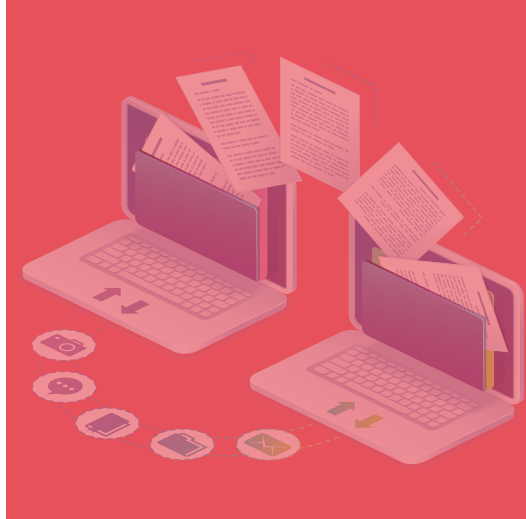
This includes an interactive session from 12:13:00

**PLEASE CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

The United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) (UK government) funded the study and this webinar. (The views and opinions expressed therein as well as findings and statements of the seminar series do not necessarily represent the views of the UKRI). Please note that this seminar will be recorded and published on the HSRC podcast channel.

The HSRC complies with the Electronic Communications Transactions Act of 2002 Section 45 (1) any person who sends unsolicited commercial communications to stakeholders, must provide the stakeholders with the option to cancel their subscription to that mailing list. To opt-out or unsubscribe from this mailing list, please email us at [slekala@hsrc.ac.za](mailto:slekala@hsrc.ac.za)





# POPIA AND THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

The Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) came into effect on 1 July 2021. All institutions in South Africa are required to comply with the requirements of this Act.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021, all institutions in South Africa must be compliant with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 4 of 2013 (PoPIA). The Act derives from the Right to Privacy enshrined in the Bill of Rights of the South African Constitution, and it sets out the principles and conditions to be complied with to ensure that the processing of personal information by all public and private bodies in South Africa is lawful. "Processing" includes the collection, analysis, storage, transfer, and sharing of personal information.

## **Establishing the lawful basis for obtaining the personal information**

The PoPIA requires that the processing of personal information by the HSRC has a lawful basis.

The HSRC Act, which mandates the HSRC to undertake research activities, provides this lawful basis to the organisation.

Other lawful bases for processing personal information at the HSRC includes consent. Where consent is used on a lawful basis, staff will be trained on the implications for consent withdrawal.

## **Obtaining the minimal amount of information that is necessary**

The HSRC must ensure that only the minimal amount of personal information necessary for the fulfilment of the purpose for processing, will be collected and processed, and that all staff are aware of the importance of the principle of data minimality. Only information that is required for the specific purpose for which it is gathered will be stored, and a revised record retention policy will be developed to ensure that no records containing personal information are kept any longer than they are needed.

## **Obtaining written consent**

PoPIA also requires that written consent must be obtained from data subjects for the processing of personal information. This record must be retained. The HSRC's legal department has developed new PoPIA-compliant consent forms to be used by staff when obtaining written consent for the processing of personal information. All staff will be trained on using the new consent forms.

## **Using the personal information only for specific, explicitly defined and legitimate lawful reasons**

The HSRC must ensure that personal information may only be processed for specific, explicitly defined and legitimate lawful reasons.

The data subject (the person who the personal information relates to) – whether an employee, stakeholder or research participant – must be aware of the purpose for processing their personal information.


The personal information must be deleted once the purpose for which it was collected has been fulfilled.

## **Reusing personal information**

Personal information can only be re-used at the HSRC, beyond the original purpose for collection :

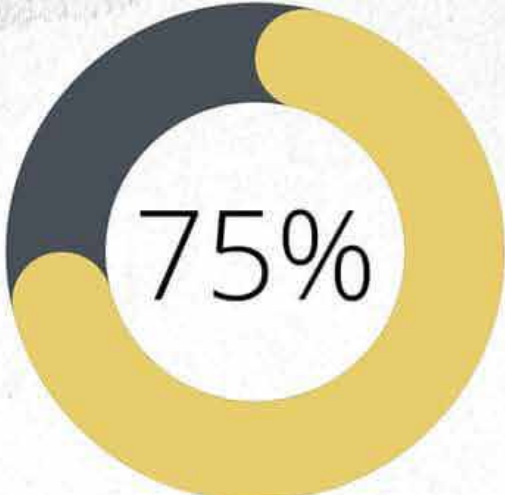
- where it is lawful including where the data subject has given consent for re-use and further processing;
- where the further processing is for research purposes only and the personal information will not be published in an identifiable form; and
- where the HSRC can demonstrate compatibility – as set out in terms of PoPIA – between the original and secondary purpose for collection.

The [Compliance Framework](#) and [Manual](#) can be accessed on the intranet.



*Happy  
Heritage Day*

**Percentage who would  
rather be a citizen of South  
Africa than of any other  
country in the world -  
HSRC SASAS 2020/21**



75%




### 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](mailto:isekaledi@hsrc.ac.za)

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

[www.hsrc.ac.za](http://www.hsrc.ac.za)

*please see previous edition:*  
<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/departments/dces/dces-newsletters>

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