



DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS WRITING RETREAT

PROGRAMME

Pullman Dakar, Teranga, Senegal
29 November - 3 December 2023

DAY ONE: 30/12/2023

- **Opening remarks and purpose of retreat:** Dr Palesa Sekhejane, Executive Head (Interim) AISA/HSRC
- **Welcome and opening remarks:** Prof Saliou Dione, Chair African and Postcolonial Studies Laboratory of the Cheikh Anta Diop University

SESSION ONE: ELECTIONS AND VIOLENT POLITICAL CONFLICTS IN AFRICA

Thematic coordinator: Prof Check Achu, Chief Research Specialist and Director of Research (Acting) AISA/HSRC

Setting the scene and opening thematic suggestions

1. From ballots to bullets: Exploring the rise of military regimes in Africa. Dr Johannes Bhanye, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of the Free State, South Africa
2. On the rise of military regimes in West Africa: Between legitimacy fatigue and legality crisis. Dr Aboubacar Niambele, Assistant Professor, University of Letters and Human Sciences of Bamako, Mali
3. Democracy and electoral process: Comparative analysis between the countries of Central Africa and West Africa (*Démocratie et processus électoral: Analyse comparative entre les pays de l'Afrique Centrale et de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.*) Mr Wolf Ulrich Mfere Akiana

LUNCH

SESSION TWO: DEMOCRATISATION AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Thematic coordinator: Prof Fatai Aremu, Professor of Political Sciences/Visiting Research Fellow, AISA/HSRC

Setting the scene and opening thematic suggestions

1. Coalitions of chaos and convenience: Assessing coalition governments in Lesotho, 2012–2022. Dr Lithare Rabele, Centre for Mediation in Africa, University of Pretoria
2. Sudan apart: Post-independence nation, crisis and progress review towards a democratic state. Dr Chuene Semono, University of the Western Cape, South Africa.
3. Changing tides: Populism, democracy and elections in Namibia. Dr Kennedy Kariseb, School of Law, University of Namibia



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DAY TWO: 01/12/2023

Recap of day one: Prof Check Achu

SESSION THREE: ELECTIONS MANAGEMENT BOARDS AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

Thematic coordinator: Prof Kealeboga Maphunye, Professor of Political Sciences, University of South Africa

Setting the scene and opening thematic suggestions

1. Credibility of elections and the role of election management bodies in Africa, issues, lessons, and interventions. Dr Frank Lekaba, Senior Lecturer, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
2. Democracy in Africa: Assessing electoral integrity and governance challenges. Dr Emmanuel Fundisi, Geospatial Specialist, HSRC
3. Electronic voting: Is this the way to go for future elections in Africa, and South Africa in particular? Dr Simangele Dlamini, Senior Research Specialist, DCES/HSRC

SESSION FOUR

Electoral apathy and youth engagements

Thematic coordinator: Dr Frank Lekaba

Setting the scene and opening thematic suggestions

1. The trust quandary: Deciphering Zimbabwe's controversial 2023 election process. Dr Ruvimbo Shayamunda, University of Zimbabwe
2. Gender gap in African youth political participation: Empirical evidence from Nigeria 2023 general elections. Dr Oluwaseun Ayomipo, Department of Communication and Language Arts, University of Ibadan.
3. Ensuring the credibility of elections management bodies: The missing link. Prof Kealeboga Maphunye, Professor of Political Sciences, University of South Africa



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DAY THREE: 02/12/2023

Recap of day two: Prof Fatai Aremu, Professor of Political Sciences, Visiting Research Fellow, AISA/HSRC

SESSION FIVE: DIGITISATION OF ELECTORAL PROCESS

Thematic coordinator: Dr Palesa Sekhejane, Executive Head (Interim) AISA/HSRC

Setting the scene and opening thematic suggestions

1. Evaluating the digital marketing strategy of the Independent Electoral Commission's (IEC) to improve youth participation in democratic processes in South Africa. Ms Phemelo Mashamaite, PhD Researcher, HSRC.
2. Challenges of digitisation and electronic balloting processes in Africa: Some observations. Prof Fatai Aremu, Visiting Research Fellow, AISA/HSRC
3. Rise of religious populism in Africa: A tool for political change? Dr Racheal Makokha, Technical University of Kenya

SESSION SIX: DEMOCRATIC DEFICIENT AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE

Thematic coordinator: Dr Check Achu, Chief Research Specialist/Acting Research Director, AISA/HSRC.

Setting the scene and opening thematic suggestions

1. Elections and violent political conflicts on the continent: A constructivist peacebuilding assessment approach. Dr Check Achu, Chief Research Specialist/Acting Research Director, AISA/HSRC.
2. South Africa's democratic (un)employment status quo: Implications for the upcoming 2024 national elections. Dr Tlou Ramoroka, Chief Research Specialist, DCES/HSRC
3. Elections and democracy in Ghana. Dr Raphael Ane Atanga, University of Ghana, Legon.

Formation of writing teams/ Way forward: Prof Check Achu/Dr Palesa Sekhejane/Prof Fatai Aremu

Publication plans: Ms Mmakwena Chipu, Managing Editor, AISA/HSRC

Closing: Dr Palesa Sekhejane