

1994 - 2024



DEMOCRACY @ 30

Developmental, Capable and Ethical State

Making governance work

16th Edition

Thoughts from the DIVISIONAL EXECUTIVE

Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller

A new financial year has started. I have always wondered, but never understood, why there is a difference between annual and financial years, but here we are now in the fifth and final year of our Strategic Plan and ready to begin another five-year cycle.

This year began with an Institutional Review conducted by an external panel of experts who – in essence – assess the “wellbeing” of the HSRC. Besides analysing the state of our institution, we have just released the 2024 edition of the State of the Nation which focuses on the wellbeing of the state, and most importantly, her people in all their diversity.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will again discover the people behind our research and the impactful work we do as we drive the vision and mission of the HSRC. We say farewell to Dr Tlou Ramaroka and Yamkela Majikijela and welcome Dr Bernard Hlalele, narrate the story of Langa and learn about our research on filicide.

The team is currently gearing up for the national and provincial elections on 29 May and the Election Satisfaction Survey. This will be a massive feat as we assist the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in determining whether the elections were free and fair. It is also a major contribution to our democracy’s health and wellbeing at a time when our research shows a declining trust in democracy along with a worldwide trend leading to the emergence of “strong man” right-wing authoritarianism.

Now more than ever we need to support and protect our hard-won constitutional democracy, especially in this the 30th year since South Africa’s first universal elections were held in 1994 as a result of the adoption of the first democratic Constitution. Thinking back to 1994 we should be reminded of the sense of euphoria as South African’s were freed from the shackles of apartheid and queues snaked across the country as we patiently waiting to cast our votes. The image of our first democratic President Nelson Mandela casting his first vote should awake in us the realisation that we have a duty to participate in the election, a culmination of a struggle in which many lost their freedom and even their lives.

Professor Narnia Bohler-Muller



SOUTH AFRICA

**It's your democracy.
Own it.**

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UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH DR ODILE AYODELE

Dr Odilile – or “Odi” – Ayodele is Senior Research Specialist at DCES Sustainable Human Security. She joined the HSRC in October 2023.

What does your job entail?

The answer to this question should be easy but anyone working within the HSRC would tell you that you wear several hats: I am a policy and academic analyst (two different roles in themselves, but that is a discussion for another day), proposal writer, project coordinator, public speaker, networker and workshop facilitator – among whatever else arrives on my desk. Since joining the HSRC, I have been able to work with various teams on ongoing projects, such as the Public Service Commission and new projects with stakeholders such as the IEC. I am also part of the HSRC’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy Committee.

What is your typical day like?

I wake up between 4.30am and 4.40am to have time to journal, open the door for my dog, read the news and get my kids ready for school. I want to say that I work out every day from 6am to 7am, but that is still a work in progress so I either work out or dream about working out. I shower, eat breakfast, check my calendar to figure out what meetings I have and check the time allocation for work planned for the day. The end of my day depends on my kids’ sports schedule. I always work around them and can often be found with notes or my laptop in parking lots around Johannesburg (even on the weekends). On Fridays, I take time to read a novel and stream the latest sci-fi series. I usually plan my tasks for the week on a Sunday. I am also a pilot’s wife but that is a story for another day).

Favourite memory from work?

As I am still relatively new, arriving when the HSRC was transitioning to a hybrid model, I haven’t had the opportunity to travel for work. Most of my engagements have been virtual, with a few in-person meetings around Johannesburg and Pretoria. However, colleagues have been open to virtual coffees so I have “met” quite a few. I also recently participated in an evidence-mapping workshop; even though it was intensive, I enjoyed the programme and engaging with colleagues in between.

What is a common question you get from stakeholders?

I usually get asked what I do, which, as you can imagine, is a little complicated. However, I have almost perfected my elevator pitch.

What do you like most about your job?

I love that I get to do impactful work that will not just sit on a shelf in a university library. I also love working with different people and garnering different perspectives. The part of my job I enjoy the most is stretching myself creatively and intellectually. Even though it is a large organisation, there is room to experiment and chart an exciting new path while helping the organisation meet its goals.

What does it mean to you being a Senior Research Specialist?

It means being a problem solver! It also means being able to write different types of articles, from client reports to opinion pieces and academic articles. Basically, you are a crude cross between a management consultant and a scientist.

Tell us about your family

I am the first of three children from a relatively small but diverse family – my mother is South African and my late father was Nigerian. I have lived in a number of countries, including Namibia just as it gained independence from South Africa. This diversity in my upbringing has shaped my outlook on life and constantly gives me little gems that I want to explore in my work.

How did your parents influence you?

My parents didn’t influence my career choice in any way and my mother still doesn’t understand what I do! They never dictated what we did as long as we were willing to work hard and solve problems. We were also encouraged to pay our fees, or at least part of them. I have always had a job, from working at the Ericsson store in Vodaworld in high school, and at a call centre selling short-term insurance as an undergraduate, to balancing freelance projects and internships during my postgraduate journey. I used to be angry about all the free time I missed when my peers were having fun, but I picked up skills that have stood me in good stead. Most importantly, these experiences have made me highly flexible and a fast learner.

Who have been your strongest influences in life?

I get influenced everywhere I go, from conversations with colleagues to reflections after unpleasant experiences. Everyone I have come across has either been a villain, a saint or a hero in my story and some people are all three, with some more the villain! Either way, these interactions shape my journey, and I continue to be shaped by new interactions and experiences. As I get older, I also recognise my part as a villain or hero in someone else’s story.

What led you to your career?

I always knew that research was my sweet spot. While running the Digital Africa research unit at the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation at the University of Johannesburg, I taught and supervised honours and master's students. Very quickly, though, I figured out that academia was not for me. I enjoy mentoring and teaching, but I don't want the rigidity of academia. I intend to supervise and teach again one day, but not as a full-time academic.

What was your first impression of the HSRC?

My impressions are still being shaped because I joined in the middle of several transitions, including units, post-COVID realities, and change in leadership. Trying to understand what the organisation was, and what it is becoming, has been an exciting task. You can't make beneficial incremental changes to any environment unless you understand it so I have been reflecting on myself, and on the contribution I want to make.

What is your first memory of working here?

The nine-hour online HR induction!! I also remember the first in-person stakeholder meeting I attended. I met colleagues for 20 to 30 minutes before we met our stakeholders at the IEC. When we arrived at the IEC, we operated like a well-oiled machine, you wouldn't imagine that a new part was only just included.

Passionate educator and renowned scholar Dr Bernard Moeketsi Hlalele is the new Chief Research Specialist at DCES. He is an esteemed academic and researcher with qualifications from several higher education institutions. His first degree was a BSc (Education), focusing on Mathematics and Physics, from the National University of Lesotho in 2003, and he then obtained his BTech (Project Management) from the Central University of Technology (CUT) in the Free State in 2008.



NEW STAFF ALERT

INTRODUCING CHIEF RESEARCH SPECIALIST DR BERNARD MOEKETSI HLALELE

In 2012, Dr Hlalele completed a BEd (Hons) at North-West University before branching into Disaster Risk Management. He obtained an Advanced Diploma in this field from the University of the Free State (UFS) in 2013, and his Master's degree in 2014 from the same institution. He pursued his academic endeavours and completed his PhD in Disaster Management at UFS from 2016 to 2018.

Dr Hlalele undertook further studies, enrolling in an MPhil in the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme at the University of Cape Town from 2021 to 2022 (incomplete).

His passion for teaching and curriculum development led him to Goronyane High School in Thaba Nchu in the Free State, where he taught Mathematics and Physical Science from 2007 to 2015. Dr Hlalele's contributions extend beyond the classroom, and he was a senior curriculum developer at the University of the Free State from 2016 to 2017.

His leadership qualities were evident during his tenure as a Services Seta Project Manager at the CUT in 2018. He also is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Venda, holding this position since October 2023.

Professional memberships include organisations such as the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA), the Project Management Institute (PMI) and the Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA). He holds certifications in Core Humanitarian, Security Risk Management, and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) in Emergencies.

Dr Hlalele's active engagement in academic discourse is reflected in extensive publications that to date include 28 articles, nine seminar presentations, and 37 conference paper presentations. He is committed to mentoring the next generation of scholars and has supervised three PhD candidates and 11 Master's students to completion.

Outside of his work as a researcher, Dr Hlalele finds joy in various activities, such as experimenting with different recipes and flavours in the kitchen.

"When I am not cooking, I enjoy traveling to explore new places and cultures," says Dr Hlalele. Playing the guitar is another passion: "I find peace and creativity in strumming the strings and making music. These activities add colour and balance to my life, allowing me to unwind and recharge outside of my academic pursuits."

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS AND FOND FAREWELLS

DR THOBEKA NOKUKHANYA ZONDI: REFLECTING ON MY JOURNEY AT THE HSRC

I stepped into the role of a Master's intern within the Democracy Governance and Service Delivery (DGSD) unit in 2017. Initially daunting, the experience swiftly transformed into a rewarding journey with the invaluable guidance of my mentor Dr Benjamin Roberts, who played a pivotal role in equipping me with the tools to thrive within the HSRC ecosystem.

Over my time at the HSRC, I have cultivated meaningful relationships with colleagues, many of whom have become cherished friends. I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr Shanaaz, Dr Gordan, Dr Mchunu, Dr Jare, Dr Mthombeni, Prof Jo and Busi Mamba for their unwavering support during both triumphs and trials. Sadly, I can't mention everyone who has impacted my life at the HSRC, but there are many more.

My journey at the HSRC has been marked by active engagement in academic and policy-focused research and evaluation projects across South Africa. This has encompassed areas such as climate change; service delivery; research methodology; public opinion surveys; institutional development; governance and democracy; local government; public policy analysis; socio-economic rights; gender and social inclusion, and sustainability. I reflect gratefully on where I was able to contribute to various impactful HSRC projects, reports and publications.

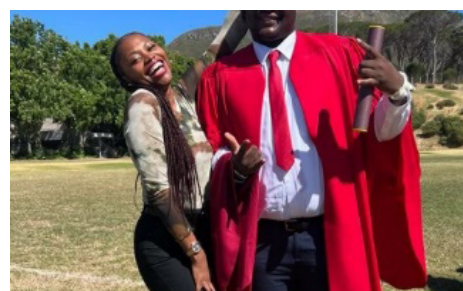
My involvement in the South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) was noteworthy, analysing and disseminating findings on public attitudes in an African context. This survey contributes significantly to the expanding repository of knowledge on how African communities perceive, and engage with, their social and political milieu.

The HSRC has provided a platform for my professional growth as an emerging researcher, facilitating connections and collaborations with influential figures in my field of study. I'm now a youth member of the South African Group on Earth Observations and have done live interviews on major broadcasting channels about the research that I do.

Today, as I assume the role of a lecturer at the University of Cape Town, I aspire to impart knowledge and guidance to students, and make a meaningful impact in their lives.

My overarching goal is to foster strengthened participatory democracy, and enhanced accountability and citizenship with individuals at the heart of governance. I endeavour to promote and safeguard socio-economic and environmental rights, contributing to a more just and equitable society.

In retrospect, my journey at the HSRC has been transformative, shaping not only my professional trajectory but also my personal growth. Armed with lessons learned and connections forged, I will strive to effect positive change in academia and society at large.



HOW CAN WE FORGET THAT DR ZONDI WAS OUR VERY OWN MRS SOUTH AFRICA 2023 FINALIST?



THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CHAPTER

PROFESSOR TLOU MILLICENT RAMOROKA

It is with mixed emotions that I write this farewell message to all my HSRC colleagues. After two years and eight months of incredible experiences and growth as a Chief Research Specialist, and more recently as a Research Director in the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) unit, I have embarked on a new career journey. I am now a Full Professor of Development Planning and Management at the University of Limpopo.

While I am excited about the opportunities ahead of me, I will deeply miss the working relationships and memories I have made here. My time at HSRC has been amazing and I certainly have grown and developed academically. This includes improving research skills in the areas of fundraising, proposal conceptualisation, research tool development and report writing.

I also will treasure the mentorship, people management and time management skills acquired while working at the HSRC. I have had the privilege of working alongside some of the most talented and dedicated individuals. Your passion for our work and your commitment to excellence have inspired me daily. I have learned so much from each of you, and am grateful for the support, guidance, and friendship you have shown me.

Together, we have accomplished great things: from ground-breaking research projects to innovative solutions, we have made a real impact in our field and beyond. I am proud of all that we have achieved together, and I know that HSRC will continue to thrive under your capable skills and knowledge.

As I bid farewell, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to every one of you. To the HSRC management, administrators, finance team and researchers including trainees, thank you very much for believing in me. Thank you for your dedication, hard work and friendship. I will cherish the memories we have made together, and I hope our paths will cross again soon. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. May you continue to inspire, innovate, and make a difference in people's lives through research.

Thank you, HSRC, for an invaluable and unforgettable journey, the DCES will forever be my home!

A few memories of colleagues and projects



YAMKELA MAJIKIJELA: MAKING HER MARK

Having completed her PhD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, research trainee Yamkela Majikijela bids farewell to HSRC DCES, having made her mark through invaluable contributions.

Yamkela's recent accolade at the Disaster Risk Management conference in Maputo, Mozambique, where she and colleague Tshego Ramaphakela clinched the title of Best Poster Presentation, exemplifies her dedication and expertise.

Her departure leaves a void in our team but we are excited for Yamkela as she heads towards new horizons, carrying with her the knowledge and passion that defined her time at the HSRC. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and wish Yamkela every success in future endeavours.



1994 - 2024



DEMOCRACY @ 30

Celebrating Democracy@30: Langa Township in Focus

Welcome to the first instalment of our “Democracy@30” series, a unique project launched by the HSRC to mark 30 years of democracy in 2024. Over the next three quarters, it will explore stories that illuminate the impact of democracy on the lives of South Africans.

We start this journey in Langa Township, a historic Black community in the Cape established under apartheid. We delve into how democracy has shaped aspects of life in Langa such as education, housing and safety while also seeking to understand the difficulties this community still faces, including its ongoing fight for a more equitable future.

Through interviews, focus groups and historical review, the project aims to capture perspectives of residents, particularly youth and women. This will inform future initiatives to address inequalities and improve life. Langa’s story, from its segregated beginnings to resident-driven economic ventures like urban agriculture, highlights both challenges and progress.

Diana Carolina Sanchez outlines some of the key takeaways:

Between February and mid-March 2024, we engaged with various voices, convening five distinct focus group discussions. Each discussion was an opportunity to delve deeper into the narratives that are emerging in Langa, illustrating the experiences and sentiments of 30 years of democracy.

Focus Group: Sports and Recreation

Our first focus group brought together stakeholders in the world of sports and recreation. While discussing challenges and opportunities, participants uncovered some of the dynamics shaping this aspect of community life.



Focus Group 2: People with Disabilities

The second focus group discussion turned attention to those often marginalised by society: individuals living with disabilities. Their perspectives on democracy shed light on the nuanced intersectionality between accessibility, inclusion, and political participation over the last 30 years in Langa.



Focus Group 3: Arts, Culture and Heritage

A gathering of senior and passionate stakeholders in the field of arts, culture and heritage contributed to discussions in a third focus group. Nostalgic stories highlighted the vibrant creativity of this historical township, and how it is expressed. Participants also identified challenges and explored possibilities to invigorate this sector.

The fourth and five focus group discussions took us into experiences in two different informal settlements within Langa. Joe Slovo lies in the heart of the township, while Siyahlala is a more recent development on its border, where houses have been built on top of the rail line, affecting transport and development. Housing emerged as a central theme as we listened to the stories from those navigating life in these communities and environments.



Focus Group 4: Experiences of living in Siyahlala Informal Settlement



Focus Group 5: Experiences of living in Joe Slovo Informal Settlement



As we synthesise the insights from these conversations, we are reminded of the people and actions that define the democratic journey in Langa. The workshop reports cover the narratives emerging in these thematic areas in more details.

Community Day

The final main activity in this phase was an open Community Day at the Langa Indoor Sports Complex on 16 March which focused on youth and children. In giving closure to the reflective process, we also hoped to open doors and minds to what can still be celebrated, and still be done, to improve well-being in Langa.

We partnered with the Langa Bicycle Hub, which is committed to building on the positive aspects of the democratic journey to improve life in Langa. In conversations with representatives of the Hub and other local stakeholders, we framed the day around freedom, not as simply a political concept, but also as a metaphor for physical mobility, and a way to celebrate 30 years of democracy.



LANGA Democracy@30 Community Day

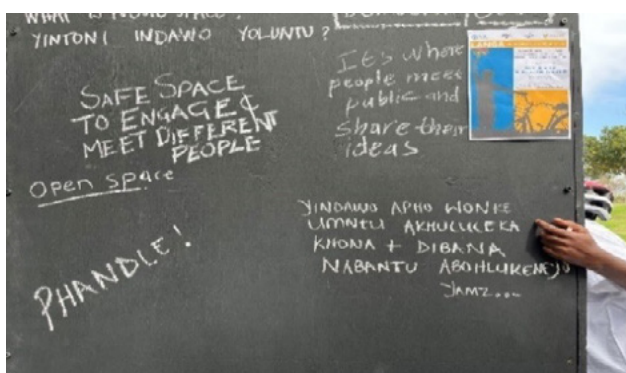
16 March 2024 10:00 - 13:00
Langa Indoor Sports Complex
Bhunga Avenue, Cape Town, 7455

Express your ideas!
**Learn about the
Democracy@30 HSRC study**
Learn to cycle!

For more information, contact Diana Sanchez
at dsanchez@hsrc.ac.za.



More than 200 people joined activities which included learning to ride a bicycle and a group cycle around Langa, exploring the main areas and sites, as well as taking part in art activations. The goal was to encourage all ages to express their feelings and ideas about democracy. The HSRC team lead used the opportunity to distribute written information about the study.



The Community Day was documented in photographs and in videos which will be used to produce a larger piece as part of the Democracy@30 project. A poster was distributed before the event, and photographs and video clips are available on the project drive.

Langa's story is just one chapter – what will the next 30 years hold?

Democracy is a journey, not a destination.

Stay tuned for more inspiring stories in the coming months as we celebrate 30 years of democracy in South Africa.

PARTNERING ON E-PARTICIPATION AND POLICY MODELLING

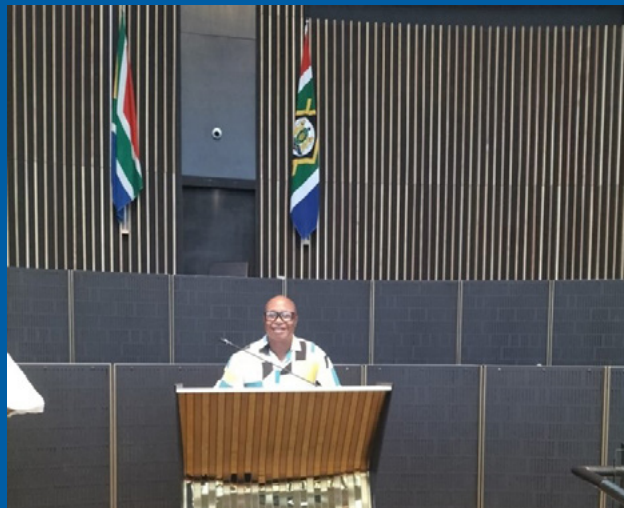
ePPMOSA team e-participation work sessions with the City of Johannesburg and Ethekewini Municipality

Since 2022, DCES has been engaging various municipalities on e-participation. The e-Participation and Policy Modelling Platform for South Africa (ePPMOSA) is a project hosted by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). The project aims to pilot e-participation and policy modelling technologies and methods in a limited number of municipalities between 2022 and 2025. The goal is to support and enhance local government public participation initiatives. The HSRC is working with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) as partners in the project.

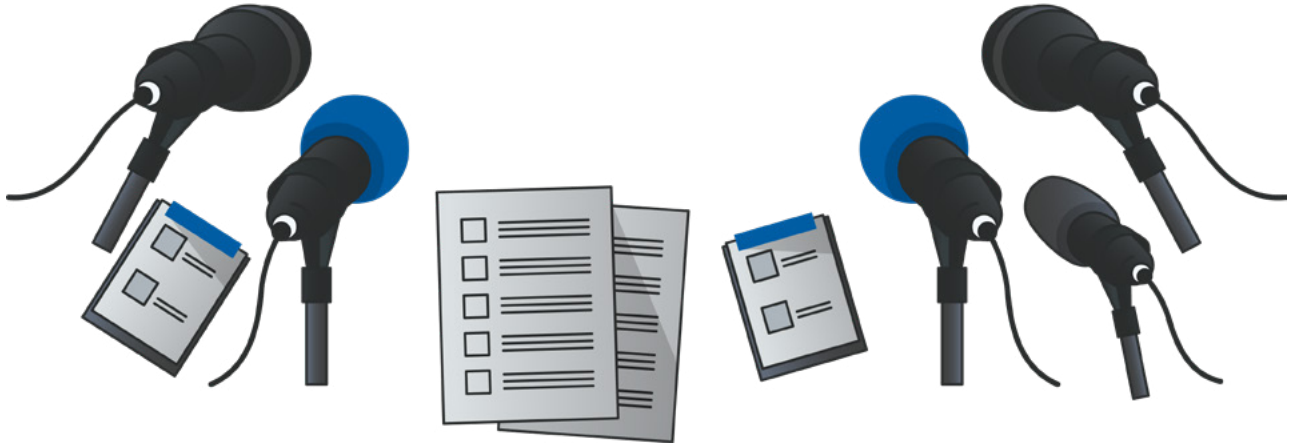
The ePPMOSA team, represented by Dr Simangele Dlamini (DCES) and Dr Paul Plantinga (IC), hosted officials from the City of Johannesburg (CoJ) and the eThekweni Municipality for a technology workshop on 6 and 7 March, 2024. The workshop aimed at assessing the levels of technology uptake by both municipalities in terms of e-participation.

The first day consisted of a tech-walkthrough by the CoJ, and on the second day the eThekweni Municipality presented on its e-participation status. This was followed by a tour of CoJ facilities showing technology uptake relating to advances in e-governance.

Representatives of the CoJ and eThekweni municipalities indicated that they learnt a great deal from each other and looked forward to benefitting further from each other and the ePPMOSA team.



DCES IN THE MEDIA



Prof Bohler-Muller on eNCA's 'We the Nation'

South Africa faces a puzzling challenge: despite high government spending on public services, many citizens experience poor quality service delivery. This was explored by Professor Narnia Bohler-Muller of the HSRC and others on eNCA's *We The Nation* on 3 March. The discussions dig deeper into this paradox and explore the reasons behind it.

Click [here](#) for the full discussion.



Dr Mchunu unpacks pre-election surveys for Newzroom Afrika

HSRC DCES Senior Researcher Dr Ngqapheli Mchunu featured on Newzroom Afrika on 12 March. He unpacked surveys, including a poll by the Brenthurst Foundation, which forecast that Gauteng is likely to be led by a coalition government after the 2024 elections.

Dr Mchunu observed that the ANC, the dominant party, has been losing its grip on power in Gauteng. In the most recent 2019 National and Provincial Elections (NPEs), the ANC managed to secure 50.19% of the vote, which was a drop from the 53.59% it attained in the 2014 NPE. With this decline in support for the ruling party also noted in local government elections, Dr Mchunu noted that the ANC's support probably would slip below 50% in the May elections.

Furthermore, he said, parties such as Action SA, Rise Mzansi and MK were becoming prominent players, specifically in parts of Gauteng where the IFP has historically been influential.

When asked about the importance of manifestos and campaigning, Dr Mchunu affirmed that manifestos would remain significant. In addition, door-to-door campaigns continued to be vital because voters expected leaders to personally approach them and explain their promises on service delivery.

Click [here](#) for the full interview.



SABC News: Discussing the Social Attitudes Survey

In a pre-election news feature in February 2024, SABC News interviewed Prof Bohler-Muller on South Africans' feelings of unhappiness with the state of democracy. Prof Bohler-Muller discussed findings drawn from the HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey. Among other observations, these show that almost 65% of the population is not satisfied with the country's almost 30-year-old democracy.

Click [here](#) to watch the full interview.



Social Attitudes Survey | Low turnout at the polls - Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller

The Conversation: An overview of South Africa's legal team at the ICJ

In an article published in *The Conversation* on 12 January, 2024, Prof Bohler-Muller gave an overview of the key figures who were part of the South African legal team in the landmark case heard at the International Court of Justice.

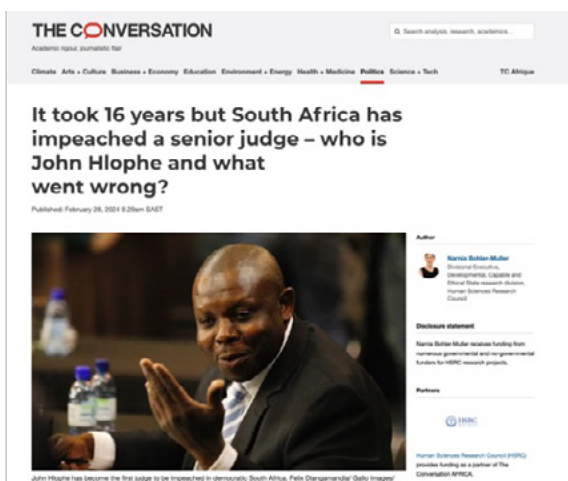


Click [here](#) for the full article.

The Conversation: The impeachment of a senior judge

In an article published in *The Conversation* on 28 February, 2024, Prof Bohler-Muller discussed the impeachment of a senior judge, asking "who is John Hlophe and what went wrong?"

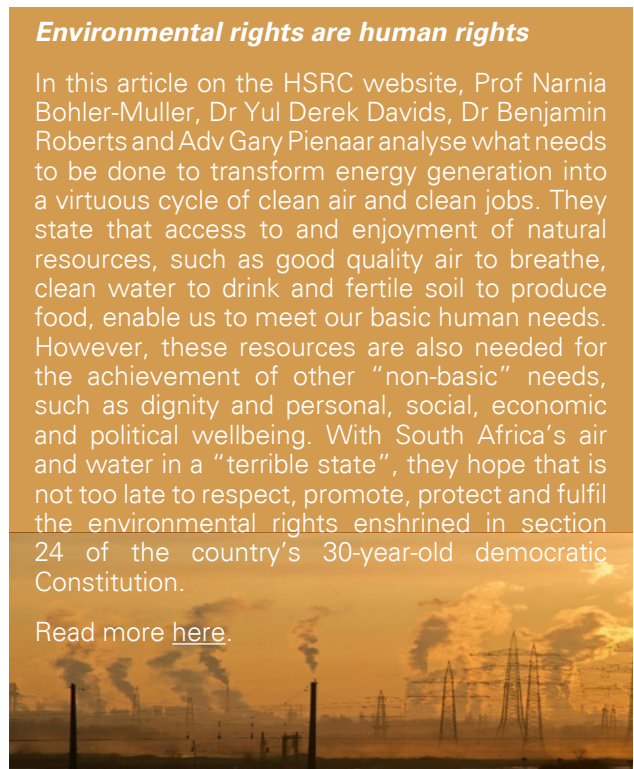
Read the full article [here](#).



Environmental rights are human rights

In this article on the HSRC website, Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller, Dr Yul Derek Davids, Dr Benjamin Roberts and Adv Gary Pienaar analyse what needs to be done to transform energy generation into a virtuous cycle of clean air and clean jobs. They state that access to and enjoyment of natural resources, such as good quality air to breathe, clean water to drink and fertile soil to produce food, enable us to meet our basic human needs. However, these resources are also needed for the achievement of other "non-basic" needs, such as dignity and personal, social, economic and political wellbeing. With South Africa's air and water in a "terrible state", they hope that is not too late to respect, promote, protect and fulfil the environmental rights enshrined in section 24 of the country's 30-year-old democratic Constitution.

Read more [here](#).



BOOK BUZZ

'State of the Nation: Quality of Life and Wellbeing'

Focusing on wellbeing and quality of life can move us towards addressing pervasive inequalities and poverty. If wellbeing refers to perceptions of living conditions, then quality of life draws attention to life circumstances, living conditions and life satisfaction that have bearing on lived experiences.

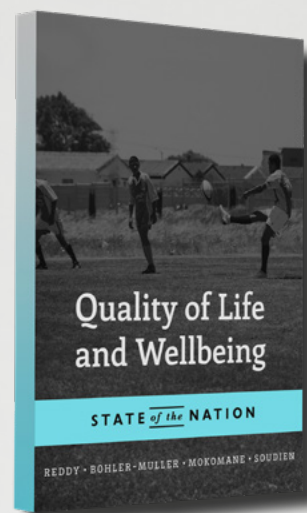
This edition of the State of the Nation puts wellbeing and quality of life on the intellectual and political agenda. It does so in two ways, first, by bringing together the key interpretive frameworks we need for understanding what wellbeing is, and second, by taking stock of the major themes that tell a story of the state of the nation.

These themes include questions of the environment; mental and human health; happiness (and how we might measure it), ageing and remittances. It also looks at challenges to an open economy; COVID-19 vaccines; resilience; the uses of art; the role of activism and the active processes through which the quality of life is addressed; gender and human security, as well as peacebuilding; wellbeing and the promise of human progress in Africa.

As South Africa enters a third decade of democracy, the desire for freedom and a better quality of life for all is even more pressing. While wicked problems such as socio-economic challenges remain a visible reality, this volume investigates whether an overemphasis on economic growth obscures the importance of subjective happiness and wellbeing.

The rich assembly of ideas by formidable scholars and thinkers challenges orthodoxies, and poses questions about whether we, as citizens, are living a good life collectively and individually.

"Provocative, searing, controversial, and thought-provoking at once!" – Professor Laetitia Rispel, Public Health and South African Research Chair on the Health Workforce School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand.



Launching Soon

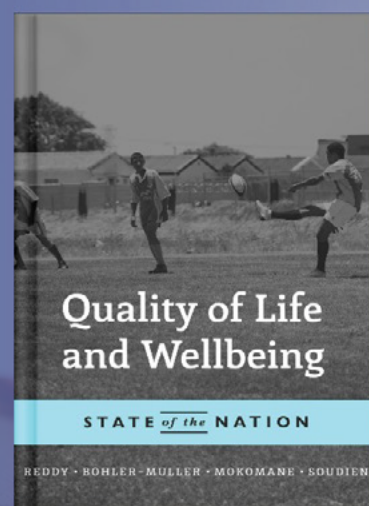
Save the date

14 May 2024

Time: 15:30-18:30

CSIR Convention Centre

www.hsrc.ac.za



Insights from the 'Handbook of Food Security and Society'

Prof Zandile J Mchiza, Dr Yul D Davids, Laurentia J Opperman, and Dr Benjamin J Roberts contribute to our understanding of food security in South Africa through two insightful chapters in the Handbook of Food Security and Society. Chapter 10, authored by Mchiza, Davids and Opperman, dives into the complexities of food insecurity and malnutrition, while Chapter 17, co-authored by all four researchers, explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these issues and the solutions implemented to aid vulnerable populations. Both chapters offer valuable insights for policymakers and the public alike.

Click [here](#) to watch a video exploring the key themes and takeaways from each chapter.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 investigates the complex issue of food insecurity and malnutrition syndemic in South Africa. It discusses policy initiatives and strategies implemented by the South African government to mitigate food insecurity, reduce poverty and address malnutrition. The chapter emphasises the importance of sustainable development, support for food producers, land tenure security, and nutrition education as key components of these initiatives. Additionally, it highlights the impact of global economic crises and COVID-19 on exacerbating food insecurity in the country. Overall, the chapter underscores the ongoing efforts and challenges in achieving food and nutrition security in South Africa.

Chapter 17

Chapter 17 discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security in South Africa and the measures taken by the government to address food insecurity among vulnerable populations. It highlights challenges faced in distributing food vouchers and emergency cash provisions, as well as the need for innovative solutions using Fourth Industrial Revolution technology. The chapter also emphasises the importance of social protection measures, such as the introduction of the R350 social relief of distress grant and the support provided by the Solidarity Fund in distributing food parcels to vulnerable communities. Additionally, it mentions the role of private businesses, civil society and philanthropists in promoting sustainable livelihoods and supporting the local economy. Overall, the chapter underscores the importance of leveraging technology and collaboration to improve service delivery and ensure food security for all households, especially during times of crisis such as over COVID-19.



REWIND: HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS THIS QUARTER

HSRC Connect: Filicide in South Africa

The HSRC Connect team kicked off this year's programming with an expert panel discussion on filicide in South Africa. Filicide – the act of killing a child (up to 18 years old), committed by either a biological, step, foster or adoptive parent – is unfortunately a common phenomenon in South Africa. It occurs when parents or caregivers intentionally take the lives of their children and is distinct from homicides associated with child maltreatment.

The discussion was facilitated by Dr Candice Groenewald, Chief Research Specialist at the HSRC, in conversation with Dr Gadija Khan, a researcher and expert in the field of psychology and social science.

The discussion aimed to shed light on the phenomenon of filicide in South Africa, exploring its causes, its impact on individuals and society, and discussing potential prevention strategies. By bringing together experts, practitioners and community voices, the HSRC seeks to foster understanding and promote dialogue on this critical issue.

Dr Khan's policy brief "Towards making homes safer and parents resilient to prevent (and respond to) filicide" can be viewed [here](#).

The HSRC Connect video can be viewed in full [here](#).



Decarbonising township industrial spaces and SMMEs through energy hubs: perspectives from South Africa and China

Decarbonising township industrial spaces and SMMEs through energy hubs:
 Perspectives from South Africa and China
PROGRAMME
27 March 2024
 11:00 Harare/Pretoria time || 17:00 Beijing time



Agenda Item	Responsible Person/Stakeholder	Time Allocation
Programme Chair: Dr Funeka Yazini April, Coordinator, BRICS Research Centre, HSRC		11:00 - 11:10
Program Background: About the Vaal Triangle Decarbonisation Project: Mr Thami Klassen, Director, (Economic Infrastructure & Logistics - the dtic)		11:10 - 11:20
OPENING ADDRESS	Mr Dumisani Dakile , Head: Policy, Office of the Premier, Gauteng (TBD)	11:20 - 11:30
KEY NOTE ADDRESS	His Excellency Counsellor Ouyang Zhibing , Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in the Republic of South Africa	11:30 - 11:40
BUSINESS PANEL:		
Chair: Professor Siphamanda Zondi , Director, Institute of Pan African Thought, University of Johannesburg		
Mr Nicho Ntema – MD Nicho Ntema Unilimited (Pty) Ltd	Vaal Township Economic Development	11:40 - 11:50
Mr Mfanafuthi Dube , Chief Executive Officer	Kili Energy Company	11:50 - 12:00
Dr Yuhan Zheng	BRICS Research Institute for Digital Economy, Xiamen, China	12:00 - 12:10
Mr Prinaven Naidoo , Business Development and Sales Manager	Huawei Digital Power Business Unit	12:10 - 12:20
RESPONDENT PANEL: STRATEGIC WAY FORWARD		
Chair: Professor Yong Zhong , China Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China		
Dr Nqobile Xaba , Researcher	Knowledge Economy and Scientific Advancement, Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection	12:20 - 12:30
Dr Wei Wei , Senior Research Fellow	Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China	12:30 - 12:40
Discussion	ALL	12:40 - 13:10
CLOSING REMARKS		
13:10 – 13:20: Mr Bernd Oellermann, Senior Program Manager, National Cleaner Production Centre		
13:20 – 13:30: Advocate Gary Pienaar, Research Associate, Human Sciences Research Council		

On March 27, 2024, the BRICS Research Centre at the HSRC and the South African Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition co-hosted a webinar on decarbonisation in South African townships. The objective was to examine the challenges and prospects of decarbonisation by assessing the roles of investment partnership and SMME value chains. It focused on the Vaal Triangle, an industrial area in Gauteng.

Decarbonisation is the process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning into cleaner energy sources. Decarbonising industries poses challenges for South Africa inclusive of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs). SMMEs play a central part in economies worldwide, making up 99% of all enterprises and providing about 60% of all employment. Due to their extensive social and economic influence it is critical to include SMMEs in the energy economy through the Just Energy Transition, which is central to the work of the Presidential Climate Commission.

China’s efforts to implement SMME value chains was used as a comparison. China was also selected as it is a world producer of renewable energy, ranging from solar power to hydrogen. Moreover, the Sino-African Declaration on Climate Change and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Dakar Action Plan (2022-2024) clearly articulate issues around the promotion of social and environmental sustainability principles and the green growth of Africa, including promoting renewable energy.



Climate Change seminar

Global Climate Change and Jurisdictional Vulnerability Index

The HSRC's DCES division hosted the Climate Change seminar from 22-27 March, 2024, featuring Professor Hilary I Inyang and Professor Charles Hongoro, Strategic Lead for Sustainable Human Security (SHS), Democracy, Governance, and Citizenship. Held at the HSRC office in Pretoria, the seminar centered on climate change and its multifaceted impacts, including policy formulations, mitigation, adaptation strategies and strengthening resilience against its effects.

Prof Inyang highlighted how the region experiences hazards and disasters with alarming frequency, often surpassing the capacity of existing systems to cope. South Africa is susceptible to disasters such as droughts, wildfires and flooding. This leads to extensive damage to already vulnerable infrastructure, loss of human life, and ecological devastation. Offering a comprehensive overview of disaster management from global to regional perspectives, the seminar provided statistical insights and analyses on the frequency, severity, and trends of various disaster events, focusing on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and South Africa.

The seminar also explored the defining characteristics and measurement methodologies of different types of disaster alongside their socioeconomic ramifications. Prof Inyang outlined the essential components of a robust disaster management programme, providing diverse strategies, policies and practical approaches. A significant segment of the seminar examined the disaster-related repercussions of global climate change, exploring potential mitigation and adaptation strategies within policy and technical frameworks.

The workshop centered on developing a Climate Change Jurisdictional Vulnerability Index (CC-JVI). This topic aligns closely with the Human Dimensions of Climate Change project spearheaded by DCES. On March 25, television news channel Newzroom Afrika hosted Prof Inyang to discuss insights from the seminar and workshop, and radio station Cape Talk interviewed HSRC Chief Research Specialist Dr Wilfred Lunga in similar discourse on responses to disaster management.

- Watch the Newzroom Afrika television coverage [here](#).
- Listen to the Cape Talk radio interview [here](#).
- Additional audio files can be downloaded via WeTransfer [here](#).

INVITATION:

22 March 2024 10:00 - 12:00 134 Pretorius Street, HSRC Building, Pretoria	Seminar presented by Prof Hilary I Inyang Global climate change: Drivers, mechanisms, mitigation and adaptation approaches
25 March 2024 10:00 - 12:00 134 Pretorius Street, HSRC Building, Pretoria	Seminar presented by Prof Hilary I Inyang Features and approaches to management of disasters with particular emphasis on Southern Africa
26 & 27 March 2024 10:00 - 12:00 134 Pretorius Street, HSRC Building, Pretoria	Training workshop presented by Prof Hilary I Inyang and Prof Charles Hongoro Climate change jurisdictional vulnerability indexing (CC-JV) system implementation protocols

Please contact Dr Wilfred Lunga (wlunga@hsrc.ac.za) for more information.
To register and join the seminars and workshop, please see attached documents for the relevant links.



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Visiting Scholar

Prof Timothy Stanton seminar

Visiting scholar of Community Engagement and Human Development, Professor Timothy K Stanton, presented a seminar titled “Community-based participatory research as engaged scholarship – why, how, and where?” in Cape Town on 21 February 2024. In the HSRC public seminar, organised by DCES, Prof Stanton discussed the evolving practice, principles and ethics of community-engaged research (CER). This served as a platform to present and discuss examples of contemporary practice from his work at Stanford University as well as other universities and community-based organisations. The seminar was held at the HSRC offices in Cape Town in person and on-line. A total of 229 participants registered to attend and on the day 79 people participated on-line, and 12 people at the Cape Town office. Later, his presentation was circulated to several attendees who requested further information and engagement.

Prof Stanton has been involved with community engaged scholarship for most of his adult life, starting out as a community organiser in the San Francisco Bay Area in California. This work led him into “service-learning” curriculum development and teaching in higher education at a community college, later Cornell University and then, for 30 years, at Stanford University.

It was at Stanford that Prof Stanton began to engage with the concept of research as a form of community service, establishing a campus-wide Public Service Scholars programme for students wishing to do CER with NGO partners for their honours treatises. He conducted CER with local government partners through my Public Policy courses. In 2000 he moved to the Medical School to help strengthen the community health component of the medical education programme. Students enrolled took on year-long CER projects with healthcare and other community organisations across the US and overseas.

Prof Stanton helped to found The Research Universities Civic Engagement Network (TRUCEN) that promotes CER and published a digital “toolkit” for community engaged scholarship. His introduction to, and education about, South Africa came through serving as academic advisor, programme consultant and lecturer with South Africa’s Community-Higher Education Service Partnerships project. This entailed working with universities across South Africa.

A highlight of his career has been establishing a community-based partnership research programme in Cape Town. This saw Stanford students partnered with a diverse array of community-based NGOs to research and recommend action steps related to their articulated information needs. Some of these projects resulted in significant policy and practice changes.

Presentation Plan

- What are we talking about? Definitions, brief history and background;
- CBR *theories and concepts*: What is distinctive? Values? Benefits? Practice principles? Challenges?
- CBR *practice*: Case examples from my work with Stanford medical and undergraduate students, other institutions, and communities;
- Partnerships and community development; 🍷
- Q & A and discussion – CBR at HSRC?

Features of Engaged Research – Community Collaboration



Advancing CBPR at HSRC

Some helpful resources:

- Community Campus Partnerships for Health: Community Engaged Scholarship Project: <https://ccphealth.org>
- Talloires Network of Engaged Universities: <https://talloiresnetwork@tufts.edu>
- African Journal of Higher Education Community Engagement: <https://ru.ac.za/communityengagement/engagedresearch/africanjournalforhighereducationce/#d.en.324580>
- International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE): <https://iarslce.org>
- TRUCEN via Campus Compact: <https://compact.org>



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!

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Previous editions: <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/departments/dces/dces-newsletters>

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Developmental, Capable and Ethical State



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



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