

SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME

27 September - 03 October 2026

www.saapam.co.za

Conference Theme

Growth and Sustainability through Improved Governance: Reimagining Institutions,
Leadership and Development in a Changing World

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26 September 2026

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Pre-conference activities: Social Programme

Time: 10:00-16:00

Venue: TBC

Chair: TBC

POTJIEKOS

Competition

UNISA

VS

DPSA

NSG

VS

UNIZULU

SAAPAM

VS

PSETA

TUT

VS

DPME

DUT

VS

MUT

PSC

VS

KZN GOVERNMENT

DAY 1 Registration & Workshops

REGISTRATION

Sunday, 09:00-16:00

Monday, 08:00-13:00

Tuesday, 08:00-13:00

WORKSHOPS

Personal Mastery	Research Writing	Policy Brief Workshop	Media Training and OpEd writing clinic
09:00-14:00	09:00-14:00	09:00-14:00	09:00-14:00
· 20 seats available	· 20 seats available	· 20 seats available	· 20 seats available
To confirm for this workshop. Send the email to matlala@saapam.co.za	To confirm for this workshop. Send the email to shirley@saapam.co.za	To confirm for this workshop. Send the email to lazarus@saapam.co.za	To confirm for this workshop. Send the email to oratile@saapam.co.za
5 CPD Points to be allocated	5 CPD Points to be allocated	5 CPD Points to be allocated	5 CPD Points to be allocated

Masters and Phd Colloquium and workshop

09:00-13:00

Venue:

Chair

Postgraduate students are encouraged to register for the colloquium.

noluthando@saapam.co.za

5 CPD Points to be allocated

LUNCH: 13:00-14:00

BOOK Launches

14:00-16:00

Venue:

Chair

SAAPAM will launch various books. If you want your book to be launched at the conference. Send a request to SAAPAM@tut.ac.za

WELCOME CEREMONY

Venue:

Chair

Opening and Welcome: Prof Kgothatso Shai (President of SAAPAM)

Welcome Address: Mayor of EtheKwini Metropolitan Municipality

Messages from partners

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of South Africa

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Zululand

DG-Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)

DG- Public Service Commission (PSC)

DG: Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)

DG: National School of Government (NSG)

CEO: Public Service Sector - Education & Training Authority (PSETA)

Messages of Support from Global Fraternity

AAPAM

IASIA

SAAPS

ASPA

Tanzania

China

Russia

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Opening Session

Opening Session

09:00-11:00

Venue:

Chair: Prof Nokukhanya Jili (Vice-President: SAAPAM)

SAAPAM President's Welcome Remarks: Prof Kgothatso Shai

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of South Africa

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Zululand

Welcome Address: (Premier of KwaZulu-Natal)

Address: Mr Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi the Minister of Public Service Administration (TBC)

Keynote Address: His Excellency, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa: Mr Paul Mashatile (TBC)

Closure

Director-Generals Panel

11:00-12:00

DG-Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)

DG- Public Service Commission (PSC)

DG: Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)

DG: National School of Government (NSG)

CEO: Public Service Sector - Education & Training Authority (PSETA)

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Speed Network

12:00-13:00

Venue:

Chair:

Delegates have an opportunity to engage with various leaders of departments. The Speed Network help delegates to quickly expand their network by facilitating brief, structured interactions with many people in a short amount of time. It's a time-efficient way to make numerous connections, exchange information, and potentially identify future collaborators or partners. Delegates are encouraged to use this opportunity.

LUNCH: 13:00-14:00

Session 1A

14:00-16:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Name and Surname	Institution	Topic
Manqoba Mbatha	Durban University of Technology	The effectiveness of the government-funded medical graduates placement programme in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health
Lerato Mmotlana, Kgalema Mashamaite and Thanyani Madzivhandila	University of Limpopo	Sustainable Livelihoods in a Democratic South Africa: The Conceptions and Characteristics of Township Livelihoods

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Londeka Nxumalo	University of KwaZulu-Natal	A Policy Review of Rural and Township Economies in Local Economic Development in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Segotsi Malope Mabogoane	Gauteng Provincial Legislature	Repositioning Citizens Towards the Centre of Service Delivery Excellence in Local Government
Zamikhaya Gotyi	University of Fort Hare	Local Livelihood Diversification Strategies for Sustainable Rural Development in Coastal Communities in Ngqushwa Local Municipality, South Africa
Engeline Ntombe'ntle Zwane	University of Limpopo	Evaluating the Effect of the Sustainable Development Policy Implementation: Case of South African
Cry Zitha	University of South Africa	Extortion and Protection Fees: Challenges to the Sustainability of Townships-Based Small Businesses in South Africa
Koliswa Matebese-Notshulwana	University of South Africa	Can legislative oversight be used as a strategic mechanism to enhance public sector accountability?
Bonga Blessing Mdletshe	University of Mpumalanga	Displaced Community Aggression During Protests: An Emerging Threat to Infrastructure
Oupa Hlatshwayo	University of Limpopo	The impact of corruption on the implementation of boreholes water projects and water sustainability crises at the Polokwane Local Municipality: Citizens' Perspective

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Session 1B | 14:00-16:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Winnie Mathebula and Katlego Leshabane	National School of Government	Building AI Capability in the Public Service through Micro learning
Yamkela Ntando	iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The use of digital governance to overcome natural disasters in OR Tambo District Municipality
Frikkie De Bruin	Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council	E-governance, artificial intelligence, and public service innovation in South Africa
Zandile Gqweta and Owen Madalambana	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The perceptions of Underprepared students for University Academic Literacy Demands using Artificial Intelligence
Presilla Nethavhanani	University of Limpopo	The influence of social media on South African criminal activities
Ayanda Sebetha	Tshwane University of Technology	Evaluating the Impact of AI Text Generation Tools on Student Assessment Quality in Rural Secondary Schools: A Case Study of Ga-Mathabatha Village in Limpopo Province

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Simphiwe Zukisa Madlala	The Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Linking 4IR Skills to Entrepreneurial Intentions: A Conceptual Framework For Reimagining Institutions
Mahlori Shivuri	University of Limpopo	Beyond Technocratic Planning: Ethnographic Approaches to Integrated Development Plan Processes in Rural South African Municipalities
Phumla Lerato Mjweni	Alfred Nzo District Municipality	What are the strategies to enhance public service delivery and citizen experience in South Africa
Khulekani Mangoba Phakathi	University of Zululand	Challenges Faced by Small-Scale Farmers In Attempts to Enhance Food Security In Ulundi Local Municipality

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Session 1C | 14:00-16:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Oolane Mashaba	University of Limpopo	Ethical Leadership and Accountability in South African Municipalities: A Study of Service Delivery Outcomes
Abegail Lindiswa Mpontshane	University of KwaZulu Natal	The Role of Judicial Commissions in Strengthening Accountability: A Case Study of the Madlanga Commission
S'dumo Masilela, Daniel Nkosinathi Mlambo, Joseph Mudau and Shangolirimini Demana	Tshwane University of Technology	Investigating The Political and Administrative Leadership Transition and Its Effects on Service Delivery: A Case Study of The Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation in Mpumalanga Province
Angela Montana	National School of Government	Understanding the Human Element of Corruption in the South African Public Sector: A Desktop Study
Shereen Sikwela and Melvin Diedericks	North West University	The Professionalisation Gap in Private-to-Public Transitions: A Framework for Public Service Readiness
Babalwa Faith Vellem	University of Fort Hare	Governance & Leadership: Decolonising governance, professionalising institutions, and ethical leadership

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DAY 2

Michelle Maree	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Advancing Growth and Sustainability in South Africa's Public Sector: Reimagining Development Through Professionalisation Best Practices.
Charles Selemela, Lulamile Sibanda, Kutu Sam Ramolobe and Gilbert Matome Ramakgolo	University of South Africa, Yunesithi Walter Sisulu and Limpopo Office of the Premier	The Escalation of Gender Based Violence and Femicide as a Second Pandemic in South Africa: Perspectives from the Limpopo Province
Motlagabo Matseke, Millo Matlawa and Sinelisiwe Thwala	National School of Government	A Desktop Analysis to Identify Skills Gaps in South African Government Departments: Implications for Public Sector Capability and Professionalisation
Siziwe Mvanana Nikani, Sareesha Pillay, Thanduxolo Fana and Tando Rulashe	Nelson Mandela University and University of Mpumalanga	Reimagining Public Sector Governance: Lessons From Professionalisation in South Africa

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Session 1D | 14:00-16:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Anthony Kambi Masha	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The role of municipality programmes in the contribution of female entrepreneurship empowerment: perspectives from the king Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa
Andile Sokani	University of Mpumalanga	Gatekeepers and Grassroots: The Role of Political Parties and Communities in Empowering Women's Participation in Local Politics
Buyani Nkabinde and Thandile Ncwana	Durban University of Technology and MANCOSA	Governance Responses to Internal Migration: Reimagining Public Participation for Adaptive and Resilient Local Government Systems (South Africa)
Xolisile Ngumbela	Central University of Technology	Strengthening Governance and Service Delivery in Rural Municipalities: Reimagining Institutional Capacity and Community Participation in South Africa

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Samkele Mvenganya	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Fostering Democratic Governance Through Citizen Participation: Exploring Pathways for Inclusive Engagement in South Africa
Fortune Maswanganyi	North West University	Populist Political Communication and Vote-Seeking Behaviour in South African Local Governance
Lulamile Donacious Hanabe	Nelson Mandela University	Municipal Integrated Development Plan and Budget Alignment Gaps: The Integrated Service Delivery Realities

Session 1E | 14:00-16:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue: | Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mmabotse Blessing Mooke	Tshwane University of Technology	Assessing the Relevance and Limitations of King V in Strengthening Risk Governance in Higher Education Institutions
Anna Mvubu	University of South Africa	Ethical Leadership and Accountability in Advancing Gender Equity: Lessons from the South African's Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)

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DAY 2

Rasodi Manyaka and Edidiong Ayeni	Tshwane University of Technology	Understanding Xenophobic Attacks in South Africa: Protection of Local Livelihoods or Economic Displacement?
Mabeba Christine Moremi	University of KwaZulu- Natal	Workplace Violence Among Employees of the National Department of Public Service and Administration in Pretoria
Liyabona Gaushe	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Growth and Sustainability through Improved Governance: Reimagining Institutions, Leadership and Development in a Changing World
Kholofelo Rakubu	Tshwane University of Technology	Acting Appointments as Governance Substitutes: A Criminological Analysis of Leadership Instability in the South African Police Service (SAPS)
Sixolisiwe Ntsasela and Valery Ferim	University of Fort Hare	Contested Narratives on Political Scandals by the African National Congress in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa
Tshepiso Josephina Ndhlovu and Mamonare Magdeline Malapane	Tshwane University of Technology	Considering Student Experience Feedback in the Improvement of South African Public Universities: A Qualitative Content Analysis
Khuliso Kennedy Maimela and Ernest Kanakana Mutenda	PSETA and Institute of Public Sector Ethics and Integrity Management Professionals of South Africa	A Review of Governance Failures in the South African Public Sector: The Crisis of Ethics, Integrity and Accountability Gaps

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DAY 2

Bonga Ndlovu and Mphathesithe Mkhize	Mangosuthu University of Technology	Strengthening Democratic Resilience through Public Administration and the Rule of Law in South Africa
Naledi Modise	North West University	Governance and Political Will- Searching for Solutions

Session 1F | 14:00-16:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue: | Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Talente Ncama	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Youth Participation through Digital Technologies in Developing Smart Rural Villages of Mquma Municipality, Eastern Cape, South Africa
Gideon Walter Mutanda and Bethuel Ngcamu	University of South Africa	Intangible cultural heritage under climate change. A systematic review of the impacts incorporating resilience strategies
Masindi Mashapha	Department of Social Development	Incorporating new technologies into the non-profit organisation management system in South Africa
Elvin Shava	University of Johannesburg	Utilising Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Public Procurement in Local Governments
Tshepiso Josephina Ndhlovu, Jackinah Mokgokong and Daniel Nkosinathi Mlambo	Tshwane University of Technology	Is the South African Government Ready to Prioritise User/ Citizen Experience in Improving Its Digital Services?
Khuliso Kennedy Maimela and Ernest Kanakana Mutenda	PSETA and Institute of Public Sector Ethics and Integrity Management Professionals of South Africa	Agile Innovation: Thriving Amid Global Flux

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Alouis Chilunjika	(National University of Lesotho/ University of South Africa)	Challenges and Prospects of E-Governance, AI and Public Sector Innovations in Lesotho
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Session 1G | 14:00-16:00

Theme: Higher Education Governance, Decolonisation and Transformation

Venue: | Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Nomfundo Gladys Khoza	Central University of Technology	Universities as Catalysts of Innovation in Rethinking Skills Development for the Digital Economy
Judell Joseph and Phumlani Dlamkile	Durban University of Technology	Reimagining the role of universities in skills development and economic growth in the era of hyper-specialisation
Walter Mthuthuzeli Mkosana	Central University of Technology	Digital Transformation, Student Engagement and Data-Driven Governance in Higher Education: A Systematic Review and Integrative Framework
Deborah Mokgojwa	North-West University	Higher Education Governance and Talent Management of Early-Career Academics in a South African University
Morongwa Annamarie Bopape	University of South Africa	Policy Ambition versus Institutional Reality: Analysing the Transition from NATED (Report 191) to Occupational Qualifications in South Africa's TVET Sector

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DAY 2

James Ndlovu and Charles Zungunde	Durban University of Technology and University of KwaZulu Natal	Artificial intelligence and decolonising South African higher education curricula: towards integrating African epistemologies
Masa Sylvester Motadi	North West University	Decolonising Higher Education Governance in the Digital Era through a Critical Systematic Review of Policy Frameworks and Institutional Transformation in African Universities
Immaculate Nkamogeleng Bogopa and Chanté Botha	University of Johannesburg	The Role of Data-Driven Decision Making in South African MBA Curriculum Development: Evidence from South African MBA programmes

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DAY 2

Session 1H | 14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue: | Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Godwin Dube	Municipal Demarcation Board	Differentiated restructuring and the carrot of autonomy in South African Local Government
Limpho Relebohile Rakhoba and Pulane Molomo	Central University of Technology	Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics in Lesotho: Examining the Interface between Councillors and Traditional Leadership under the Local Government Act.
Peter Baloyi and Ricky Mukonza	Tshwane University of Technology	Sustainability of Local Government Funding in South Africa-A Critical Assessment of Traffic Fine Revenue Collection in the City of Johannesburg
Zamokuhle Mbandlwa	Durban University of Technology	Local Government Elections and the Dynamics of Democratic Development in 2026 South African elections
Leanett Fanyana Ntuli	Durban University of Technology	Action Research for Policy Innovation and Change Management in Local Government: A case study
Hazel Moonsamy and Mogie Subban	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Coalition Politics and Governance Outcomes in South Africa: A Case Study of eThekweni Municipality

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Session 11 | 14:00-16:00

Theme: MIX

Venue: | Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Radipatla Rathaha	North-West University	Analysis of Contributors to Disruptive Influences and the Erosion of Public Sector Institutional Governance Trust in South Africa
Hlengiwe Khoza	Tshwane University of Technology	Exploring the extent of community involvement in the implementation of the indigent policy in Nkomazi Local Municipality
Bongiwe Dlodla, Mphathiseni Mkhize and Bongekile Yvonne Charlotte Mvuyana	Mangosuthu University of Technology	Addressing leadership, ethics and accountability for effective governance in Public institutions
Molefi Matsieli	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Governing Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: A Systematic Review of Policy and Ethics
Thamsanqa Buys	Tshwane University of Technology	Exploring the dearth and death of patriotism among South African citizens: causes, consequences and opportunities
Nomhle P Zatelela	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Assessing integrated water and sanitation solutions for informal settlements in Makana Local Municipality, in the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Session 2A

16:00-17:30

Theme: Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Galaletsang Monyaki	University of the Free State	Institutional Friction and Economic Spillovers: A Kinetic Approach to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in South Africa
Avumile Sigayela	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Enhancing local economic development strategies to stimulate economic growth in South Africa: A case study of a selected municipality
Ntuthuko Sydwell Lekhuleni	Tshwane University of Technology	Exploring the Socio-Economic Impact of Foreign National-Owned Spaza Shops on Informal Markets: A Case of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality
Rhukanani Florence Mabunda	Limpopo Provincial Treasury	Challenges Experienced by Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises in Limpopo: The Case of Limpopo Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Nolizwi Mahlali and Sunjay Balkaran	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Enhancing Road Accessibility in Nyandeni Local Municipality: Impacts on Commuters and Local Economy
Amos Shibambo	Tshwane University of Technology	Assessment of The Effects of Socio-Economic Conditions on The Financial (Non)Viability in South African Municipalities
Mzwandile Xaba	University of Zululand	An evaluation of Local Economic Development initiatives towards addressing socioeconomic challenges in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Session 2B

16:00-17:30

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mokgadi Ngoepe-Ntsoane	University of South Africa	The Professionalisation of Extension Services and Its Impact on Agricultural Productivity and Farmer Satisfaction in South Africa
Olaleke Alao and Lusanda Juta	Durban University of Technology	Re-imagining Governance for Sustainability: Institutional Capacity, Policy Coherence, and Development Consequences in Africa
Olukayode Lasisi and Charlene Roets	University of South Africa	Auditing and Public Sector Accountability: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Performance Auditing in Enhancing Good Governance in South Africa
Colin Cruywagen	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	A conceptual framework for crisis management in national government
Halima Khunoethe	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)	Bridging the Gap in Early Childhood Development: A Comparative Governance Analysis of South Africa and China
Xoliswa Ntombela	Tshwane University of Technology)	Strategic Framework for Advancing Women in Leadership Positions: A Case Study of Tshwane North District Department of Basic Education

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DAY 2

Ernest Mutenda and Khuliso Maimela (Public Sector Education & Training Authority)	Institute of Public Sector Ethics, Integrity Management Professionals of South Africa and Institute of Public Sector Ethics and Integrity Management Professionals of South Africa	Building Internal Capability in South African Municipalities: A Framework for Reducing Consultant Dependency
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Session 2C

16:00-17:30

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Babalwa Pamla and Zwelinzima Ndevu	Stellenbosch University	From grassroot up: Community centric planning and traditional leadership in driving sustainable rural development in Mjika kuTsolo, Eastern Cape
Ziyanda Mavovana	Nelson Mandela University	An Assessment of Community Expectations and Satisfaction with Water Service Delivery in Makana Local Municipality
Francisco Dyantyi	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Evaluating the Effectiveness of Infrastructure Development Projects in Enhancing Sustainable Service Delivery in Mnquma Local Municipality
Nontandazo Qasha	Alfred Nzo District Municipality	The effectiveness of ward committees (WCs) as mechanisms for facilitating meaningful public participation in the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process within Matatiele Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape

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DAY 2

Azwihangwisi Faith Muthambi	University of Venda	A Governance Framework for Achieving Sustainable Livelihoods in Grassroots Communities in Transfrontier Conservation in Southern Africa: The Case for Further Study
Bongani Nkosi, Joseph Mudau and Levy Ndou	Tshwane University of Technology	Institutional and Governance Factors Affecting Water and Sanitation Service Delivery: A Case Study of Mbombela Local Municipality
Buhle Ndoda	University of South Africa	Violence, Chaos, and Degeneration: Analysing Unemployment and Xenophobic Conflict in South Africa
Neville Mangwiro	University of Witwatersrand	Exploring the complexity of building Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks for Science Granting Councils in the SADC Region for Sustainable Transition and Development
Phumzile Vicky Mashego	Tshwane University of Technology	An Assessment of IDP on Municipality Service Delivery: A Case Study of Luphisi Community Within the City of Mbombela Local Municipality
Godfrey Thabethe	University of Mpumalanga	Institutional Barriers to Integrated Development Plan Implementation and Their Impact on Basic Service Delivery in Ehlanzeni District Municipality
Sipho Mokoena	University of Limpopo	Housing Service Delivery Challenges and Their Relationship with Public Financial Management in a Selected District Municipality, Limpopo Province
Tuseku Dieudonne Tumba and Mupingashato Tafadzwa Luke	Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs	Infrastructure Decay and Municipal Service Delivery: Evidence from Electricity Outage Communications in Johannesburg's Inner City, Gauteng Province
Hasani Patrick	Private	Role of traditional leadership, communal land, and local institutions in development planning

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Session 2D

16:00-17:30

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Gail Abrahams, Sinval Kahn and Xolile Thani	University of South Africa	Decolonising governance through Ubuntu Led ethical leadership: An Africanised perspective
Lakela Kaunda	National School of Government	Tracing women's voices as thought leaders in the democratic South Africa: A critical analysis of their representation in State of the Nation Addresses, 1994-2024
Hasani Zitha	University of Venda	The implications of the concluded court cases on the public procurement process in the South African public sector
Patrick Thabiso Dlomo and Nkosinathi Mahlalela	Tshwane University of Technology	A Call for Government Intervention to Strengthen the Effective Implementation of the SAPS Strategic Plan in Combatting Crime of Armed Robbery at Soshanguve Block L Area: Possible Solutions and Recommendations
Lindi Sindelo Rozenda Hendrickse	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Good Governance in Comparative Context: Insights for Strengthening South Africa's Public Sector
Costa Hofisi and Joseph Daitai	North West University and Great Zimbabwe University	The political economy of digital interoperability and resistance to e-governance within the ministry of local government in Zimbabwe

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DAY 2

Paul Thabo Makokoe	Free State Department of Education	Governance, Institutions and Effective Leadership
Maskhosana La-Portia Mahlangu-Matjila and Rochelle Glynnis Wessels	University of South Africa	Remote work is evolving into a fundamental component of contemporary organisational strategy
Kabelo Moeti and Kaizer Makole	Tshwane University of Technology	An assessment of the extent to which South Africa is aligned to and delivering on Sustainable Development Goal 16, and the implications thereof for her developmental goals
Phihlo Pitjeng Mosabala	National School of Government	Aligning Emerging Programmes Pending Accreditation with Occupational Roles and Public Service Mandates: A Case Study of the National School of Government
Boipelo Khunou and Tshepiso Ndlovu	Tshwane University of Technology	Human Rights or Lawlessness? A Critical Assessment of the role of Human Rights Institutions and NGOs in challenging state law enforcement in South Africa
Mduduzi Christopher Ntuli	University of Zululand	Evaluating Section 139 Intervention in municipal governance. Evidence from a Selected Local Municipality in South Africa
Siviwe Mditshwa	Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs	Clan-Based Leadership and Its Implications for Accountability in South African Public Administration
Lerato Makgolane	University of South Africa	The effectiveness of Employment Equity Implementation: The case of Department of Employment and Labour

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DAY 2

Lerato Makgolane	University of South Africa	The effectiveness of Employment Equity Implementation: The case of Department of Employment and Labour
Johnny Pietersen	National School of Government	Linguistic Framing in Public Policies of South Africa: Does it Reflect Good Intentions or Deceptions
Phumeza Skoti	Nelson Mandela University	Reimagining Governance Frameworks Beyond Compliance: An Asset-Based, Stakeholder-Centric and Systems Thinking Approach to Governance Implementation: A Case of Buffalo City Municipality.
Matjhupe Tshidiso Muroa	University of Zululand	Exploring the Management of Virements in the public service: An international perspective

Session 2E

16:00-17:30

Theme: Higher Education Governance, Decolonisation and Transformation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Farai Nyika, Samukelisiwe Nkosi and Carl Velusamy	Mancosa	Rethinking Internal Auditor Independence in Public Higher Education Institutions: A Case of Structural and Political Pressures in South Africa
Yusuf Lukman	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	A Framework for Managing Academic Disruptions: Integrating Force majeure, conflict Management and Academic Continuity in South African Higher Education

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DAY 2

Siyanda Xaba	University of Mpumalanga	Digital Transformation and Innovation in Higher Education: A 4IR-Informed Study of Autodesk Sketchbook in Art Education
Mmakwena Raymond Molala and Paul Radikonyana	National School of Government and Municipal Demarcation Board	Promotion of social cohesion in schools through languages promoted by the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act (BELA)
Maria Mmabore Molohe and Tshedza Tshivhasa Sikhwari	Tshwane University of Technology	Assessing Students' Experiences in Securing Work-Integrated Learning: A case of the institution of higher learning in South Africa
Edward Eddie Gumede Makamu Ntsako	University of South Africa	Leveraging Artificial Intelligence (Ai) to Enhance Student Support Services (Sss) in the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector
Sanah Tebogo Matloga	University of Venda	Enhanced Community Engagement Between Universities and Local Communities with reference to the University of Venda in South Africa

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DAY 2

Session 2F

16:00-17:30

Theme: Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Bramwell Kundishora Gavaza Obrain Tinashe Murire	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Reimagining township entrepreneurship as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth and innovation in South Africa
Manala Shadrack Maake	University of Mpumalanga	Efficacy of Government-funded incubators for women-owned enterprises in Mpumalanga Province
Confidence Ndlovu	University of Mpumalanga	Street Vending and Local Economic Development: Exploring Informal Innovation in Mbombela Local Municipality, South Africa
Sifundo Mdhuli and Vain Jarbandhan	North-West University and University of Johannesburg	From Rhetoric to Results: Developing a Framework for Transformative Youth Development in KwaZulu-Natal
Gideon Walter Mutanda	University of South Africa	Disaster risk management by local governments in the Global South

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DAY 2

Session 2G

16:00-17:30

Theme: International Relations, Global Governance and Decolonial Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mndeni Ndwandwe	Tshwane University of Technology	South Africa's Role in Global Governance and Continental Politics: A Case of African Union (Au)
Mahlatse Given Sevhake	North-West University	Digital Sovereignty in Sub-Saharan Smart Governance as a Pathway to Decolonised Policy
Thoriso Ntlailane and Mabutho Shangase	North West University	An Appraisal of Foreign Policy Objectives During the First Ramaphosa Administration: Cooperation and Competitiveness in the Implementation of the Trias Political Doctrine
David M Maimela	University of South Africa	Working Title: The Changing Geopolitical Balance of Power and the pursuit of South Africa's National Interests
Dominic Maphaka	University of South Africa	The Imperative of the BRICS call for reform of the Global System in the era of US-Israel attack to International Law
Themba Nkosi	Department of Public Service and Administration	Governance Laundering: Exploring the exploitation of Legal and Regulatory Loopholes in South African Public Service

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Session 2H

16:00 - 17:30

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Joseph Mudau	Tshwane University of Technology	Land Expropriation Act: Curse or Blessing?
Lindokuhle Nhlenyama	University of Zululand	Strategies to address social determinants of health disparities in the uMhlathuze Municipality KwaZulu-Natal of South Africa
Alungile Matiwane	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The Impact of Urbanisation on Municipal Infrastructure Development: A Case Study of Mngquma Local Municipality
Tumelo Seema and John Molepo	Tshwane University of Technology	The Non-Profit Sector as a Catalyst for Youth Employment in South Africa
Ncedile Simayile	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Effectiveness of Electronic Document Management System to Improve Service Delivery: A Case Study of The City of Johannesburg
Machanduke Lucas Shipalana and Bellah Maake	North West University	Evaluating the implementation of revenue collection mechanisms for service delivery enhancement in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Kerotse Kekana	Stellenbosch University	Exploring Feedbacks Between Community Resilience and Public Policy: Insights from Global Ecovillage Case Studies
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Session 2i

16:00-17:30

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Xolile Carol Thani, Lucky Moticoe, Gail Abrahams and Gideon Mutanda	University of South Africa	Economic Revitalization of old Mining Towns to Improve Local Economic Development: A Systematic Review
Mmakwena Violet Hlotse	University of Limpopo	Monitoring and Evaluation as a tool for Sustainable Service Delivery in South Africa
Chris Mhlongo	University of Limpopo	The Feasibility of Digital Voting in South Africa: A Voter-Centered Analysis of Trust, Digital Literacy, and infrastructure in Mpumalanga Province.
Ndabezitha Tenza	Harry Gwala District Municipality	Assessing Coalition Governance in South Africa's Local Government: Enhancing Democracy or Undermining Service Delivery?
Sam Ramolobe	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Democratic Consolidation and the Legislative Vacuum for Disability Rights in South African Local Government

Monday, 28 September 2026

DAY 2

Sive Mbangiswano	Central University of Technology	Rural Agribusiness Innovation as a Catalyst for Inclusive Regional Economic Growth in South Africa
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PROFESSOR SIBUSISO VIL-NKOMO LECTURE : 18:00-20:00

Topic:

Chair:



Plenary : 09:00-11:00

Topic:

Chair:

Session 1A

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Tafwauli Phiri and Stellah Lubinga	University of Pretoria	Financial inclusion as development governance

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Juliet Boitumelo Siwela	University of South Africa	Fiduciary Leadership in Public Office: Ethics and Accountability in South Africa
Mataywa Busieka	Department of Public Service and Administration	Deconstructing the Epistemic Dissonance: Bridging the Trust Gap between Global Governance Models and African Institutional Realities
Nkosivumile Promise Mavenge	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The Importance of Ethics and Responsibility in Leadership: Fostering Trust and Strength in Governance Areas
Sanelisiwe Madolo, Buti Lekonyane and Gail Abrahams	University of South Africa	Effective Municipal Leadership to Improve Service Delivery: Waste Management and Sanitation at Govan Mbeki Local Municipality
Lihle Kaas and Danielle Nel Sanders	University of Johannesburg	Effectiveness of oversight and accountability mechanisms promoting good governance in State-Owned Enterprises
Obakeng Kganyape	Durban University of Technology	Ethical Leadership as a Catalyst for Effective Municipal Service Delivery: Lessons from Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 1B

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Vuyani Langa	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Strengthening Municipal Governance for SDG 16: Moving Beyond Cadre Deployment Towards Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions
Nsizwazonke Yende	University of Mpumalanga	Democratizing Traditional Leadership or Traditionalizing Local Government? Rethinking Governance Hybridity to Reduce Protests and Improve Service Delivery in South Africa
Nyawo Gumede	Sol Plaatje University	Public Administration, New Municipalism and Political Decentralization: Critical Post-Colonial Challenges and Contestations of Power and Local Autonomy
Ntombikayise Mandisa Bhomoyi	University of South Africa	Climate Change Governance at the Local Level: Institutional Challenges and Policy Responses in South African Municipalities
Mandla Letlape	Thinc Foundation	Political and Administrative interface in coalition governed municipalities beyond cadre deployment

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 1C

11:00 – 13:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mthuthuzeli Swartz	University of Fort Hare	Fostering an inclusive mental health support culture in the South African public service: Middle role and contribution
Sethuthuthu Lucky Vuma	University of Limpopo	From the University of the North to the University of Limpopo: A Laboratory for Manufacturing Leadership
Moshohli Kenneth Malatji	University of South Africa	Traditional Leadership, Communal Land Governance and Development Planning: Towards a Hybrid Afrocentric Model of Rural Local Governance in South Africa
Maria Matshidiso Kanjere	University of Limpopo	Ethical Leadership for Effective Water Management in a South African Local Government: Contextualising Sustainable Development Goal Six
Mthokozisi Sydney Luthuli and Xolisa Makubalo	Durban University of Technology and University of Fort Hare	Reform Is a Leadership Choice: Executive Accountability in Waste Management
Sicelo Mniki	University of Fort Hare	Value-Based Leadership Challenges Facing Eastern Cape Municipalities: A Governance and Effective Leadership Perspective

Sicelo Mniki	University of Fort Hare	Value-Based Leadership Challenges Facing Eastern Cape Municipalities: A Governance and Effective Leadership Perspective
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Session 1D
 11:00 – 13:00
 Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance
 Venue:
 Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Khuliso Kennedy Maimela and Ernest Kanakana Mutenda	PSETA and Institute of Public Sector Ethics and Integrity Management Professionals of South Africa	Incentivising Innovation: A Framework for Rewarding Knowledge Use in South Africa's Public Sector
Lindani Maphumulo	University of Western Cape	Harnessing E-community Networks for Sustainable Community Development in the Digital Era: A Case Study of the Digital Divide in South Africa
Bongumusa Ngema and Ravinder Rena	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Artificial Intelligence and Public Compliance Monitoring in Local Governance: A South African Municipal Case Study
Mosekama Osia Mokhele	Nelson Mandela University	Missing Voices in Action: When Women's Perspectives are Ignored in Disaster Risk Reduction

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Ndivhuwo Doctor Sundani	University of South Africa	A Systematic Review Assessing Digital Media as a Communication Channel in the South African Local Government Context
Tshepisho Diako and Dibolelo Ababio	National Department of Social Development	The Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation System (eMEs) for Social Development Sector
Bongazana Dondolo	Tshwane University of Technology	Dressed in crisis: Rethinking governance responses to fast fashion waste in South Africa

Session 1E

11:00 – 13:00

Theme: Higher Education Governance, Decolonisation and Transformation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Alungile Matiwane	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Assessing the impact of digital transformation on service delivery decline and institutional closure in South African Post Offices: A case study of OR Tambo district municipality
Martie Bergh and Eugenie Wolff	National School of Government and University of Pretoria	Reimagining Digital Pedagogy for Transformation: Cognitive Engagement of Adult Learners in Virtual Higher Education Contexts

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Abubakar Sambo Mohammed and Efada Udoh Ramatu Boyi	Federal University Kashere, Gombe State and Karatu Foundation Library	Promoting A Strong Reading Culture Via Mobile Book Box Scheme: A Study of Karatu Mobile Library Foundation Initiative
Zamikhaya Gotyi	University of Fort Hare	Administrative Hiatus: Leadership Instability in South Africa's Tvet Sector—Evidence from the Eastern Cape Province
Baseza Totobayo	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Academic Freedom under Organisational Restructuring: Implications for Teaching Practice and Academic Work in Higher Education
Maijane Mashamaite	University of Limpopo	Leadership Skills Development for Public Administrators in South Africa: Curriculum Implications and Sector Demands
Thembelihle Brenda Makhanya	University of Mpumalanga	Navigating Decolonial Realities in Social Work Education and Practice: Uncovering the Voices
Sphephelo Zubane and Busisiwe Ntsele	Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs	Incorporating local knowledge and histories into school essays as an innovative strategy for decolonizing education: Progress and bottlenecks
Cabanga Maluleka, Oshupeng Maseng and Andile Sokani	Tshwane University of Technology and University of Mpumalanga	Digital Precarity and Youth Exclusion in African Public Administration: Rethinking E-Government Access in the Age of Informality

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 1F

11:00 – 13:00

Theme: Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Suzan Motsheoa Mohapi	University of South Africa	Climate change effects on the water supply crisis in South Africa: The case of Rustenburg Local Municipality
Seboka Kopung	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Governance and Financing of Sustainable Water Infrastructure through Public-Private Partnerships
Earl Mmushi Malau and Oniccah Monimang Motlounq	University of Johannesburg	Giving Direction to Digital Transformation: A Transformative Innovation Policy as a catalyst for Local Economic Development and Inclusive Growth
Ritshidze Nethengwe and Thanyani Madzivhandila	University of Limpopo	Electricity Supply Disruptions and Small Business Sustainability in Tshilamba Rural Township, South Africa: A Sustainable Infrastructure Development Perspective
Sandile Mkhwanazi	North West University	Interrogating 'Development' in Local Economic Development in South African local government landscape: How vague conceptualisation affects development
Christofer Van Rooyen	Department of Social Development	Revitalising Youth Skills Development Model in rural municipalities

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 1G

11:00 – 13:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Maxwell Sentive, Bongeka Kauleza and Zimisele Tomose	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Exploring service delivery strategies to enhance sustainable service delivery: case of selected municipalities
Sinakhokonke Mpanza and Johanna Tefu	University of South Africa	Interest and Network as Determinants of Effective Stakeholder Management in Capital Projects
Mary Mthembu and Richard Mthethwa	University of Zululand	Local Government Empowerment in Eradicating Poverty and Inequality: Perceptions from the Salamanga Community in Mozambique
Sihle Edmund Mpanza	Tshwane University of Technology	The challenges of adequate service delivery provision under coalition-led government
Benita Leonie Petersen	University of the Western Cape	Power, Paternalism, and Precarity: Interrogating the dynamics of housing and identity in semi- rural towns in the Western Cape, 1999 - 2024 (South Africa)
Lihle Klaas and Fundiswa Khaile	University of Johannesburg and University of the Western Cape	The challenges hampering the implementation of inclusive human settlements in the City of Cape Town

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 1H

11:00 – 13:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Annah Mokgadinyane	Tshwane University of Technology	A critical analysis of Governing Board diversity as a crucial success factor for successful service delivery
Monument Thulani Bongani Makhanya	University of Zululand	Analysis of South African Public Sector Employee Participation in Environmental, Social, and Governance Initiatives through Behavioural Insights on Corporate Citizenship: A Bibliometric Analysis
Nhlanhla Sibusiso Malinga and Hlengiwe Nomzamo Mabizela	Durban University of Technology	Strengthening Ethical Leadership and Accountability in South African Local Government: Evidence from Mkhondo Local Municipality
Napjadi Letsoalo	University of South Africa	Indigenous Ethical Governance: Insights from Sepedi Proverbs on Leadership and Accountability
Guswin de Wee	University of the Western Cape	The Masakhe Ladies' Stokvel in Gugulethu, Cape Town as an indigenous practice and social innovation for improving livelihoods: a public governance perspective

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 1I

11:00-13:00

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Lerato Radebe	(University of South Africa)	Digital Transformation and Innovation in Higher Education: A South African Perspective
Zandile Gqweta; Zimisele Tomose; and Zuko Jafta	(Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu)	No Consequences, No Services? Examining Consequence Management and Sustainable Service Delivery in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
Adelaide Selemela	(University of Limpopo)	Governing Climate-Induced Mobility through Circular Economy: Urban Resilience and Service Delivery in Johannesburg's Informal Settlements
Witness Maluleke	(University of Limpopo)	The slain South African Police officer's legacy lives on: A Rural Criminologist's history and public service
Siphiwe Zukisa Madlala	(Cape Peninsula University of Technology)	Linking 4IR Skills to Entrepreneurial Intentions: A Conceptual Framework for Reimagining Institutions
Nkosingiphile Mkhize	(North West University)	Gamification in public sector anti-corruption initiatives: A state-of-the-art review

LUNCH: 13:00-14:00

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 2A

14:00 – 16:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mbali Ndumo	University of KwaZulu-Natal	The Enigma of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience in Local Government
Cabangile Joy Nkosi	Tshwane University of Technology	Professionalizing Governance for the Sustainability of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure: A Case of Barberton, City of Mbombela Municipality.
Richard Zwakele Ndovela Cecile Gerwel-Proches and Mogie Subban	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Exploration of post-settlement patterns on land restitution projects in King Cetshwayo District Municipality
Oratilwe Khoza	University of Pretoria	Implementation of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality
Loraine Boitumelo Mzini, Zandile Pitso and Zanele Thabethe	North-West University	Bridging the Capacity Gap: An Analysis of Bursary Control Mechanisms in Addressing Municipal Skills Shortages
Sekgatlamang Eunice Mogorosi	North West University	Effective Municipal Water Leakage Management: The case of Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality.

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 2B

14:00 – 16:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Siphokazi Willie	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Examining the implementation of good governance principles to enhance sustainable development: The case of Chris Hani District Municipality
Michael Chauke	Tshwane University of Technology	Integrated Oversight and Accountability in the South African Local Government
Makungu Nukerk Thulisa Samela	Tshwane University of Technology	The Role of Public Participation in Local Governance in Mpumalanga.
Mbali Ndumo	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Political Oversight and Municipal Performance Auditing: Challenges and Opportunities
Tebogo Matoane-Nkabinde and Joseph Mudau	Department of Social Development and Tshwane University of Technology	The Gatekeepers' Paradox: A qualitative analysis of the impact of institutional patriarchal attitudes, cultures and traditions in perpetuating the gendered barriers for women's electoral participation in Mpumalanga: Local government elections (2016 - 2027) in perspective.

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 2C

14:00-16:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Malete Daniel Sebake and Kevin Khosa	Municipal Demarcation Board)	Exploring a Digital Spatial Platform of the Municipal Demarcation Board to Enhance Electoral Data Sharing
Tshegofatso Mphela	Tshwane University of Technology	Assessing the use E-Governance in the Public Sector: A case of Unemployment Insurance Fund
Reginald Ndwamai	University of Venda	Towards Future-Ready Public Institutions: A Conceptual Framework for Digital and Smart Governance Transformation
Lindokuhle Mkhize and Mogie Subban	University of KwaZulu-Natal	How Artificial Intelligence advances data-driven governance: The role of performance management in public sector resilience
Ernest Mutenda	Institute of Public Sector Ethics and Integrity Management Professionals of South Africa	The End-to-End E-Procurement Gap: Why Partial Digitalisation Fails to Transform Public Procurement in South Africa.
Sonayena Kenneth Nokele	University of South Africa)	A Multi-Theoretical Framework for Understanding the Adoption of AI Text-Generation Technologies in South African Higher Education

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 2D

14:00-16:00

Theme: International Relations, Global Governance and Decolonial Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Thomas Ramovha	University of Limpopo	Bridging State Capacity Gaps Through International Cooperation: Evaluation of the South Africa–Cuba Technical Support Programme (SACTSP).
Raymond Bonnie Makofane	University of Limpopo	South Africa’s Support for Palestine: A Counter-Hegemonic Foreign Policy Rooted in Liberation Heritage
Sifiso Ndlovu	University of Mpumalanga	Can the master’s tools ever dismantle the master’s house? An analysis of the coloniality of the modern state-system in Africa
Thethinene Singata	University of South Africa	Africa’s New Alliances: How African States Are Redefining Global Ties Through the Diverging Foreign Policy Strategies- A Case Study of South Africa and Burkina Faso.
Nokonwaba Andiswa Gcume	Durban University of Technology	Advancing Pan-African Entrepreneurship through Progressive Support Ecosystems: A Qualitative Case Study of South Africa, Burkina Faso, and Namibia
Mary Manga	University of Pretoria	A heuristic framework for a decolonised approach to leveraging Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems (ILKS) in public policy

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 2E

14:00-16:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Tebogo Josiah , Lebakeng and Mbekezeli Mkhize	University of South Africa	The implications of the interface between human security and political instability in South Africa
Douglas Ndumiso Magagula, Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza and Rasodi Khutso Manyaka	Tshwane University of Technology	The Effects of Intergovernmental Relations on Disaster Management: A South African Local Government Perspective
Khanya Mlambo and Sanjay Balkaran	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Redeveloping Disaster Management Through Participatory Governance: A Case Study of Payne Location in King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality, South Africa
Shaphule Machaba Johannah	University of South Africa	Investigating the effects of service delivery on coalition-led municipalities in South Africa
Zuko Jafta, Zimisele Raymond and Tomose	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The Effectiveness of the Current Policies and Programs in Promoting Youth Participation in Political Decision-making: A Case of King Sabatha Dalindyebo Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape
Zwelithini Mokwena	Tshwane University of Technology	Lessons that can be drawn by local government from recent public sector reforms of PAMA, PSA, and Professionalisation Framework: Why insulation of the public administration politics matters

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Anuoluwapo Durokifa and Maonei G Mangwanyana	(University of the Free State)	Persistent Service Delivery Failures in Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality: The Role of Governance and Financial Management
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Session 2F
14:00-16:00
Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation
Venue:
Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Zweli Mokwena	Tshwane University of Technology	Voter Turnout as a Sign of a Testing Tool for a Healthy Democratic Principles in Local Government Elections: can compulsory voting be a solution?
Thembela Serame, Murendeni Ramaru and Ramalobe Kutu	Nelson Mandela University and IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Enhancing Service Delivery through Financial Accountability in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality: A Critical Review
Thabo Thole and Tumo Paulus Kele	Tshwane University of Technology	Institutional Voids, Ethical Governance, and Public Value Creation in Local Government: Evidence from Limpopo Province
Frank Lekaba	University of the Witwatersrand	Reimagining the role EMB's in a changing political culture in Africa; integrity and un/acceptability of electoral outcomes.

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Maxhobandile Ndamase and Yamkela Ntando	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Student chapters as pathways for professional identity formation in public administration: South African Association of Public Administration and Management Perspective
Precious Babalwa Nxumalo	North-West University	Integrating Governance, Development, and Sustainability to Enhance Service Delivery: A case study of JB Marks Local Municipality
Khotso Nkoe	Sol Plaatje University	Investigating the financial sustainability of the district municipalities within the district municipalities
Nomsa Ncamani and Zimisele Raymond Tomose	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The impact of governance instability on the provision of basic public services: A case of Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality, Eastern Cape.
Namhla Xholo	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The Skills Mismatch and Youth Unemployment in South Africa Post-COVID-19
Elekanyani Nthangeni	University of South Africa	Sustainable Leadership and organisational performance in the public sector
Phumlani Dlamike, Mphumzi Babula, Buyani Nkabine and Lindelwa Cele	Durban University of Technology	Intersectoral relations for co-producing knowledge ecologies for rural development: A South African local government perspective (Eastern Cape)

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 2G

14:00-16:00

Theme: Higher Education Governance, Decolonisation and Transformation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Jabu Mphurpi	Tshwane University of Technology	Re-imagining the University as a Laboratory for Integrity: Cultivating Ethical Leadership for Sustainable Governance and State Capacity
Siyacela Nzuzo	University of Zululand	Curriculum Responsiveness and Graduate Outcomes: Aligning South Africa's Higher Education with Labour Market Demands
Glen Legodu	University of the Free State	Foregrounding African Knowledge Systems in Natural Sciences: Advancing Education for Sustainable Development in Pre-Service Teacher Education
Vuyisile Msila	University of South Africa	Reimagining Transformation of Higher Education in Africa: Paradoxes of Sustainability in an Age of AI
Elizabeth Faith Nyaka and Lester Brian Shawa	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Transforming Higher Education through Micro-Credentials: Experiences of Senior University Academics in South Africa
Sonayena Kenneth Nokele	University of South Africa	Adoption of Artificial Intelligence Text-Generation Technologies in Higher Education: A Systematic Review of Trends, Drivers and Ethical Implications

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Madumetsa Godfrey Manamela	University of South Africa	Digital inequality in South African higher education institution: reference to e-learning versus repositories deficiency
Mandla Mbatha	Tshwane University of Technology	Epistemic Justice and Curriculum Transformation: From Eurocentric to Afrocentric Knowledge Systems in South Africa's Educational Discourse
Adam Zaga Sibiya	Tshwane University of Technology	Balancing access and capacity in South African higher education: Assessing the need for additional Universities amid growing domestic and international first-year student demand
Daglous Makumbe	University of the Western Cape	Producing What They Do Not Consume? Querying the Utility of University Education in a Dynamic Professional Environment: Insights from South Africa and Zimbabwe
Mashudu Musekwa	Tshwane University of Technology	Artificial Intelligence and Academic Plagiarism in South African Higher Education: A reflection
Liso Nobanda	University of South Africa	Bridging the Policy-Practice Gap: An Assessment of Gender-Based Violence Policy Implementation in South African Universities
Tricia Madonsela and Rasodi Manyaka	Tshwane University of Technology	The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Transforming Higher Education: A Case Study of Tshwane University of Technology

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 2H

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: International Relations, Global Governance and Decolonial Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mogau Grace Letswalo	National School of Government	BRICS, Decoloniality and Constrained Agency: South Africa's Role in Reimagining Global Governance
James Ndlovu	Durban University of Technology	Assessing the impact of Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics on Public Decision-Making: Key lessons for BRICS+ from a South African perspective
Benjamin Rapanyane	North West University	The role of the World Bank in the Promotion of Development in the African Continent
Cabanga Maluleka, Joseph Mudau and Bernard Sebake	Tshwane University of Technology and Central University of Technology	Assessing the Brics Countries as an alternative to the Western Bretton Woods System: Implications for Global Economic Governance
Rasodi Manyaka and Edidiong Ayeni	Tshwane University of Technology	Ethnic Agitation and the external vulnerability of Nigeria's image in global politics

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 21

14:00-16:00

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Maxwell Maseko	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	Online Citizen Engagement in Municipal Governance: Camps Bay and Khayelitsha
Dumisani Hlophe	Department of Public Service and Administration	Professionalising Local Government in Contexts of State Fragility: Linking Merit, Consequence Management, and Felt Accountability to Service Delivery Performance
Maureen Mogotsi, Gift Mmolotsane, Masindi Mashapha and Desiree Jason	Department of Social Development	The Educational Outcomes of Learners Receiving Social Protection Services Grade 12 Class of 2025
Nthabiseng Khoza and Nkosinathi Mahlalela	University of Pretoria and Tshwane University of Technology	Artificial Intelligence as a Catalyst for Transformative Ethical Education: Rethinking Student Learning Experiences
Njabulo Makhanya	University of South Africa	Governing in Coalition: Public Administration and Governance Complexities in South Africa's Government of National Unity
Philani Thusini	University of Johannesburg	A root cause analysis of municipal financial distress in South Africa

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 3A

16:00-17:45

Theme: Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	institution	Topic
Mlondi Vilakazi	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Repositioning Local Economic Development as a Frontier of State Capability in a VUCA World
Radipatla Rathaha	North-West University	Exploring Sustainable Infrastructure Development Conundrum in the South African Construction Sector
Ncane Mandisa Nomfundo Zondi, Martin Mulunda and Phumlani Dlamkile	Durban University of Technology	Reimagining Local economic development and inclusive growth strategies for better service delivery in South Africa
Chris Mhlongo	University of Limpopo	The challenges facing Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises in South Africa: A case of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan.
Unawo Madyibi	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Assessing the socio-economic potential of the Agro-Industrial Hub in enhancing rural development- A case of Elundini Local Municipality
Zimisele Raymond Tomose, Kayode Olawumi and Mzuyanda Percival Mavuso	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu and Fort Hare University	Alternative strategies to assist the school governing bodies in promoting the quality of education in their schools: A Case of Selected Rural Secondary Schools in one Education District in the Eastern Cape.

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Malefane Sheperd, Morongwa Bopape, Phuti Mabothe, Monty Mongake and Hopolang Mashele	University of South Africa	Socio-Economic Features of Mining Host Communities in the Aftermath of Mine Closures: Insights from a Case Study of Stilfontein
Witness Mulaudzi	North-West University	Evaluating The Effectiveness of Investment in Human Capital for Developing a Skilled Workforce in The Schools of Specialisation of Tshwane
Njabulo Mthimkhulu, Sareesha Pillay and Murendeni Praise Ramaru	Nelson Mandela University	The role of the arts in enhancing community engagement and accessibility in South Africa.
Sifiso Fana Mdluli and Mokgadi Julia Ngoepe-Ntsoane	University of South Africa	Towards a Just Energy Transition in Agri-Food Systems: A Conceptual Framework for the SADC Region
Wesley Nkogotse	Tshwane University of Technology	Efficient Liquidity Management and Firm Performance: A Case Study of Listed Travel and Leisure Firms in South Africa
Tamara Obose Amina Jakoet-Salie	Nelson Mandela University	An Assessment of the role of Public-Private Partnerships in Local Government: A Case Study of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 3B

16:00-17:45

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Didintle Mosimanekgosi, David Bogopa and Praise Ramaru	Nelson Mandela University	Reframing Governance and Leadership Through Public Sector Professionalisation in South Africa: A Theoretical Inquiry
Nomahlubi Mhlauli and Ricky Mukonza	Tshwane University of Technology	Transforming the Public Sector through Lifelong Learning in Digital Skills: A Theoretical Framework
Mxolisi Vilakazi	North-West University	Leveraging the theory of invited spaces for participatory governance framework for Hospital Board in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa
Sakhile Hadebe	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Trust Deficits, Institutional Decay and Democratic Governance in South Africa: Rethinking Accountability Beyond Formal Compliance
Sanoosha Badul and Subban Mogie	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Strengthening Public Service Governance through Professionalised Employee Health and Wellness
Mandisi Mtingane	University of South Africa	Challenges of Trust and accountability deficit in South African public institutions

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Dumisani Xaba	University of South Africa	Punctuated contours in performance monitoring and evaluation in South Africa: A Systems Dynamics Perspective
Zwivhuya Phangophango	University of Venda	The Impact of Service Delivery on Human Rights in Vhembe District Municipality: Implications for Sustainable Development and Governance
Nomahlubi Mhlauli	Tshwane University of Technology	Leadership, Ethics, and Accountability in South African Governance: Addressing Institutional Failures and State Capacity Constraints
Haseena Majid and Mogie Subban	University of KwaZulu-Natal	From Participation to Agency: Stakeholder Mapping and BRAID Governance in KwaZulu-Natal's Disaster Risk Reduction and Flood Resilience
Predeshni Govender and Mogie Subban	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Evaluating Governance Frameworks and Policy Implementation within South Africa's National School Nutrition Programme
Samuel Kaleke	University of Johannesburg	Beyond Compliance: Culture, Commitment, and Change in African Public-Sector Reform

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 3C

16:00-17:45

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Palesa Makhenyane, Xolisa Makubalo and Mpumelelo Ndlovu	University of Fort Hare	A proposed framework of digital inclusion to enhance Participatory governance in South Africa
Vuyiwe Marambana	Joe Gqabi Economic Development Agency	Ubuntu Engage: A community centered digital platform for inclusive municipal governance - Powered by Design Thinking
Terrance Molobela Molobela	University of the Free State	Enhancing Participatory Governance through E-participation initiatives in Local Government
Sibusiso Twala	Tshwane University of Technology	E-Governance and Administrative Service Delivery: A Digital Approach to Improving Institutional Efficiency at a University of Technology
Bongekile Yvonne Charlotte Mvuyana	Mangosuthu University of Technology	Reimagining Affordable Housing in South Africa: Policy Innovation, Participatory Design, and the Potential of Tax Credits
Kgosi Nkgoang	Independent	The determinants of the adoption or continued use of Digital Payment methods for the payments of Municipal Accounts among Residents from selected South African Municipalities
Salome Rabodiba	University of Limpopo	Artificial Intelligence-Driven Digital Governance for Smart City Development: A Qualitative Case Study of Polokwane Municipality

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 3D

16:00-17:45

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Oliver Mtapuri and Joseph Daitai	University of KwaZulu Natal and Great Zimbabwe University	The efficacy of the Village Development committees (VIDCO) as a decentralized local government entity for inclusive grassroots development planning in the Gutu District of Masvingo Province
Vincent Motau	University of Venda	Examining the Challenges Leading to the Non-Completion of Tender-Awarded Infrastructure Projects in Thulamela Local Municipality
Sonnyboy Kgotloana Manthata	Sefafako Mokgatho University	Understanding trends and risk factors associated with Violence Against Women in South Africa: An analysis of Victims of Crime Survey Data (2013-2017)
Rose Namara	Uganda Management Institute	Negotiating Development on Customary Land: Traditional Leadership, Communal Tenure, and Hybrid Governance in Regional Economic Transformation in Northern Uganda
Christofer Van Rooyen	Department of Social Development	Analysing Youth Employment Models for Growth and Developing Skills in Twenty-Seven Rural Municipalities

Wednesday , 30 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 3E

16:00-17:45

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Paul Shimane Radikonyana	Municipal Demarcation Board	Review of the 1998 White Paper on Local Government: A re-imagined vision or forced revival of Local Government aspirations in South Africa
Hlakaniphani Langa	Durban University of Technology	Shared Power, Divided Authority: Governance and Administrative Challenges of Coalition Politics
Simphiwe Gumede	Mangosuthu University of Technology	Human Capital Development and Local Government Administration in South Africa
Jonny Motsosi	Tshwane University of Technology	Enhancing the Political-Administrative Interface for Resilient Municipal Governance in South Africa
Junior Mokele, Andile Magqirana, Thandile Ncwana, Marcia Mkhize and Uduak Johnson	MANCOSA	Reimagining the Politico-Administrative Interface towards Sustainable Government: Best Practices for South Africa
Nkosingiphile Dumakude	University of Zululand	Local government: Balancing democracy and political dynamics into service delivery, A case study of local municipalities governance in South Africa

Wednesday , 30 September 2026

DAY 3

Session 3F

16:00-17:45

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Seboka Kopung and Caroline Fulele	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu and Alpvest Institute for Futuretech	The Impact of Social Responsibility on Sustainable Investment Projects
Nathunathi Mvunge and Sandiso Mahlala	University of Fort Hare and Sol Plaatjie University	Governance Challenges Affecting the Performance of Basic Education in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa
Tando Matiti	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	An Assessment of the Effectiveness of Service delivery in a Selected Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape, South Africa
Christofer Van Rooyen	Department of Social Development	Resilient Municipalities in Times of Crisis: EPWP Wounded Healers - Community-Based in the Social Sector
Luyanda Mtshali	University of South Africa	Can 4IR Innovations Enhance Agricultural Productivity and Income Security for Small-Scale Farmers?
Zinhle Mthembu	University of Zululand	Bridging the Knowledge Gap: Co-Creating Municipal Research Agendas through University-Community Engagement

Wednesday , 30 September 2026

DAY 3

Ntsako Makamu and Seboka Kopung	University of South Africa and Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Evaluating the impact of Monitoring and Evaluation on Policy Implementation
Refiloe Mosotho, Thanduxolo Fana and Sibabalwe Kela	Nelson Mandela University	An Assessment of community satisfaction with water and sanitation service delivery at Sekhukhune District Municipality
Athi Phiwani	University of Pretoria	Towards Sociology of Oceans: Coastal Livelihoods, Governance, and Community Struggles in Rural Marine Economies

Session 3G

16:00-17:45

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Karabo Mokganya	(Tshwane University of Technology)	The Big Elephant in the room: Lack of Ubuntu in leadership, an undiscussed problem in the South African public sector
Kgantshi Jones Ramatlhale Xolani Thusi and Khensani Richard Chauke	(University of Limpopo); and (University of Johannesburg);	From Compliance to Accountability: Interrogating the Role of the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) in South African Municipal Governance
Takunda Mathathu and Thanyani Madzivhandila	(University of Limpopo)	Bridging Policy and Practice: The Ethical Role of Steward Leadership in South Africa's Just Energy Transition

Wednesday , 30 September 2026

DAY 3

Christopher Phiri	Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council	Professionalisation of the South African Public Service
Maruping John Tshipo	Office of the Premier North West Province	Exploring the collective bargaining efficacy in a selected public sector department within the North West Province
Tshimangadzo Azwianewi, Reuben Mabilu and Marlien Herselman	STADIO Higher Education and Limpopo Department of Social Development and NGEI Cluster (eGov), CSIR	A Leadership-Centred Conceptual Framework for Enhancing Diversity Management in the South African Public Sector
Dumisani Xaba	University of South Africa	An investigative study into good governance in the Non-Profit Sector in South Africa: A systems approach perspective

Session 3H

16:00 - 17:45

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Sihle Mathumbu	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The Role of Public Participation in Shaping the Planning of Local Development Projects: A case study of Mquma Local Municipality, Eastern Cape.
Zwivhuya Arnold Nethonzhe and Murendeni Praise Ramaru	Nelson Mandela University	Community Development Workers as Agents of Governance in Enhancing Service Delivery And Local Development In South Africa

Wednesday , 30 September 2026

DAY 3

Nimrod Shadrack Mpondomse	Department of Public Service and Administration	Monitoring & Evaluation of Development Interventions
Katlego Lamola	University of Limpopo	Promoting Sustainable Development in South African Local government through Monitoring and Evaluation
Zamazulu Mthembu, Sybert Mutereko and Nduduzo Ndebele	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Building Bridges: Key Factors Driving Public-Private Partnerships Infrastructure Development in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Session 3I

16:00-17:30

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Eugenia Muzenda	Gauteng Provincial Legislature	Insights into how the processing of Bills into Laws is monitored and evaluated in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (GPL)
Masa Sylvester Motadi and Costa Hofisi	North West University	Driven Governance and Artificial Intelligence in Enhancing Public Sector Performance and Resilience in smart cities through secondary data analysis
Luleka Marwarwa	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Implementation of Rural Development Initiatives and the Political-Administrative Interface: A Case of a Rural Area in Mnquma Local Municipality, Eastern Cape
Zwelakhe Maseko	University of Zululand	Gentrification In Durban's Point Precinct and Its Impact on Access to Low-Cost Housing

Wednesday , 30 September 2026

DAY 3

Katl[ego Mosiemang and Nhlamulo Baloyi	University of South Africa	The State of Civil Service Employee Health and Wellness Programmes in South Africa: A Systematic Review
Morore Wilson Sekhukhune	University of Limpopo	A political economy analysis of microeconomic policy trajectories and their response to the unemployment crisis in South Africa, 2018 to 2025

MUNICIPAL MANAGERS PANEL: 18:00-19:00

Chair:

Venue:

Theme:

STATE OF THE DISCIPLINE: 19:00-20:00

Chair:

Venue:

Theme:

WINE WITH EDITORS: 20:00-21:00

Chair:

Venue:

Theme:

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Panel Discussion

09:00-11:00

Chair:

Theme: Building capable and ethical State

Panellists

Session 1A

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Nqobizitha Sithole	KZN Department of Social Development	Talent Acquisition, Talent Management and Talent Retention and how it affects service delivery in the Public Sector
Richard Mthethwa	University of Zululand	Enhancing the Professionalisation of Public Sector Institutions: Strategies for Strengthening Accountability, Capacity, and Service Delivery
Mphathesithe Mkhize, Ntuthuko Mzinyane, Judith Mdletshe and Mlungisi Duma	Mangosuthu University of Technology, Tshwane University of Technology and Durban University of Technology	State Capture and Ethical Governance in South Africa: Policy Lessons and Institutional Reforms for a Resilient Public Sector
Phumlani Dlamkile	Durban University of Technology	The role of leadership in improving the professionalization of the public sector institutions in South Africa

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Thabo Francis Saul and Caiphus Mogotsi Maleka	Tshwane University of Technology	Leadership, Ethics and Accountability In Governance: A Case Study for South African Municipalities
Nosisa Mabetshe	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Crime as a Social Development Failure: Rethinking Crime Prevention Beyond the Family in Marginalised Communities in O.R. Tambo and Alfred Nzo Districts, Eastern Cape, South Africa
Langanani Mbedzi	University of Venda	The Role of Governance in Promoting Sustainable Local Economic Development in Vhembe District Municipality
Sipho Gideon Mantula and Boikhutso Florence Mfusi	Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs	Unmasking The Government of National Unity: South Africa's Foreign Policy of Ubuntu in the 21st Century
Jeremy Mitonga-Monga	University of Johannesburg	Factorial validity of the French version of the Empathetic Leadership Scale within public high schools in a developing country
Siziwe Mvanana Nikani, S. Pillay, T. Fana and T. Rulashe	Nelson Mandela University	Reimagining Public Sector Governance: Lessons from Professinalisation in South Africa
Gift Sambo, MT. Lukamba and Michael Chasukwa	University of Malawi	Political Demonstrations and Good Governance: A Closer Look at Protest Movements in Malawi

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 1B

11:00 – 13:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mphumzi Dabula, Zamokuhle Mbandlwa and Omololu Fagbadebo	Durban University of Technology	Disaster relief assistance in O.R Tambo District Municipality
Vanessa Neo Mathope	University of South Africa	Advancing Digital, Smart and Future Governance through AI Enabled Records Management
Chamunorwa Huni and Meron Okbandrias	University of the Western Cape	Disrupting Bureaucratic Culture: Readiness for digitalisation in South Africa's Department of Home Affairs
Ray Clemence Tondoi and Pregala Pillay	Stellenbosch University	Artificial Intelligence and E-Governance as Engines of Public Sector Innovation: Building Sustainable Institutions for the Future
Manyano Nongogo	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Evaluating the Effectiveness of Digital Platforms in Enhancing Public Service Delivery: A Case Study of WhatsApp and Mobile Applications in King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Municipality
David Mello	University of South Africa	Invoking Digital Monitoring and Detection in the fight against corruption in South Africa
Maxhobandile Ndamase and Enathi Mbebe	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Digitalising local governance to enhance youth participation in municipal processes in South Africa

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 1C

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Higher Education Governance, Decolonisation and Transformation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Moshohli Kenneth Malatji	University of South Africa	Reimagining Higher Education Governance Through African Epistemologies: An Afrocentric Anthropological Critique of Institutional Transformation
Kgantshi Jones Ramatlhale	University of Limpopo	Claiming Transformation, Maintaining the Canon: A Study of Colonial Knowledge Reproduction in South African Universities
Zama Mthombeni	University of Johannesburg	Black Women and the Politics of Institutional Whiteness in Higher Education
Pedro Mzileni	University of Zululand	Studentification in Urban Austerity Crisis
Rhondeline Marais	University of the Western Cape	Higher Education as an intermediary for food justice: University - Government - Industry collaboration in South Africa
Leigh Frantz	University of the Western Cape	Reimagining Higher Education Governance Through Integrated Research Capacity Ecosystems: The R.I.S.E. Institutional Design Framework
Mamonare Magdeline Malapane	Tshwane University of Technology	A Model for Transforming Historically Disadvantaged Universities in South Africa
Troy Musandiwa Silima	University of Mpumalanga)	The teaching of Ubuntu Values as an Approach to decolonise Public Administration

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 1D

11:00 – 13:00

Theme: Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Abongile Dlani	University of Fort Hare	Examining The Ocean Economy Programme as a Catalyst for Economic Development in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
Sinakhokonke Mpanza	University of South Africa	Conceptualisation Of Investment Readiness Mechanism for Non-Metropolitan Municipalities
Fattinald Rangongo, Sandiso Mahlala, Ephraim Tshobeka, Maphelo Malgas and Isaac Patsa	Sol Plaatje University	An analysis of e-commerce and omnichannel integration in retail management curricula at selected South African universities and its perceived impact on graduate employability
Ngcebo Richard Vumase	University of Zululand	The Challenges Faced by Small and Medium-Sized Tourism Enterprises (SMTEs) in the Surrounding Areas of Isimangaliso wetland Park: A Case Study of uMtubatuba
Aluncedo Zikhali	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Youth as Catalysts for Sustainable Development: Lessons from Rural Entrepreneurship Initiatives
Anthony Kambi Masha	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Female youth entrepreneurs at the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality: a portrait of progress in the context of their contributions to the economy and job creation

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 1E

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Simangaliso Mbata and Zolani Tafeni	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The role of Public-Private Partnership in infrastructure development: A case of Great Kokstad Local Municipality (GKM)
Maxhobandile Ndamase, Mahlodi Joyce Sethu and Mutuwafhethu John Mafunisa	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu and University of Venda	A strategic model for enhancing the monitoring and evaluation system of the integrated development plan implementation in King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality
Khuthadzo Munzhelele and Tando Rulashe	Nelson Mandela University and (University of Mpumalanga	Bottlenecks In Municipal Infrastructure Grant Delivery for Water and Sanitation in a rural South African Municipality
Moorosi Leshoele	University of the Free State	Access to Housing and Residential Land in Urban Centres in South Africa: A Closer Look at Johannesburg Housing Crisis
Cry Zitha	University of South Africa	Extortion and Protection Fees: Challenges to the Sustainability of Townships-Based Small Businesses in South Africa

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 1F

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Sandiso Mahlala	Sol Plaatje University	Political Corruption and State Capture: Threats to Democratic Governance and Social Cohesion in Post-Apartheid South Africa
Lindani Maphumulo	University of Western Cape	The Role of Intelligence in Shaping Government Structures and Enhancing Human Security: A Critical Analysis of Its Impact
Shangolirimini Demana	Tshwane university of Technology	Reconfiguration of the approach to professionalization of public service to build a capable state: A South African perspective
Mbulelo Khalani and Tando Rulashe	Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury and University of Mpumalanga	Examining the effectiveness of the Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury technical support interventions in strengthening municipal governance and improving audit outcomes for enhanced service delivery: A case study of selected municipalities
Zolani Tafeni and Ndikho Pinini	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Exploring The Significance of Effective Governance in The Public Sector: A Case of the Department of Water and Sanitation in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Eastern Cape Province

Wednesday, 30 September 2026

DAY 4

Phuti Alfred Patrick Mabothe, Morongwa Annamarie Bopape	University of South Africa	Beyond the Stench: Decoding Systemic Leadership Failure in South Africa's Wastewater Crisis and its Assault on SDGs and Agenda 2063
Ntsindiso Errol Mdindana	University of KwaZulu Natal	The Impact of Continuous Formal Learning on the Professionalisation and Innovation of the Public Sector: A case of Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury
Itumeleng Tshoose	University of Limpopo	The value-laden framework in improving governance in public administration, South Africa
Nametso Gae and Arthur Shopola	North West University	Training and development needs and interventions for a professionalised local government sector
Karabo Mokganya	Tshwane University of Technology	Thusa Ngwana Geno: A concept for Ubuntu Values lessons for emerging ethical leadership: A new comprehensive birth to literature review

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 1G

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: International Relations, Global Governance and Decolonial Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu	University of South Africa	Reimagining North-South Partnerships: BRICS Diplomacy as a Catalyst or Cataclysm for Equitable Governance in the Global South?
Moses Alphons Kau	K Protocol and IGR Training Solutions	South Africa's Foreign Policy and State Protocol: Evolution from Apartheid to Post Apartheid Democratic Dispensation
Jabu Makhubela	University of Limpopo	Analysing the effectiveness of the SADC Protocol on Education and Training in advancing internationalization of higher education in the Southern African Development Community region
Rabelani Dagada	University of South Africa	South Africa Should Import Skilled Labour to Export Manufactured Products
Daglous Makumbe	University of the Western Cape	Research Notes on African Moves to Decolonize International Criminal Law: A Façade or a Reality?

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 1H

11:00-13:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Ntsako Mathonsi and Sello Sithole	University of Limpopo	Decentralisation of Administrative Powers Over the Housing Function from Provincial to Local Government: A Subject of Intergovernmental Dispute
Mawande Xabela, Zandile Gqweta and Regina Stofile	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	An analysis of the impact of the implementation of a provincial intervention under section 139(1) of the Constitution at Mngquma Local Municipality
Mandla Mbatha	Tshwane University of Technology	Beyond the Politics-Administration Dichotomy: Political Interference and the Reconfiguration of Administrative Autonomy in South African Municipal Governance
Maxwell Sentiwe	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The decline in voter turnout and the low levels of youth participation in South African elections
Bongeka Nosisi Kauleza, Zimisele Tomose and Maxwell Sentiwe	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The implications of illiterate performing oversight duties over the illiterate: A case study of a selected municipality

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 1I 11:00-13:00 Theme: MIX Venue: Chair:		
Full Names	Institution	Topic
Ahmed Lawan	Federal University of Kashere	The Utilization of Renewable AI and the Fight against Corruption in Nigeria: A Study of Independent Corrupt practices and other related offences commission (ICPC)
Tsundzukani Nkuna, Joseph Mudau and Joyce Ndou	Tshwane University of Technology	Assessing The Effectiveness of Corporate Strategy Implementation at the South African Bureau of Standards
Mkhululi Nceba Grawe and Thumeka Mzimeli	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Reimagining Work-Integrated Learning for Public Relations Students in Online Environments: A study of in a South African University
Ayanda Goniwe and Silma Koekemoer	Milpark Business School	A Review of Digital Adoption Frameworks to Identify Gaps Inhibiting Adoption, Integration, Growth, and Economic Inclusion of Informal Businesses
Mmacheone Ngoakwana Modiba, Kgalema Mashamaite and Thanyani Madzivhandila	University of Limpopo	Bridging the Trust Gap: The Impact of Government-Community Relations on Service Delivery in South Africa
Adam Zaga Sibiya	Tshwane University of Technology	E-government and Digital Transformation in South African Public Administration: An Interpretive Study of the Department of Home Affairs and Department of Public Service and Administration

lunch

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2A

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Unathi Khandanisa, David Bogopa and Kutu Sam Ramolobe	Nelson Mandela University and IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Structural Barriers to Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities within Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
Mafale Mildred Motupa, Kabelo Moeti and Masindi Mashapha	Tshwane University of Technology	A comparative analysis between South African Military Personnel and Public Services Act Personnel
Thomas Ramovha	University of Limpopo	Towards A Sustainable Model for the Delivery of Housing in South Africa: A New Public Governance Perspective.
Wilson Majebele	University of Limpopo	Intergrated development challenges associated with water supply in Madibeng Local Municipality, South Africa
Mpho Mganga and Themba Lukhele	University of Mpumalanga)	Analysis of the Communal Sense of Place Attachment to Public Parks Facilities in the Urban Neighbourhood in South Africa

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2B

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mandla Letlape	Thinc Foundation	The death of the Executive Mayoral System-The impact of coalitions
Thandolwethu Nomarwayi	University of South Africa	An appraisal of the 2026 local government elections from a trust deficit and voter turnout lens
Maluta Khomola, Mutshutshu Nekhavhambe and Langanani Mbedz	University of Venda	Addressing Challenges in Local Economic Development Through Community Participation: A case of South African Local Municipalities
Zwivhuya Arnold Nethonzhe, Guswin De Wee and Kutu Sam Ramolobe	Nelson Mandela University, University of Western Cape and IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Assessing the Effectiveness of Ward Committees in Facilitating Participatory Governance: A Case of Polokwane Local Municipality
Madikana Jackinah Mokgokong	Tshwane University of Technology	Paradoxes and Challenges of Coalition Systems on Service Delivery in South Africa's Local Government
Lulamile Hanabe	Nelson Mandela University	Governance and Institutional Capacity: The Role of Political Stability in Long Term Planning

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2C

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Kefilwe Thabayapelo	University of South Africa	Advancing AI Readiness: Skills Development and Career Growth in Rural Municipalities
Beauty Zindi	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Leveraging e-governance and Artificial Intelligence to enhance public sector innovation and service delivery in South African Municipalities
Abisha Kampira	Tshwane University of Technology	Exploring Policy Cohesion on Digital Government as An Enabler of Youth Entrepreneurship: Towards A Policy Cohesion Matrix - South Africa
Yusuf Lukman and Kedibone Phago	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu and University of Mpumalanga	Advancing e-Government Implementation through Digital Platforms in Rural Municipalities: Evidence from Eastern Cape, South Africa
Clarity Hutete and Shikha Vyas-doorgapersad	University of Johannesburg	Leveraging 4IR Technologies for Data-Driven Water Governance: Insights and Lessons from African and Global Cases for Future-Ready Municipal Systems
Amos Shibambu	University of South Africa	The impact of digital transformation on transparency of the local government administration in South Africa
Silma Koekemoer	Milpark Business School	Contemplating SMART in the Smart Cities Concept

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 4

Session 2D

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Neo Refiloe Mofokeng and Nkanyezi Msimango	Tshwane University of Technology and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	China-Africa Relationship in South Africa's International Relations in Trump 2.0: A BRICS-Inspired Delinking Perspective
Sibahle Michael Cele	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Professionalizing the Political Career: Prospects for the Political-Administrative Interface
Sibusisiwe Nonhlanzeko Nyawo and Zethembe Mseleku	University of Mpumalanga and University of KwaZulu Natal	Rural Youth Entrepreneurship as a Catalyst for Local Economic Development: The role of Developmental Local Government
Siviwe Mditshwa	Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs	Citizen-Led Evaluation Through Protest Action: Implications for Local Governance and Service Delivery in South Africa
Edmore Ntini	University of KwaZulu- Natal	Fragile Mandates: Toward a Theory of Transactional Coalitionalism in South African Local Councils

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2E

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Teboho Manenzhe, Mokgadi Julia Ngoepe-Ntsoane and Promise Xitshembiso Hlabane	University of South Africa, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs	Succession Planning as a driver of sustainable smallholder farming in Bushbuckridge, South Africa
Siziwe Adricia Mvanana Nikani, Thando Rulashe, Thanduxolo Fana and Sareesha Pillay	Nelson Mandela University and University of Mpumalanga	Reimagining Public Sector Governance: Lessons from Professionalisation in South Africa.
Mary-Anne Monyobo	North-West University	Moral Regeneration and Ethical Governance in South African Local Government: Rhetoric or Reality?
Selaelo John Mabeba	University of Limpopo	Pondering Over the Professionalisation of The Public Service: Myth or Reality?
Lothar Mbedzi	Tshwane University of Technology	An Assessment Into the Role of Leadership in Enhancing the Values-Based Organisational Culture: An Empirical Study into A South African State Entity in the Financial Sector

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Metji Makgoba	University of Limpopo	Mining Charters and the Distributive Paradigm in South Africa's Mining Sector
Zimkhitha Ngqeleni	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Assessing the Effectiveness of Decolonised Governance Structures in Enhancing Accountability and Trust in Public Institutions
Ruth Nombuso Zuma	University of South Africa	Unleashing Female Leadership Potential: Afrocentric Pathways to Transform Corporate Governance in Africa
Cabanga Maluleka, Joseph Mudau and Bernard Sebake	Tshwane University of Technology and Central University of Technology	The theoretical propositions that underpin the separation of powers as the governance model to enhance oversight and accountability in Local Government
Bonolo Letlape	Municipal Demarcation Board	Governance Coherence or Fragmentation? Assessing Alignment Between the Integrated Urban Development Framework and the Institutional Mandate of the Municipal Demarcation Board for Sustainable Urban Development
Daniel Nkosinathi Mlambo and Thamsanqa Buys	Tshwane University of Technology	The African Corruption Enigma: Dissecting Chapter Fourteen (14) of the National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030. Will South Africa Have Weathered the Storm?

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 4

Session 2F

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Higher Education Governance, Decolonisation and Transformation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Andrew Semanya	Regenesys Education	Are Universities Preparing “Future-Fit” Public Servants? A Critical Examination of Higher Education in South Africa
Vuyani Khumalo	Mangosuthu University of Technology	Co-Creating Innovation in South Africa: Exploring Synergies between Universities, Government and Industry for Inclusive Development
Tau Nyaku	The National School of Government	Conceptual Framework for Ubuntu Leadership for crisis management : Reflections from the National School of Government and Nala Municipality - Free State
Gibson Mbuso Nyathi	North-West University	The Implementation of Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development in Tshwane-West District
Khomotso Radebe, Kaizer Makole and Mogotsi Maleka	National School of Government and Tshwane University of Technology	A Proposed Framework of Open Distance eLearning: The Case of the National School of Government

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2G

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Nyawo Gumede	(Sol Plaatje University)	Government of National Unity in South Sudan: National Decentralization Challenges and Governance Priorities in the Post-Conflict Epoch.
Mthokozisi Sydney Luthuli	(Durban University of Technology)	What Does Waste Management Reveal About Local Government Governance?
Monument Thulani Bongani Makhanya	(University of Zululand)	Intersection of Ubuntu and Emotional Intelligence in Developing a Predictive Model for Corruption Resistance in the South African Public Sector
Beauty Nonzwakazi Makiwane	(IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu)	Breaking Barriers: Women With Disabilities To Hold Management Positions In Eastern Cape Province Universities
Tafwauli Phiri	(University of Pretoria)	Financial inclusion as development governance: Institutional performance and the transformative limits of microfinance in Malawi
Zolile Isak Chap Shepherd Ramakatu Malefane	(University of South Africa)	The exercise of administrative governance during change: A synopsis from the findings of the roles of public sector managers in the relocation of functions
Anthony Tshwarelo Malapane	(Gauteng Provincial Legislature)	Complexities of Legislative Oversight in an Era of Coalitions in South Africa

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2H

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Julie Thopola	MANCOSA	Performance Over Patronage: A Depoliticised Governance Blueprint for South African Municipalities
Jonny Motsosi	Tshwane University of Technology	Towards an Integrated Leadership Framework for Effective Municipal Service Delivery: A Study of Selected Local Municipalities In The North West Province, South Africa.
Tebogo Matoane-Nkabinde	Department of Social Development	Beyond numbers: a gendered reflection of women's substantive leadership and impact in consolidating women's empowerment and gender equality gains in local government, Mpumalanga Province.
Mike Leslie and Makgabo Mabotja	National Treasury	Strengthening performance monitoring in local government: MFMA Circular 88 and harnessing data as an enabler of successful reform

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Peter Tsietsi Nyoni and Ricky Mukonza	Tshwane University of Technology	Sustaining Section 139 (1) Interventions in Local Government in the Mpumalanga Province: The Case of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality
Thamane Mahlangu	Tshwane University of Technology	Reimagining the Political-Administrative Interface in South African Municipalities: Moving from Cadre Deployment to Merit-Based Governance

Session 2I

14:00-16:00

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Gilbert Matome Ramakgolo and Charles Selemela	Limpopo Office of the Premier	The effects of digital transformation on sustainable livelihoods in South Africa as a developing country: A Limpopo Province Perspective
Mphikeleli Mnguni	Institute of Public Sector Ethics and Integrity Management Professionals of South Africa)	Public participation and governance in the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment System: Lessons from the Revised White Paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage
Fortune Maswanganyi	North-West University	Populist Political Communication and Vote-Seeking Behaviour in South African Local Governance

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Okha Zwakala and Zolani Tafeni	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Evaluating The Effectiveness of Government Water Projects: The Case of Intsika Yethu Local Municipality
Izimangaliso Malatjie, Busani Ngcaweni and Tebogo Gumede	National School of Government, University of Johannesburg and HSRC	Pathways, Agency and Leadership Development: A Study of Women in Senior and Executive Leadership in the South African Public Sector
Mandla Makhanya	Public Service Commission	From Aspiration to Enforcement- Reimagining Governance, Leadership, and the Public Service Commission in South Africa's Democratic Dispensation

Session 3A

16:00-18:00

Theme: Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Maledi Noluthando Fortunate Msani	University of Zululand	Assessing the implementation of the district development model in enhancing water service delivery in king Cetshwayo district municipality.
Ntuthuko Sydwell Lekhuleni	Tshwane University of Technology	Investigating socio-economic impact of foreign owned Spaza shops on the informal market in Tshwane

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Zukisa Pato and Obrain Murire	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Digital Citizen Engagement in Local Government: Assessing the Role of E-Governance Platforms in Enhancing Participation in Alfred Nzo District Municipality
Kgabo Morifi	Tshwane University of Technology	Preserving Talent Management in the Gauteng City Region
Keabetswe Ndhlovu and Praise Ramaru	Nelson Mandela University	The Developmental Costs of State Capture: Safeguarding Economic Institutions for Inclusive Growth in The Eastern Cape.

Session 2B

16:00-18:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Ntombesizwe Hallam, Willie Chinyamurindi and Nobulali Tsipa-Booi	University of Fort Hare	Institutional trust, civic engagement and youth mental health: Evidence from a township community
Avumile Sigayela	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Enhancing fiscal sustainability through improved governance in local government: A case study of a selected local municipality in the Eastern Cape
Asisipho Ngongo	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Monitoring and evaluation of development interventions

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Pebetse Masha and Silma Koekemoer	Milpark Business School	The Perceived Link between Strategic Planning, Budgeting, and Strategic Objectives
Karabo Mohapanele	University of Zululand	HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 Pandemic Effects on Changing Family Structures and Childcare in South Africa: An Exploratory Literature Review
Charles Selemela, Valery Nicoline Louw and Bethuel Sibongiseni Ngcamu	University of South Africa	Towards inclusive Community Workers Programme: Exploration of Status of Representation and Barriers faced by Persons with Disability within Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipal Area
Godfrey Thabethe	University of Mpumalanga	The Efficacy of Integrated Development Plan as a Tool for Enhancing Basic Service Delivery: A Case of Ehlanzeni District Municipality, South Africa
Leonia Ramataboe, Vivian Mabunda and Witness Maluleke	Independent Researcher, University of South Africa and University of Limpopo	Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II: Integrating social justice and environmental resilience for rural communities
Kgosi Nkgoang	Independent	A User-Centred Assessment of the Implementation of Non-Motorised Transport Policy in a selected Metropolitan Area in South Africa
Mngqobi Banele Njoko	University of Limpopo	Community-Based Resilience Strategies to Mitigate Inconsistent Potable Water Supplies in Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Tuesday , 29 September 2026

DAY 4

Session 2C

16:00-18:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Kevin Khosa	Municipal Demarcation Board	Digital Twins Framework for Integrated Spatial Planning and Service Delivery in Rural South Africa
Sharon Chilunjika	University of South Africa	The role of digital health and data-driven governance in improving health outcomes in Lesotho
Kgalema Mashamaite	University of Limpopo	Climate Adaptation Strategies in South Africa: Policy and Practice Gaps
Thato Ramoolla	University of Pretoria	Institutional readiness factors for artificial intelligence adoption in the South African Public Sector
Sipho Mokoena	University of Limpopo	Human Resource Capacity Required to Implement E-Government in the Rural Areas of the Limpopo Province, South Africa
Tasmin Jones	Nelson Mandela University	Digital Smart and Future Governance: Transforming Public Administration

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2D

16:00-18:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mokgethwa Emmanuel Mogofe	City of Ekurhuleni	Corporate Governance Benchmark for Gauteng Provincial Government Departments in South Africa
Lehlogonolo Moagi and Stellah Lubinga	University of Pretoria	Institutional Readiness in the Professionalisation of the South African Public Sector
Leanett Fanyana Ntuli and Eustache Tanzala Kikasu	Durban University of Technology	Exploring systems thinking in municipal leadership: Ethekwini's Metropolitan Municipality approach to developmental governance
Ernest Mlambo	Management College of South Africa	Evaluating the Effectiveness of Internal Controls in Bursary Management using the COSO Framework: Limpopo Office of the Premier Case Study
Finhlo Mightness Shilowe	University of Limpopo	Enhancing Governance and Leadership through the Professionalisation of Public Sector Institutions
Smangele Nkosingiphile Shandu	University of South Africa	Towards Evidence-Based Solutions for Contraband in Correctional Facilities: Understanding Criminogenic Risks
Seboka Kopung and Kagiso Tsatsimpe	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu and North-West University	Studying how reward systems and recognition affect project performance

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2E

16:00-18:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Fundiswa Khaile	University of the Western Cape	Coalition Government in Selected Metropolitan Municipalities: Implications for Service Delivery and Social Cohesion
Sihle Jongihlati	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	An analysis of the role of decentralisation in addressing vacancies in the Human Resource Management at Mnquma Local Municipality
Kgotola Khotsa	University of South Africa	Good Governance as a Panacea to Enhance Ethical Conduct within the South African Local Government
Ayakha Magxotwa	University of the Western Cape	Intergovernmental Relations and Cooperative Governance as Catalysts for Integrated Service Delivery in an Era of Coalition Governments: Lessons from the District Development Model
Nqobile Sikhosana	North-West University	The Impact of Political Recalls (Section 129 And 278 of The Constitution) on Local Government Service Delivery: A Case of the Bulawayo City Council, Zimbabwe

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2F

16:00-18:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	institution	Topic
Maphelo Malgas Zamashwabade Penelope Xaba	Sol Plaatje University and Independent Researcher	An investigation into the effect of supply chain management on sustainable service delivery: A case of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality
Sifiso Mofokeng, David Legodi Bogopa and Kutu Sam Ramolobe	Nelson Mandela University and Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Administrative Capacity and the Right to Adequate Housing: Advancing SDG 11 in South African Local Government
Nonkazimulo Magwaza	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Retail-led development, traditional leadership, local institutions, and political economy
Buyani Nkabinde	Durban University of Technology	Urbanisation and Internal Migration as Drivers of Economic Growth in Developing Economies: Evidence from South Africa
Simon Matome Nkgapele	University of Johannesburg	The Cost of Medical Negligence in South Africa: Implications for Financial Sustainability and Service Delivery in Public Health Systems
Zamikhaya Gotyi	University of Fort Hare	Linking conservation and sustainable livelihoods: the participation of local communities in environmental conservation

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Sifundo Mdhuli	North-West University	From Rhetoric to Results: Developing a Framework for Transformative Youth Development in KwaZulu-Natal.
Sibahle Gabisa	University of Free State	The Role of Load-Shedding in Wastewater Management in eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality
Simamkele Menze	Iyunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Flood Disasters, Vulnerable Communities, and Development Outcome: Examining Local Government Disaster Management in Mquma Local Municipality

Session 2G

16:00-18:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Eugene Beyonyi and Isioma Ile	University of the Western Cape	Decolonised Water Policy: A case study of Bamessing (Nsei), Cameroon
Andisiwe Masheane	Iyunivesithi Walter Sisulu	The Role of Ethical Leadership and Accountability in Mitigating Governance Deficits and Strengthening Public Sector Institutions

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Eunice Chesa	North West University	From Compliance to Accountability: The Influence of Ethical Leadership on Oversight Institutions
Tshedza Tshivhasa Sikhwari	Tshwane University of Technology	The judicial commission of inquiry in South Africa: a dilemma of accountability, politics, and superstitions
Vuyisa Mhlontlo and Sareesha Pillay	Nelson Mandela University	The Role of Ethics and Institutional Accountability in Advancing Food Security: A Case of the Eastern Cape
Mthokozisi Luthuli and Lindokuhle Ntuli	Durban University of Technology	Community Resistance in Metropolitan Waste Management: Executive Perspectives
Buyani Nkabinde and Thandile Ncwana	Durban University of Technology and MANCOSA	Internal Migration and Governance in South African Municipalities: Implications for Inclusive Service Delivery and Sustainable Urban Development
Halima Khunoethe and Rashnee Heeralal	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)	Assessing the Efficacy of the District Development Model in South Africa: A Comparative Analysis of eThekweni Metropolitan and Zululand District Municipalities
Lothar Mbedzi	Tshwane University of Technology	The role of Leadership in enhancing the Values-Based Organisational Culture: An Empirical study into a South African state entity in the financial sector

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2H

16:00-18:00

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mutshidzi Silima, Nicholine Silaule and Thakane Dimpho Maelane	University of South Africa	The Transparency Paradox: Balancing AI Innovation with Public Trust in Digital E-Governance
Ashleigh Shangare	Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs	Women's Political Leadership and Transformative Governance in Africa: Reimagining Institutions for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development
Coceka Mva-Ntsepe	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Investigating the Relationship between Interpersonal Communication and Mental Health in an Institution of Higher Learning
Ntobeko Magubane	National School of government	Between Aspiration and Attrition: South Africa's Developmental Trajectory into 2030
Nonhlanhla S'thabile Mkhize	Durban University of Technology	Local Economic Development Initiatives and Women Empowerment in Rural Areas: A Case Study of Umgungundlovu District in KwaZulu-Natal
Welhemina Nthabiseng Mofokeng	North-West University	Impact of Digital Public Infrastructure on NGO Financial Reporting and Transparency

Thursday , 01 October 2026

DAY 4

Session 2I
16:00-18:00
Theme: MIX
Venue:
Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Retshidisitswe Blessing Lebokollane and Mosebjadi Kabelo Mampa	Tshwane University of Technology	Institutional Financial Policy and Student Access: Governance Challenges in South African Higher Education
Murendeni Praise Ramaru, Pillay Sareesha, David.Bogopa and Ramolobe Kutu Sam	Nelson Mandela University	Cross Sector Collaboration as a Strategic Imperative for Food Security in Vhembe District Municipality
Mosa Mofokeng Nkosingiphile Mkhize	North West University	Challenges and opportunities for Service Robots in Public Healthcare Sector: South African public clinics
Mataywa Busieka	Department of Public Service and Administration	From Compliance to Convergence: Evaluating South Africa's 2025 Public Service Reforms through the African Charter's Vision of Pan-African Governance Standards
Tsepo Ernest Rangwato, Thandiwe Ncwana and Arthur Moraka Shopola	Tshwane University of Technology, MANCOSA and North West University	Innovating public participation: A conceptual framework for blending technology and community engagement in municipal development planning in South Africa
Lethabo Maponya and Melody Chiume	University of Mpumalanga	Entrepreneurial Innovation and Sustainable Systems Transformation: Evidence from Food, Water, Energy, and Health Systems in BRICS Economies

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 1A

09:00 - 11:00

Theme: International Relations, Global Governance and Decolonial Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Jungwon Yeo	University of Maryland Baltimore Country	Local Turn vs. International Turn: What Are the Features of Effective emergency and Crisis Management in the Global South? A Comparative Study of the 2014 Ebola Response Logistics Networks
Masa Sylvester Motadi and Ngelekanyo Maduwa	University of Venda	Decolonising Global Governance: The Role of BRICS in Shaping a New Paradigm for International Relations and Development in the Global South
Lerato Mojaki	North-West University	Emotion meaning and emotion episodes in the Setswana language group in the Northwest Province
Sipho Gideon Mantula, Lebakeng Josiah	Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs	How Elections Can Undermine Human Security and Critical Infrastructure Development in Africa
Chidochashe Nyere	Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Relations	Decolonising International Relations for Just Global Governance
Promise Raseala	University of South Africa	Turning Turbulence into Transformation: How Crises Can Catalyse Bottom-Up, City-Led Urban Resilience in South Africa

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Muyamba Mangu	University of the Free State	Colonial Extractive Governance and the Violation of the Right to Development in South Africa: A Historical Analysis.
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Session 1B | 09:00 - 11:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Lulamile Nicholus Sibanda Charles Selemela Kutu Ramolobe	University of South Africa and Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Accelerating Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems: The District Development Model and Smallholder Agribusiness Value Chains in Gauteng Peri-Urban Agriculture
Siziphiwe Mxinwa Sibusisiwe Nonhlanzeko Nyawo	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu and University of Mpumalanga	Procurement Inefficiencies and Their Socio-Economic Consequences: Examining Service Delivery Gaps in South Africa
Normaliete Josey-Ann Esau-Jantjies Sareesha Pillay Praise Ramaru	Nelson Mandela University	Factors that hinder Child Maintenance Court administrative performance: Evidence from Wynberg Maintenance Court.
Ramokhojoane Paul Motsoeneng	University of South Africa	The impact of climate change on water and sanitation resources in South Africa: A shift Towards an adaptive management approach
Themba Mfanafuthi Lukhele	University of Mpumalanga	Application of Design Thinking Approach to enhance a Locally Based System of Grassroot Innovations and Entrepreneurship to drive Local Economic Development in South Africa

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Anathi Koko	University of Limpopo	Spatial Inequalities and Access to Quality Education: A Sociological Study of Rural Schooling in Post-Apartheid South Africa
Zimkitha Mahlangu	University of South Africa	The Disabling Effects of Gender-Based Violence: A Biopsychosocial Perspective

Session 1C | 09:00 – 11:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Siyasanga Ngwabeni	EDUVOS	Populism at the Polls: Reconfiguring Ethics and Public Trust in South Africa's Local Government Sphere
Kholofelo Penelope Pudi	Tshwane University of Technology	"Systemic Challenges to Governance and Ethical Integrity in South African Public Administration and Their Implications"
Kumbirai Mwadiwa, Lazarus Maleho	Vaal University of Technology	A Quantitative Analysis of the Fourth Industrial Revolution's Impact on Corporate Communication in a Selected Gauteng District Municipality
Fediam Nkuna	University of Venda	Impediments of the Local Government Fiscal Framework impacting on Municipal Financial Sustainability

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 1D | 09:00 – 11:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Thamsanqa Dube	North-West University	Integrating New Public Management and Classical Administrative Theory: A Theoretical Framework for Public Service Delivery
Nyawasedza Phellecyy Lavhelani	University of Venda	The impact of e-governance on public sector innovation in South Africa, Vhembe District
Zimasa Dlamini, Nduduzo Ndebele and Richard Mthethwa	University of Zululand and University of KwaZulu Natal	Leveraging Information and Communication Technologies to Enhance Tourist Experiences in eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality
Kegomoditswe Kenosi	University of Witwatersrand	Algorithmic decision making in public administration

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 1E | 09:00 - 11:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Ampfarisaho Ashley Mudau	University of Limpopo	Local government elections and democratic consolidation
Khayaletu Thando Manxiwa	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Political-Administrative Interface and Democratic Local Governance in Mngquma Local Municipality
FM Lucky Mathebula	Tshwane University of Technology	Coalition Government and the opportunity to reset the P/public S/service: The case for Public Service commissioning.
Nontandazo Qasha	Alfred Nzo District Municipality	The role of ward committees (WCs) as participatory governance mechanisms in shaping Integrated Development Planning (IDP) processes within Matatiele Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape
Sinelisiwe Thwala Ayabulela Dlakavu	National School of Government and University of the Witwatersrand	From Curriculum to Capacity: Assessing Higher Education's Alignment with Local Government in South Africa
Dorcas Raesetsa Nyama Rasodi Manyaka	Tshwane University of Technology	Sustainable water service provision in the City of Johannesburg
Osemoboh Regis Wilson	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Paradiplomacy as a Capacity Building Strategy for Good Governance at the Local Level in South Africa

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Bangaphi Tshaka	Independent Researcher	Measuring the extent to which Provincial Government exercise Section 154 prior to invoking Section 139 interventions
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Session 1F | 09:00 - 11:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Sareesha Pillay Zoliswa Made	Nelson Mandela University	Indigenous language as a tool to enhance feedback mechanisms and public trust in South African localities.
Phakamani Dlamini	University of Mpumalanga	The Influence of Whistle-Blowers on the Promotion of Employee Citizenship Behavior within the South African Public Sector is Noteworthy.
Khutso Delphus Maela	University of Venda	Ethics and Accountability in Depoliticising Municipal Administration: A Critique of Cadre Deployment in South Africa
Tshepo Malik Kunene Praise Ramaru	Nelson Mandela University	An Investigation of Financial Control Mechanisms for Financial Accountability: A Case of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.
Andiswa Miggels Nkosi Mkhize	North-West University	Gendered Glass Ceiling and the Municipal Leadership Ambition Gap in South Africa

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Isaac Mafusini Nkosi	University of Mpumalanga	Investigating The Influence of Transformational Leadership on Educators' Citizenship Behavior: Implications for Public School Administration
Ramalobe Kutu Murendeni Ramaru	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu and Nelson Mandela University	Enhancing Service Delivery through Financial Accountability in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality: A Critical Review

Session 1G | 09:00 - 11:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Rene Oosthuizen	University of Fort Hare	Integrating Disaster Risk Management into Development Planning under the District Development Model. A case study of the Sarah Baartman District Municipality
Hlengiwe Zulu and Pertunia Mahlangu	University of Mpumalanga	The Functional Capabilities of Ward Committees in Facilitating Effective Community Participation within Integrated Development Planning in South Africa
Sibabalo Veli	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	An analysis of the water services at Yako Area, Amathole District Municipality, Eastern Cape

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Akhona Bota	University of the Witwatersrand	From Fragmented Delivery to Systemic Integration: Profiling the Eastern Cape's Nine Integrated Programmes as a Catalyst for Systemic Integration and Coordination
Naledi Dolomba	Office of The Premier	A study of Women in Sustainable Farming and Biodiversity Conservation in Alice, Eastern Cape
Mandisa Kitunka Seirah Ngcobo	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	Using Rapid Evidence Approaches to Inform Decision Making: Lessons from the Welisizwe Programme

Session 1H | 09:00-11:00

Theme: MIX

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Lungile Penxa	University of the Western Cape	Enhance citizen participation through social accountability monitoring and advocacy at the local government level, South Africa
Siyasanga Sidumo Zukiswa Roboji	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Enhancing Municipal Governance through Real-Time Digital Monitoring Systems for Municipal Solid Waste Management
Thabo Keith Bob	Regenesys Education	The Persistence of Weak Consequence Management in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality: A Systemic Failure Undermining Operational Integrity

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Nompumelelo Mokoena	Tshwane University of Technology	Public Perceptions and Political Trust in the Madlanga Commission: A Case of Maladministration, Misconduct, and Corruption in Gauteng Province
Anathi Koko Lebohang Seimela	University of Limpopo	Developing Future-Fit Public Service: A Sociological Analysis of the South African Graduate Unemployment Study.
Karabo Mohapanele	University of Zululand	Examining Socio-Economic Barriers to HIV treatment adherence in South Africa

Session 11 | 09:00-11:00

Theme: MIX

Venue: To be announced | Chair: To be announced

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mphathesithe Mkhize; Vuyani Khumalo; Lawrance Abiwu; Simpfiwe Gumede	Mangosuthu University of Technology	Managing Ethical Dilemmas for Good Governance: Insights from Retired Senior Public Officials in South Africa
Revoniah Maboe Arthur Shopola	South African Local Government Association And North West University	Local Economic Development Practitioners as catalysts of change in local government: A Public Entrepreneurship Outlook
Zukiswa Roboji	iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Greening Section 217 of the Constitution to integrate the Sustainable Procurement Model in Water Infrastructure: Policy Analysis

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Andrica Letsoalo Fuze (Pseta)	University of South Africa	Impact of under representation of rural women in the AI and Just Energy Transition in rural South Africa
Primrose Sinazo Gwambe	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Exploring the advancement of human resource business partnering in achieving organisational performance at eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality
Elizabeth Faith Nyaka and Lester Brian Shawa	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Adoption of micro-credentials for public service professionalisation: Insights from senior managers in South Africa

Session 2A | 11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue: To be announced | Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Amukelani Idah Ngobeni Bonga Mdletshe	University of Mpumalanga	Perceptions, Capacity and Digital readiness of Frontline Civil Service: An Empirical Evidence on the Implementation of E-governance in Mbombela Local Municipality
Tatenda Nyabvudzi Willie Chinyamurindi	University of Fort Hare	Digital transformation in the South Africa public sector: Decent work as a psychological mechanism linking ICT practices to employee engagement

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Johan Tesselaar	West Coast District Municipality	From Innovation to Sustainability: A Smart Governance Model for Revenue-Generating Municipalities
Seboka Kopung	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Digital Innovations in Monitoring and Evaluation
Nicholine Silaule; Mutshidzi Silima; and Dimphe Maelane	University of South Africa	Artificial Intelligence Opportunities and Disruptions for public officials in the Department of Home Affairs in South Africa

Session 2B

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Name and Surname	Institution	Topic
Mjikwa Anesipho and Malefetsane Mofolo	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Evaluating the effectiveness of infrastructure development projects in Mquma Local Municipality
Vuli Madonsela	Tshwane University of Technology	Challenges to Equitable Water Provision in Rural South Africa: A Social Justice Investigation of Swalala Settlement
Light Ubisi and Ntwanano Mathebula	University of South Africa and University of Johannesburg	Repositioning Local Economic Development in South African Municipalities: A Theoretical and Conceptual Perspective

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Mashudu Phatudi	Tshwane University of Technology	The effects of the revised preferential procurement policy on supply chain management in a State-Owned Entity: The case of South African National Roads Agency
Caroline Seitshiro	University of Mpumalanga	Planning, Coordination of Service Delivery, and Sustainability of Development with Regards to Water Resources in Rural-Urban Areas: Case Study Driekoppies, South Africa

Session 2C

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Higher Education Governance, Decolonisation and Transformation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Khuliso Kennedy Maimela and Ernest Kanakana Mutenda	PSETA and Institute of Public Sector Ethics and Integrity Management Professionals	Towards a Framework for Post-PhD Deployment and Accountability in South Africa's public sector
Bayanda Mlamleli and Nontsikelelo Ndabeni	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Exploring oral assessment as a strategy to mitigate academic dishonesty in the age of artificial intelligence in higher education: A selected higher education institution

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Vuyani Goodman Langa and Tsholofelo Fanampe	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Decolonising Institutional Power: A Qualitative Case Study of Governance Reform and Africanised Leadership in the Wake of the Rhodes Must Fall Movement in South African Universities
Rich Mashimbye	Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs	Decolonization and the precarity of African epistemology in mainstream South African universities
Luleka Velelo, Pauline Naidoo and Elvis Madondo	Durban University of Technology and University of Johannesburg	Students' Perceptions of Social Media as a Communication Tool at a Selected Higher Education Institution in South Africa
Naledi Mkhombo	Tshwane University of Technology	Factors Affecting the Adoption of Artificial Intelligence in Recruitment Processes within the Public Sector: A Case Study of Labour Centres in Limpopo Province
Matsoku Grace Mohlala	Tshwane University of Technology	Barriers to effective communication in remote work environment, a case study of Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 2D

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Happiness Makofane	University of Limpopo	Contribution of Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Promoting Ecotourism
Brenda Roberts-Tebejane	JB Marks Local Municipality	The role of the Municipalities on tuck-shop regulations affecting the national crisis of the township economy and the global crisis economy
Bongekile Mkhwanazi, Nokukhanya Jili-Mbanjwa and Andrew Enaifoghe	University of Zululand	Enhancing small-scale agricultural sustainability through precision farming: implications for local economic development in Umhlathuze local municipality
Mankolo Xaverine Lethoko	University of Limpopo	Multi-Level marketing based entrepreneurship as a vehicle for economic development job creation in South Africa: A case of Limpopo province

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Dilakane Phasha	Limpopo Legislature	Intersectional Blended Green Economy Framework: A Transformative Model for Strengthening Rural Municipal Planning, Resilience, and Economic Diversification in Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province
Isaac Nkoana and Kgalema Abbyton Mashamaite	University of Limpopo	The Contributions of Small and Medium Enterprises towards poverty reduction in Makweng Townships, University of Limpopo
Zamikhaya Gotyi	University of Fort Hare	Enabling Cooperative Development through Legislation and Policy Implementation: A Case Study of the Chris Hani District Municipality, South Africa

Session 2E

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Name and Surname	Institution	Topic
Kuhle Ntsuke-Ntsuke and Noluthando Matsiliza	University of Fort Hare	Evaluating Quality in the Management of Waste at The Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
Sakiel Monama, Tlou Millicent Ramoroka and Ngoako Johannes Mokoetele	University of Limpopo	The Dynamics of Informal Street Trading Towards Disaster Risk and Infrastructure Damage in South African Cities

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Sipho Mokoena	University of Limpopo	Exploring Water and Sanitation Service Delivery Challenges and Public Financial Management in a Selected District Municipality, Limpopo Province
Tuseku Dieudonne Tumba	Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs	Does Environmental Justice Matter? Spatial location and Service Delivery in South African Municipalities
Aviwe Sityana and Sareesha Pillay	Nelson Mandela University	An Analysis of The Implementation of Batho Pele Principles on Service Delivery Within Public Hospitals: A Case of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality

Session 2F

11:00-13:00

Theme: Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Disebo Modise	Central University of Technology	Self-Efficacy as the Gateway to Entrepreneurship Readiness: Building State Capacity through Creativity, Technological Literacy and Cognitive Capital in South African Higher Education
Ferdinand Niyimbanira and Rachel Nishimwe-Niyimbanira	University of Mpumalanga	Who Borrows What, from Whom? Evidence of institutional Concentration over Competition in Chinese Lending to African Countries

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Sifiso Vilakazi	North-West University	The Price of Green: Examining the Tension Between Sustainable Urban Revitalisation and Social Equity in South African Metros
Mkateko Vivian Mabunda and Andrew Maswanganye	University of South Africa and Department of International Relations and Cooperation	Assessing the Impact of One-Stop Border Posts on Trade Facilitation and Socio-Economic Development in South Africa: A Case Study of Beitbridge, Lebombo, and Oshoek Border Posts
Tshalofelo David Modirapula, Salphinah Vuloyimuni , Ubisi Light and Nkosingiphile Emmanuel Mkhize	University of the Free State and North-West University	Structural Enablers for Positioning the Informal Economy as an Inclusive Growth Strategy within Local Economic Development: Evidence from Selected Global South Cities
Sibusisiwe Ruth Nyoni, David Bogopa, Stephen Mago and Florah.Modiba	Nelson Mandela University	Language as an Institutional Barrier in South African Township Entrepreneurship Ecosystems
Tholakele Nyathi and Buti Lekonyane	University of South Africa	Transforming Housing Delivery in Informal Settlements through Innovative Public Procurement Planning: The Case of Orange Farm Extension 10, City of Johannesburg

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 2G

11:00 - 13:00

Theme: Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability in Urban and Rural Contexts

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Unathi Matyeke	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	From Inputs to Enablement: An Integrated Governance Framework for Learner Retention in South African Quintile 1-3 Schools
Unawo Madyibi	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Assessing the socio-economic potential of the Agro-Industrial Hub in enhancing rural development- A case of Elundini Local Municipality
Tricxy Maureen Ubisi	Tshwane University of Technology	Barriers and Opportunities in the Implementation of South Africa's Child Support Grant Policy: Lessons for Policy Improvement
Eunice Mohapi	University of South Africa	The Desire for Public Service to Align Performance Management System with Organisational Performance.

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Fhatuwani Mudau, Ephraim Mahole and Langanani Mbedzi	University of Venda	Evaluating the Effectiveness of E-Participation in Enhancing Municipal Service Delivery: A Case Study of Thulamela Local Municipality
Siphokazi Willie	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Integrating Informal Community Feedback into Monitoring and Evaluation Systems: A Comparative Study of Urban Informal Settlements and Rural Villages.
Risenga Shilenge, Hasani Elia Zitha and Pandelani Harry Munzhedzi	University of Venda	Strengthening Financial Resource Mobilisation for Service Delivery: Lessons from Vhembe District Municipalities
Meisie Rasakanya	(University of South Africa)	Invisible Infrastructure Failure: Rethinking Municipal Maintenance Policy for Sustainable Service Delivery in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 2H

11:00-13:00

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Phakane Job Phahlamohlaka	Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs	Cadre deployment in the era of coalition politics in local government: a conceptual analysis
Shriya Budhram	PSCBC	From Xolobeni to Makhasaneni: The Role of Law and Community Agency in Shaping Environmental Justice
Kananelo Sekatle	University of Limpopo	The Good Governance Principles on the Administrative Stability of Coalition Government in Lesotho
Mandlenkosi Mphatheni	University of Limpopo	Technological and Social Innovations in the Field of Safety and Security: Interdisciplinary
Jacob Mashishi	Tshwane University of Technology	Assessing Traditional Leaders' Contribution in Curbing Covid-19 Pandemic in Limpopo's Capricorn District
Dorcas Khosa	University of South Africa	Capital Capture: Reflections from the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 2I

11:00-13:00

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Thumeka Mzimeli and Nolukhanyo Metula	University of Fort Hare	Social Media- Driven Digital Transformation in Higher Education: Student Academic Engagement Perspectives
Stanley Ngobeni	Independent Contributor	Climate Change Risks Mitigation: Insights from multiple case studies
Khethiwe Madima	University of Venda	An investigation into the factors and prevalence of divorce in South Africa throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic: 2020 to 2022
Benneth Makgate, Tando Rulashe	University of Mpumalanga	An Exploratory Analysis of Public Financial Management Reforms and Service Delivery: Lessons from a selected provincial department In South Africa
Christian Kayembe and Nkosi Mkhize	University of Johannesburg and North West University	The Government of National Unity in South Africa: A Path to Corruption Risk Aversion or an Amplifier of Governance Vulnerabilities?
Hlengiwe Khoza	Tshwane University of Technology	Exploring the extent of community involvement in the implementation of the indigent policy in Nkomazi Local Municipality

LUNCH

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 3A

14:00 – 16:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Mzwakhe Khasodi	North West University	Multifaceted role of digital technologies in reforming municipal revenue collection: Trends, barriers and prospects in South Africa
Zinhle Angel Khumalo	North-West University	The role of digital transformation in enhancing service delivery: the case of local government
Pertunia Mahlangu and Hlengiwe Zulu	University of Mpumalanga	Reimagining Inclusive Governance in the Digital Age: Bridging Digital Access Gaps in Online Public Service Booking Systems in South Africa
Magoane Jonas Makgoba	University of South Africa	The Role of Procurement Digitalization in Enhancing Supply Chain Responsiveness in the public service of South Africa
Millo Matlawa, Sinelisiwe Thwala; and Motlagabo Matseke	National School of Government	Applying Machine Learning Time Series Models to forecast Household Food Access in South Africa, with the fuel price shock caused by geopolitical instability
Mahlatse Given Sevhake and Costa Hofisi	North-West University	Managerial digital readiness in Smart City implementation as a determinant of governance Success

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 3B

14:00 – 16:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Botshabelo Maja	National School of Government	Self-Governance: Reimagining self ahead of Institutions
Modupi Selepe	University of Limpopo	Commodification of Public Goods: A Structural and Policy Question.
Molefi Matsieli	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Does Government Turnover Undermine Policy Continuity? Insights from E-Government Implementation in Lesotho
Motsumi Onkabetse Levy	Northern Cape Department of Health	Framework to Promote Financial Accountability, Good Governance and Service Delivery Efficiency in Selected Provincial Departments in the Northern Cape Province
Sibahle Sotondoshe	Nelson Mandela University	Professionalising The Management of Service Delivery Protest by Law Enforcement in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro
Langanani Malungani	University of Venda	The Role of Leadership and Governance in Enhancing Sustainable Development in Thulamela Local Municipality
Halima Khunoethe	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)	Early Retirement as a Public Sector Reform Instrument in South Africa
Luvo Mavula	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Aspects that inform the ethical behavior of traditional leaders when exercising their leadership role: In a selected Local Municipality, Eastern Cape

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 3C

14:00 – 16:00

Theme: Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Nandiswa Mpolweni	Durban University of Technology	Assessing effects of coalition governance on the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and its implementation in Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality (NMMM)
Boikanyo Collins Nkwatle, Moraka Shopola	North West University	Politics-administrative interface under municipal coalition-led councils in South Africa: implications for institutional memory
Mandisi Matyana	University of Zululand	Clean audit in municipalities: jubilation or a concern for the citizens?
Chuma Mbaleki	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Political Cycles and Public Expenditure Allocation: Testing the Political Business Cycle Hypothesis in South Africa
Samkele Luyol Mvenganya	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Fostering Democratic Governance Through Citizen Participation: Exploring Pathways for Inclusive Engagement in South Africa: A Case Study of OR Tambo District Municipality

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 3D | 14:00 – 16:00

Theme: Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Venue: | Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Linuxolo Mabuyakhulu	University of Zululand	Assessing The Implementation of the water Governance Framework for water service delivery in uMkhanyakude District Municipality
John Ringson	North-West University	Recalibrating Public Service Architecture in South Africa: A Professionalisation Imperative
Nosiphiwo Nkonki	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Effectiveness of Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators in Monitoring Primary Healthcare Access: Quantitative Insights from the Amathole Health District, South Africa
Josiah Lebakeng	Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs	The role of legislative oversight towards social cohesion and nation-building in Africa
Aleina Mutazu, Ephraim Mahole and Nghamula Nkuna	University of Venda and University of Limpopo	Good governance practices leading to socially just outcomes in Expanded Public Works Program in South Africa
Vumile Mncibi	University of Zululand	The role of women in informal peacebuilding practices in Africa: The Case of South Sudan
Cwenga Mayekiso, Anesimo Mhlonyani	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Decolonising South African Legal Education: Making Indigenous Values the Centre of Legal Education, rather than Roman-Dutch Doctrine
Nosiphiwo Nkonki	IYunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Operational Barriers to Monitoring and Evaluation in Primary Healthcare Systems: Qualitative Evidence from the Amathole Health District, South Africa

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 3E

14:00 – 16:00

Theme: Digital, Smart and Future Governance

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Thabang Bogopa	University of South Africa	An Integrated Digital Intergovernmental Framework for the Legal Control of Explosives in South Africa
Retshidisitswe Lebokollane	Tshwane University of Technology	E-Governance, artificial intelligence and Public sector innovation: How E-governance operates and deliver services
Lehlohonolo Malope	University of the Free State	Addressing Municipal-Level Policy Gaps in South Africa's e-Health Implementation: Challenges and Opportunities
Nkwane Bashio, Lesiba Bennedict Moshoeu	University of South Africa and University of Limpopo	Geopolitical Disruptions and the Digital Economy: Towards Building Economic Resilience Amid Digital Transformation in South Africa
Londeka Nxumalo and Nkanyiso Jalubane	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Gendered Benefits of Moringa Cultivation for Household Food Security and Climate Adaptation in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Itumeleng Tshoose	University of Limpopo	The Readiness of the South African Public Service in Embracing Artificial Intelligence: Dream or Possibility?
Rosinah Pillay	University of Limpopo	Algorithmic Governance in South Africa: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Mitigate Corruption and Improve Public Service Delivery

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 3F

14:00 - 16:00

Theme: Higher Education Governance, Decolonisation and Transformation

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Nompumelelo Dlamini	University of Zululand	Enhancing Public Administration Education through Co-Teaching: Collaborative Pedagogical Practices in Higher Learning Institutions
Thakane Dimpho Maelane, Mutshidzi Silima and Nicholine Silaule	University of South Africa	Bridging the Academic Research-Implementation Gap in South Africa Through Triple Helix Collaboration to Advance Technology Startups
Leo Muntu Sibiya	University of Zululand	Academic Arrogance Towards Emerging Researchers: Implications for Nurture, Knowledge Production, and Scholarly Growth
Nomsa Skosana, Lebogang Boemo and Muzi Matfunjwa	South African Centre for Digital Language Resources	Digital Transformation in Work-Integrated Learning within Higher Education Institutions: A Case Study of the TUT SWiP Project
Ntwanano Mathebula	University of Johannesburg	A Project for Decolonising the Public Administration Curriculum: A Case of South African Institutions of Higher Learning
Asheelia Behari and Phumlani Dlamkile	Durban University of Technology	Promoting innovation through university-government-industry collaboration: Legal and governance perspectives from South Africa
Blessing Ntuli	Mangosuthu University of Technology	Strengthening the capacity and career pathways of student housing professionals

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 3G

14:00 – 16:00

Theme: Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Premlall Ramlachan, Josephine Towani, Joanne Naidoo, Ntebatse Masetla and Zandile Mfeka	MANCOSA and Office of the Premier KZN	Rethinking poverty alleviation: Infrastructure-led social protection and the cost of living in South Africa
Malefetsane Mofolo and Babalo Yekani	Yunivesithi Walter Sisulu	Twenty-Two Years of The EPWP Implementation in South Africa: A Case of The Selected Municipalities of The Eastern Cape Province
Asanda Mazibuko and Mandisi Matyana	University of Zululand	Municipal Systems Act as Catalyst to Promote Local Economic Development in King Cetshwayo District Municipality: A Unique Approach
Nokuthaba Zikhali	University of Mpumalanga	Infrastructure, Digital Innovation, and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Implications for Regional Economic Growth in South Africa
Thembelihle Kunene	University of Mpumalanga	Changing Public-Private Partnerships, Innovation, and Regional Development: A Thematic Review of Infrastructure-Led Growth in Emerging Economies
Delsile Daisy Dlamini	University of Eswatini	Financial Literacy, Institutional Support and Market Orientation among Contracted Baby Vegetable Farmers in Eswatini: Implications for Sustainable Agricultural Development

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 3H

14:00-16:00

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Dee Khosa	University of South Africa	Capture in the Capital City: A case reflection of the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry
Jennifer Ngcobo	Mangosuthu University of Technology	Transformative Work-Integrated Learning: A Synergistic Industry–University Approach to Graduate Preparedness in South African.
Lungelo Zulu	North-West University	Exploring the Governance and Risk Environment in South African Municipalities: A Systematic Literature Review
Ngudo Muthomi and Maluta Khomola	University of Venda	Economic Growth Through Public-Private Partnerships: Rethinking Collaboration for Development
Paul Shimane Radikonyana	Municipal Demarcation Board	Water tankers a sustainable access to drinkable and portable water in urban areas or "Mafia-like" business? The case of Hammanskraal in Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality
Dikeledi Patience Matlala	Tshwane University of Technology	Examining Democratic Property Rights on Traditional Leadership and Land Allocation in Moletji Tribal Authority, Limpopo Province

Friday , 02 October 2026

DAY 5

Session 11

14:00-16:00

Theme: MIX

Venue:

Chair:

Full Names	Institution	Topic
Bright Muronda	Sol Plaatje University	An e-participation framework to promote public participation in municipal decision-making
Khathutshelo Matshela	Tshwane University of Technology	The use of Financial Disclosure to promote a corrupt-free public service
Lulamile Hanabe	Nelson Mandela University	The Ethos of Public's Right to Know: The Human Right Factor for Meaningful Citizen Participation
Guswin de Wee and Amina Jakoet-Salie	University of the Western Cape and Nelson Mandela University	The potential contributions and implications of civil society organizations to policy and governance: insights from a South African case
Babayo Sule	University of Namibia	Christian Genocide Narratives/Framing and the Question of Nigerian Sovereignty
Phuti Manamela, Mogotsi Maleka and Masindi Mashapha	Tshwane University of Technology	Determinants of Job Satisfaction Among the Administrative Staff Members: The Case of Higher Education Institutions in South Africa

saturday , 03 October 2026

DAY 6