

Strengthening Partnerships, Advancing Knowledge and Driving Public Sector Innovation

Presidency's Message

As we conclude the second quarter of 2026, we reflect on a period marked by continued growth, collaboration and meaningful progress. Building on the strong foundation established earlier in the year, SAAPAM has strengthened strategic partnerships, advanced research and professional development initiatives and continued to create platforms that promote knowledge sharing and innovation within the public administration sector.

This quarter has also seen significant momentum in preparations for our flagship programmes and engagements, reinforcing our commitment to fostering ethical leadership, good governance and a capable public service. Through collaboration with government, academia and practitioners, SAAPAM remains dedicated to advancing evidence-based practice and contributing to the continuous improvement of public administration.

The highlights featured in this edition reflect the collective efforts of our members, partners and stakeholders in driving positive change. As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening collaboration, inspiring excellence and shaping a resilient, responsive, and citizen-centred public sector.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to creating opportunities that inspire innovation, encourage engagement and ensure that governance in South Africa is guided by competence, accountability and forward-thinking solutions.



Prof. Nokukhanya Jili-Mbanjwa

Together, we continue to shape a public administration that not only responds to the challenges of today but also anticipates the demands of tomorrow.

Through collective effort, shared vision and sustained dedication, SAAPAM will continue to champion transformation, uphold governance excellence and support a public service that delivers effectively for all South Africans.

A Message from the Executive Director



Prof. John Molepo

As we conclude the second quarter of 2026, I am encouraged by the continued progress and momentum that have characterised SAAPAM's work over the past few months. This quarter has been defined by strengthened partnerships, meaningful collaboration and initiatives that continue to advance professional excellence, research and ethical leadership within the public administration sector.

Our engagements with government institutions, academia, practitioners, and strategic partners have reinforced the value of working together to address the evolving challenges facing public administration. As preparations for our flagship programmes and the 25th Annual Conference gained momentum, we continued to create opportunities for knowledge exchange, professional development and research that contribute to building a capable and responsive public service.

The achievements highlighted in this edition reflect the collective commitment of our members, partners and stakeholders to advancing good governance and strengthening the public administration profession. As we look ahead to the remainder of the year, we remain dedicated to fostering collaboration, driving innovation and empowering current and future public sector leaders to make a meaningful impact in society.

Memorandum of Understanding Marks New Chapter for Sustainable Leadership and Development

16 APRIL 2026

SAAPAM successfully hosted a Leadership and Sustainability Dialogue in collaboration with the University of Limpopo and the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), bringing together key stakeholders committed to advancing sustainable development within the public sector. The engagement provided a platform for meaningful exchange on the intersection of leadership, governance and long-term socio-economic growth.

A core highlight of the event was the official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), marking a significant milestone in bridging academic excellence with practical economic implementation. From the opening remarks delivered by Professor Omphemetse S. Sibanda to the robust panel discussion moderated by Mr Mngqobi B. Njoko, discussions emphasised a shared understanding that sustainable development is driven by visionary leadership and collaborative partnerships.

The SAAPAM Limpopo Chapter reaffirmed its commitment to fostering and participating in platforms where policy meets practice, reinforcing its role in promoting professionalisation, knowledge exchange and impactful public administration



Launch of CPUT SAAPAM Student Chapter

16 -17 APRIL 2026

The Executive Director John Molepo, together with the Media and Communications team, visited the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) to introduce SAAPAM and strengthen networks beyond the organisation's traditional scope of engagement. The visit provided a platform to present SAAPAM's mandate and its role in shaping the public sector through professionalisation, research and knowledge-sharing, while fostering meaningful collaboration with the academic community.

The engagement highlighted the value of SAAPAM membership across all levels from students entering the field to experienced practitioners and dignitaries and emphasised opportunities for networking, professional development and thought leadership. This outreach reflects SAAPAM's commitment to expanding its footprint, building sustainable partnerships and nurturing a strong professional community dedicated to advancing effective governance.

By engaging with students, lecturers and institutional stakeholders, the interaction reinforced the importance of cultivating future public administration professionals while promoting a shared commitment to ethical leadership, accountability and service excellence. This outreach reflects SAAPAM's dedication to building sustainable partnerships, broadening its influence and nurturing an inclusive professional community that contributes meaningfully to the advancement of governance and public sector transformation.



Prof Rozenda Hendrickse and Prof John Molepo

Masters and Doctoral Orientation

29 April 2026

SAAPAM Executive Director attended the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Faculty of Humanities Master's and Doctoral Orientation Programme, reaffirming the Association's commitment to advancing research, innovation and professional development within the public administration sector.

The programme brought together postgraduate students, academics, and research leaders to explore the critical role of research in addressing contemporary societal challenges. Discussions centred on the intersection of technology, language, ethics, innovation and governance, encouraging students to produce research that is inclusive, socially responsive and capable of shaping policy and public sector transformation. The programme also provided valuable guidance on research ethics, academic support services, funding opportunities, statistical analysis, mental health, international collaboration and entrepreneurship.

For SAAPAM, participation in this initiative reflects its ongoing commitment to strengthening the link between academia and public administration. By supporting platforms that cultivate critical thinking, ethical scholarship and evidence-based research, SAAPAM continues to contribute to the development of future public sector leaders and researchers who will play a pivotal role in advancing good governance, innovation, and sustainable development in South Africa.



Prof John Molepo with students

SAAPAM Participates in the 10th Edition Research Seminar

04 - 06 MAY 2026

The successful conclusion of the 10th Edition Research Seminar marked another significant milestone in advancing public administration scholarship and practice across Africa. Bringing together government officials, academics, researchers, practitioners and development partners, the seminar provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration and meaningful dialogue on the future of governance.

From the opening day, the seminar fostered an environment where critical conversations could flourish. Discussions explored key issues affecting the public sector, including governance, ethical leadership, digital transformation, socio-economic justice, collaborative governance and state resilience. These conversations highlighted the importance of evidence-based research and innovative thinking in addressing complex public sector challenges.

At its core, SAAPAM is committed to building and sustaining meaningful relationships that extend beyond a single engagement. The organisation was proud to be represented by its delegation, including SAAPAM President Prof. Kgothatso Shai, Executive Director Prof. John Molepo, Nathan Ong from the Chandler Institute of Governance and Western Cape Coordinator Prof. Rozenda Hendrickse. Their participation reflected SAAPAM's ongoing commitment to promoting professional excellence, collaboration and thought leadership within the public administration sector.

As one of the seminar exhibitors, SAAPAM had the opportunity to showcase its programmes, initiatives and contributions to the professionalisation of public administration. The exhibition strengthened the organisation's visibility while creating opportunities to establish new partnerships and engage with stakeholders from government, academia and regional institutions.

The seminar demonstrated that meaningful progress is achieved through collaboration. By encouraging the exchange of ideas and practical experiences, it reinforced the value of partnerships in strengthening governance systems and building capable, ethical and responsive public institutions.

SAAPAM extends its sincere appreciation to the organisers, speakers, delegates and partner institutions whose contributions made the seminar a success. The relationships strengthened, insights shared and collective commitment demonstrated throughout the seminar continue to inspire a shared vision for advancing public administration and governance across the African continent.



Future Bureaucrats Urged to Lead South Africa's Industrial Transformation at NMU Student Chapter Launch

08 MAY 2026

The Nelson Mandela University (NMU) South campus auditorium became a hub of strategic discourse this Friday as the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) officially launched its NMU Student Chapter. The event, held on 8 May 2026, centered on the theme: "From Policy to Impact: How Public Administration Can Drive Industrialisation and Competitive Markets in South Africa."

The launch was hailed as an extreme success, marking a pivotal moment for the NMU Department of Public Management and Leadership as it seeks to bridge the gap between academic theory and the practical demands of national development.

A Call for "Professional Cadres"

In a keynote address that was both candid and intellectually rigorous, Zuko Godlimpi, Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, challenged students to look beyond technical qualifications. Godlimpi argued that South Africa's industrial strategy, resting on the pillars of economic diversification, digitalisation and decarbonisation, cannot be realised by politicians alone.

"Industrialisation in the 21st century will not be achieved through slogans," Godlimpi noted. He emphasised the need for a "cadre" of professional bureaucrats, a term he used in its classical sense to describe a corps of experts with the moral and strategic discipline to shield the state from political flux.



SAAPAM student chapter launch

The "Chinese Jackpot" and Strategic Autonomy
Drawing heavily on international experiences, Godlimpi pointed to the East Asian model, specifically China, as evidence of how a capable bureaucracy can harness "creative destruction" to outpace global competitors. He observed that while South African politicians are often preoccupied with the 2029 electoral cycle, the Chinese system allows for "learning by doing" and the ability to fail fast to improve laws.

SAAPAM meets with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation



Nelson Mandela University students

He noted that for South Africa to hit its own "jackpot," the public service must remain stable even when political leadership changes.

We need a bureaucrat that thinks about the future of the country, regardless of who is in political office."

Addressing the "Crisis of the Pipeline"

The lecture did not shy away from the darker realities of current public administration. Godlimpi addressed the findings of various Commissions of Inquiry, noting a "troubling crisis" where formal education has failed to protect against corruption. He criticized the "culture of continuous consumption" among young professionals, warning that the desire for immediate wealth often leads to criminal association.

"Our universities are producing an army of technically minded thugs," he warned, pointing out that behind every major corruption scandal is often a skilled accountant, engineer, or lawyer.

The successful launch was a collaborative effort involving several key regional institutions, including the University of Fort Hare, Walter Sisulu University and the Coega Development Corporation. Other distinguished speakers included Themba Koza, CEO of Coega and Nobathembu Uhuru Koko, a Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Councillor.

As the event concluded, the message to the new SAAPAM student chapter was clear: the future of South Africa's credibility and its ability to disprove "Afro-pessimism" rests on their ability to become technically competent, ethically grounded and strategically disciplined leaders.



SAAPAM and DPME

The South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) met with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) to strengthen its strategic partnership and explore collaborative initiatives aimed at advancing public administration and governance. The meeting provided an opportunity for both organisations to reflect on the progress of the current internship programme, share feedback on its implementation and discuss opportunities to enhance future internship initiatives that continue to develop the next generation of public sector professionals.

Discussions also explored the possibility of introducing a **Breakfast Show** a collaborative platform designed to unpack trending political and public policy issues, encourage informed dialogue and promote knowledge sharing among academics, practitioners, policymakers and the broader public. The initiative aims to create an accessible space for critical discussions on governance and contemporary public sector challenges.

The meeting further focused on preparations for the upcoming SAAPAM Annual Conference, with both organisations outlining their expectations, priorities and areas of collaboration to ensure the success of the flagship event. Emphasis was placed on strengthening stakeholder engagement, supporting knowledge exchange and delivering a conference that contributes meaningfully to research, policy and professional practice.

The engagement reaffirmed the strong partnership between SAAPAM and DPME and their shared commitment to fostering innovation, professional development and collaborative leadership. Through continued cooperation, both organisations remain dedicated to strengthening institutional capacity and advancing ethical, responsive and evidence-based governance in South Africa.

Strengthening Collaboration for Public Administration Excellence

02 June 2026

On the second of June 2026 Prof Somadoda Fikeni met with SAAPAM leadership, including Kgothatso Shai and John Molepo, to review the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and chart a strategic path forward for collaboration. The meeting is attended by Public Service Commission South Africa (PSC) Commissioners, the ADG and SAAPAM officials, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening partnerships and advancing initiatives that promote excellence in public administration and management.

Through this engagement, both institutions are exploring key partnership projects, including collaborative research, academic publishing, knowledge-sharing initiatives and preparations for upcoming programmes and conferences aimed at contributing to the development of the public sector.



Prof Somadoda Fikeni The CEO of Public Service Commision



SAAPAM and PSC representatives

Youth Day 2026 | Taking the NQF to the People

16 June 2026

In commemoration of Youth Day 2026, the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) proudly participated in the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) Career Expo held at Phagameng High School in Modimolle, Limpopo. The event formed part of SAQA's #NQFToThePeople initiative, which aims to bring education, career guidance and qualification information directly to communities, particularly those in rural and underserved areas.

Youth Day remains one of South Africa's most significant national commemorations, honouring the courage, resilience and sacrifice of the young people who stood against inequality during the 1976 Soweto Uprising. Their legacy continues to inspire efforts to create a society where every young person has access to quality education, equal opportunities and the resources needed to realise their full potential.

The Career Expo provided learners, parents and community members with valuable information on educational pathways, career opportunities and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Through direct engagement with exhibitors and education stakeholders, attendees were equipped with the knowledge required to make informed decisions about their future studies and careers. The initiative also plays an important role in raising awareness about accredited qualifications and protecting prospective students from fraudulent institutions and misleading qualification claims.



Phagameng High School pupils



SAAPAM exhibition

As an organisation committed to advancing excellence in public administration and governance across Africa, SAAPAM recognises that investing in young people is an investment in the future of the country. Empowering youth through education, professional development and access to credible information contributes to building capable institutions, ethical leadership and sustainable development.

SAAPAM's participation in the Career Expo reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting initiatives that promote lifelong learning, skills development and public sector professionalism. By engaging directly with learners and communities, the organisation continues to encourage young people to pursue meaningful educational and career opportunities while fostering a culture of informed decision-making.

Events such as the #NQFToThePeople Career Expo demonstrate the power of collaboration between public institutions, professional bodies and education stakeholders in expanding access to opportunity. As South Africa commemorates Youth Day, SAAPAM remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that empower the next generation of leaders, strengthen communities and contribute to building a knowledgeable, capable and inclusive society for all.

Congatulation Moments for a Public Servant and a Student

Each year, the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) opens its Essay Competition as a platform for students and public servants alike to engage critically with the challenges facing governance in South Africa. The competition exists not merely as an academic exercise, but as a bridge between research and practice, one that invites emerging and established voices to translate ideas into contributions capable of shaping a more professional, accountable and capable public sector. This year's winners reflect exactly that spirit.

Jonathan Msweli: Confronting the Accountability Deficit

SAAPAM proudly congratulates Jonathan Msweli, a Database Administrator (Client Liaison) at the Council for Geoscience, on being selected as a successful candidate in the SAAPAM Public Servants Essay Competition.

Jonathan's essay, titled "**The Consequence Management Deficit (Institutional Failure to Hold Officials Accountable): A Blueprint for Restoring Accountability in South Africa's Public Sector,**" confronts one of the most pressing challenges in public administration today: the gap between policy and consequence and what must be done to close it. His work earned him the opportunity to present at the 25th Annual SAAPAM Conference in Durban, with SAAPAM covering his flights and accommodation in recognition of the calibre of his contribution.

Jonathan's achievement speaks to a deeper commitment: that of a public servant using his own platform and expertise to advance accountability and good governance from within the system he serves. SAAPAM congratulates him on this well-deserved recognition and wishes him every success as he takes his ideas to the national stage.



Jonathan Msweli

Imenathi Faku: A Rising Voice in Public Administration

SAAPAM also congratulates Imenathi Faku, a third-year Public Administration student at the University of Fort Hare, on winning the SAAPAM Essay Competition with her exploration of professionalising governance for sustainable growth in South Africa.

Imenathi entered the competition to deepen her understanding of what it means to professionalise public administration, and the role this plays in building an effective, ethical and capable government. With aspirations of one day joining the public service, she saw the competition as a natural extension of her academic journey, an opportunity to turn research into practical ideas that could inform real governance challenges. She first learned of the competition through her Public Administration lecturer and embraced it as a platform to bridge scholarship and practice.



Imenathi Faku

SAAPAM and PSETA Strengthen Strategic Partnership to Advance Public Sector Professionalisation

20 July 2026

The South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) recently held a high-level strategic bilateral meeting with the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) at the PSETA Head Office in Pretoria. The engagement marks an important milestone in strengthening the long-standing partnership between the two institutions, united by a shared vision of building a capable, ethical and developmental public service.

The meeting centred on reviewing the progress of the existing partnership, evaluating the impact of collaborative initiatives to date, and identifying both achievements and areas requiring improvement. Through open dialogue and strategic planning, SAAPAM and PSETA explored opportunities to deepen their collaboration in support of skills development, professionalisation and capacity building within South Africa's public sector.

By aligning SAAPAM's extensive academic and professional networks with PSETA's mandate to facilitate skills planning, education, training and workforce development, both organisations reaffirmed their shared commitment to developing competent public servants equipped to meet the evolving needs of government and society.

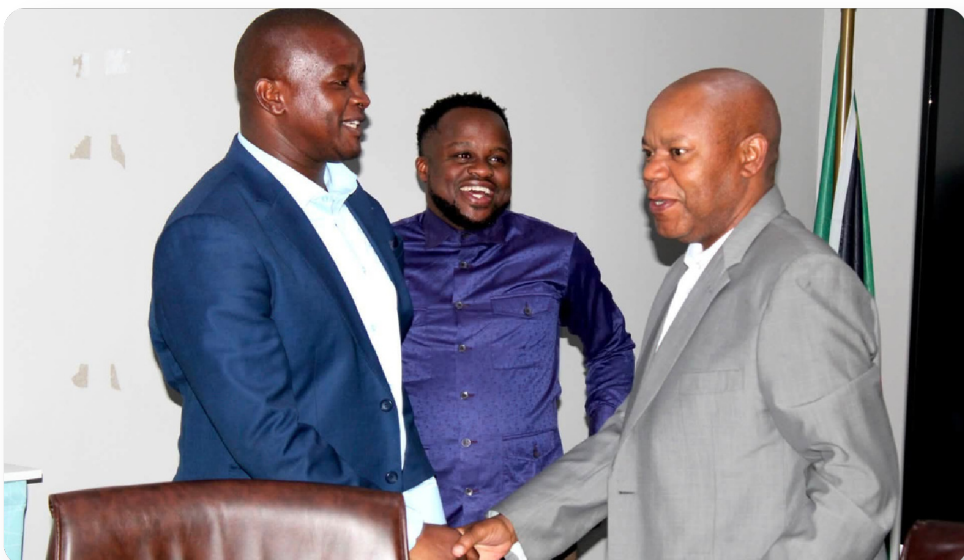
Senior Leadership United in Common Purpose

The engagement was hosted by PSETA Chief Executive Officer, Ms Bontle Lerumo and SAAPAM Executive Director, Prof John Molepo, bringing together senior leadership and key decision-makers from both organisations. Discussions focused on strengthening strategic alignment, improving programme implementation and identifying innovative approaches to maximise the impact of joint initiatives. The meeting further reflected a shared commitment to advancing the professionalisation of the public service through sustainable partnerships, knowledge exchange, research and skills development.



A Partnership Rooted in National Purpose

As South Africa continues to strengthen governance and public administration, collaborations of this nature remain critical in ensuring that public servants are equipped with the knowledge, competencies and ethical leadership required to deliver quality services to citizens. SAAPAM values its partnership with PSETA and looks forward to expanding collaborative initiatives that contribute meaningfully to the development of a professional, capable and responsive public service.



SAAPAM Mpumalanga Chapter Launches Inaugural Conference with a Call to Reimagine Governance

30-31 July 2026

Day 1

The South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) officially convened its inaugural Mpumalanga Chapter Conference at the UMP Tfokomala Hotel & Conference Centre, bringing together academics, policymakers, public servants and governance practitioners under the timely theme: "Development, Economic Growth, Local Government Elections and Sustainability: Reimagining Public Trust and Building Strong Institutions."

The conference opened with an atmosphere of enthusiasm and intellectual engagement as delegates gathered to exchange ideas on strengthening public institutions and advancing ethical, developmental governance. The programme officially moved into Plenary Session 1, where participants explored practical solutions to the governance challenges facing municipalities across South Africa.

Following the morning's opening addresses, Dr Tando Rulashe transitioned the programme into one of the conference's flagship engagements, Plenary Panel 1: The General Manager's Forum, focusing on "Reimagining Governance, Leadership and Institutional Renewal."

Facilitated by Dr Johannes Mulaudzi, General Manager for City Planning and Development at the City of Mbombela Municipality, the panel featured senior municipal leaders who brought extensive practical experience to the discussion:

- **Ms Nadia Ngwamba, General Manager:** Technical Services, City of Mbombela Municipality
- **Ms Penelope Sibisi, General Manager:** Planning and Development, Nkomazi Local Municipality
- **Mr Trevor Rikhotso, General Manager:** Local Economic Development and Planning, Thaba Chweu Local Municipality



The panel moved beyond theoretical discussions to examine the realities confronting local government. Speakers reflected on persistent service delivery challenges, strategic spatial planning, local economic development opportunities and the urgent need for institutional renewal to rebuild public confidence in municipalities.

Throughout the session, panelists emphasised that sustainable governance requires capable leadership, accountable institutions and collaborative planning that responds directly to community needs. Delegates engaged actively with the discussion, reinforcing the importance of knowledge-sharing between practitioners and academics in strengthening governance systems.

The opening day set a strong foundation for the conference, highlighting SAAPAM's commitment to fostering evidence-based dialogue that informs policy, strengthens leadership and contributes to building resilient public institutions capable of driving sustainable development.

SAAPAM Mpumalanga Conference Day Two Strengthens Leadership, Research and Scholarly Excellence

Day Two of the inaugural SAAPAM Mpumalanga Chapter Conference continued the momentum established on the opening day, with delegates returning to the UMP Tfokomala Hotel & Conference Centre for a programme centred on leadership, scholarship and the future of local governance.

Proceedings were directed by Dr Jackindah Mokgokong as Programme Director, while Professor Kedibone Phago chaired the morning session. Following networking over tea, delegates participated in the SAAPAM Mpumalanga Chapter Elections, led by Professor John Molepo, marking an important milestone in strengthening the chapter's organisational leadership and governance.

The programme then transitioned into Plenary Panel 2: Local Government, where distinguished speakers explored the relationship between governance, sustainability and institutional development.

Professor Kedibone Phago Dean at the University of Mpumalanga, speaking to international relations in a changing global order, reflected on international relations and their implications for governance in an evolving global landscape. Drawing from his extensive academic and editorial experience, he also encouraged researchers to contribute to the Journal of Public Administration (JOPA), SAAPAM's flagship academic journal.

Professor Phago reminded prospective authors that quality research begins with careful adherence to submission guidelines. While editors remain committed to supporting authors, compliance with editorial requirements ensures an efficient peer-review process and upholds the journal's academic standards. He further highlighted JOPA's broad scope, welcoming both research articles and opinion pieces that contribute meaningfully to public administration scholarship.

The discussion on scholarly publishing continued under the chairpersonship of Mr Joseph Mudau, who delivered an inspiring message to emerging researchers and students. He encouraged young scholars not to allow valuable research to remain unpublished but to take advantage of available publication platforms and seek support throughout the submission process.

Building on this message, Dr Tando Rulashe introduced the Journal of Local Government Research and Innovation, outlining its growing contribution to municipal research. He explained the journal's editorial process, from initial compliance checks to peer review, while emphasising the importance of constructive reviewer feedback in maintaining academic quality.

Dr Rulashe also announced the journal's collaboration with the 2026 SAAPAM Conference through a special issue publication, providing conference participants with an important opportunity to publish research that informs policy and practice in local government.



Complementing these discussions were presentations by Mr Nathi Nkonyane, Chief Executive Officer of the Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency, who explored pathways towards sustainable development and stronger public institutions.

Collectively, the second day reaffirmed SAAPAM's commitment to nurturing both leadership and scholarship. By creating spaces where experienced practitioners, academics and emerging researchers engage collaboratively, the conference continues to strengthen the knowledge base that supports capable, ethical and developmental governance across South Africa.



NEW ELECTED MEMBERS OF MPUMALANGA CHAPTER

1. Mr Joseph Mudau : *Chairperson of SAAPAM Mpumalanga Chapter*
2. Dr Thandi Ngomane : *Deputy Chairperson of SAAPAM Mpumalanga Chapter*
3. Dr Tando Rulashe : *Secretary of SAAPAM Mpumalanga Chapter*
4. Ms Perseverance Mculu : *Deputy Secretary of SAAPAM Mpumalanga Chapter*
5. Dr Bonga Mdletshe : *Treasurer of SAAPAM Mpumalanga Chapter*

Conference Update | SAAPAM 25th Annual Conference 2026

Preparations for the 25th Annual SAAPAM Conference are progressing exceptionally well as excitement continues to build ahead of the gathering at the Durban International Convention Centre from 27 September to 3 October 2026. Under the conference theme, **"Growth and Sustainability through Improved Governance: Reimagining Institutions, Leadership and Development in a Changing World,"** the conference promises to bring together leading academics, policymakers, public servants, researchers and governance practitioners from across South Africa and beyond.

The scientific programme has attracted an overwhelming response, with +1000 abstracts successfully received across a broad range of themes, including governance and leadership, digital transformation, service delivery, sustainable development, local government, higher education, economic growth and public sector innovation. The quality and diversity of submissions reflect the growing interest in advancing evidence-based public administration and strengthening governance through research.

Delegates can look forward to several high-level plenary sessions featuring distinguished leaders from government, academia and the public sector. Highlights include the Opening Session with keynote addresses by national leadership, followed by the Director-General's Panel, bringing together senior executives from the **Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)**, **Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)**, **Public Service Commission (PSC)**, **National School of Government (NSG)**, **Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA)**, provincial governments and other strategic institutions to discuss the future of governance and public service reform.

The conference will also feature the **Professor Vil-Nkomo Lecture**, delivered by **Professor Mashupye Maserumule** as well as the highly anticipated plenary on Accountability and Service Delivery, featuring the **Public Protector, the Auditor-General of South Africa and the Statistician-General**. These discussions will focus on strengthening ethical governance, improving accountability and enhancing public trust through evidence-based policymaking and effective public service delivery.

Beyond the academic programme, SAAPAM continues to strengthen its strategic footprint through numerous policy engagements with key government departments, higher education institutions, professional bodies and development partners. These engagements continue to reinforce collaborative approaches to professionalising the public service, strengthening institutional capacity and advancing sustainable governance across South Africa.

As the conference draws closer, SAAPAM remains committed to delivering a world-class platform for knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and professional networking. Delegates can expect an engaging programme of plenaries, parallel sessions, workshops, networking opportunities and strategic discussions that will contribute meaningfully to building capable, ethical and developmental public institutions.

Celebrating Excellence: Congratulations to SAAPAM Members on Attaining Their Doctoral Qualifications

The South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) proudly extends its heartfelt congratulations to the following members on achieving the highest academic qualification: the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) between 2024-2026.

This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to your dedication, perseverance, intellectual excellence and unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge in public administration, governance and related disciplines. Your achievements not only represent personal milestones but also strengthen South Africa's academic community and contribute to the professionalisation of the public service.

SAAPAM is honoured to celebrate the following distinguished members:

Dr Bonga Mdletshe
Dr Phumlani Dlamkile
Dr Buyani Nkabinde
Dr Shilenga Resenga Richard
Dr Malope Mabogoane
Dr Hlengiwe Khoza
Dr Tshimangadzo Azwianewi Reuben Mabilu
Dr Leonia Tafelo Ramataboe
Dr Babalwa Faith Vellem
Dr Trixy Maureen Ubisi
Dr Bonolo Letlape
Dr Maxhobandile Ndamase
Dr Nyawo Gumede
Dr Shangolirimini Demana
Dr James Ndlovu
Dr Thato Motswakae

Dr Sibusisiwe Nyoni
Dr Tshedza Tshivhasa Sikhwari
Dr La-Portia Mhlangu-Matjila
Dr Onkabetse Levy Motsumi
Dr Meisie Alphinah Rasakanya
Dr Kgotola Charles Khotsa
Dr Maela Khutso Delphus
Dr Leo Muntu Sibiya
Dr Salaelo John Mabeba
Dr Jabu H. Mphurpi
Dr Eunice Chesa
Dr Mandisi Matyana
Dr Zolani Tafeni
Dr Neo Mofokeng
Dr Nokonwaba Andiswa Gcume
Dr Sifundo Mdhuli
Dr Lukman

Your achievements embody the values that SAAPAM champions academic excellence, ethical leadership, innovation and a commitment to building capable, professional and developmental public institutions. As scholars, researchers and practitioners, your expertise will continue to shape policy, strengthen governance and inspire future generations of public administrators.

We celebrate this significant milestone with you and your families and wish you continued success as you contribute to transforming public administration through research, leadership and service. We look forward to your continued engagement within the SAAPAM community as we work collectively towards advancing knowledge, strengthening institutions and promoting excellence in governance.

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement. May your doctoral journey be the foundation for even greater impact in academia, the public sector and society at large.

New Appointments and Announcements

SAAPAM is pleased to announce the following appointments made during the first quarter, reflecting the organisation's continued commitment to strengthening leadership capacity, enhancing governance structures, and advancing its strategic objectives. These appointments bring diverse expertise and renewed energy to the organisation, further supporting SAAPAM's mandate to promote excellence, professionalisation, administration and management.

1. *Dr BYC Mvuyana on her Appointment as Head of Department at Mangosuthu University of Technology*
2. *Prof Kgothatso Shai awarded a DSTI/NRF SAPChI on Liberation Heritage and Politics*
3. *Dr Benjamin Rapanyane on his appointment as Research Associate Professor in North West University AGoPA Research entity*
4. *Nduduzo Ndebeleon Joining the North West University as the Associate Professor*
5. *Prof Thanyani Mazhivandila has been awarded the DSTI/NRF-SASOL Foundation Research Chair in Development Studies- Environmental and Socio-Economic Sustainability*

Honouring the Life and Legacy of Dr Phumlani Dlamkile



The South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) joins the public administration community in mourning the passing of Dr Phumlani Dlamkile, a respected scholar, dedicated public servant and committed member of the Association.

Dr Dlamkile was an active participant in SAAPAM's programmes and conferences, where he consistently contributed to advancing scholarship, professional dialogue and innovative thinking within the field of public administration. His passion for strengthening governance, promoting ethical leadership and supporting the development of future public sector professionals earned him the admiration of colleagues, students and fellow practitioners alike.

Throughout his engagement with SAAPAM, Dr Dlamkile demonstrated an unwavering commitment to knowledge sharing and collaborative learning. His thoughtful contributions to academic discourse and policy conversations enriched the Association's mission of promoting excellence, professionalism and good governance in South Africa's public sector.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr Dlamkile will be remembered for his humility, generosity and willingness to mentor emerging scholars. His dedication to building capable institutions and nurturing the next generation of public administration professionals leaves a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of working alongside him.

As we reflect on his remarkable life and service, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and the broader academic community. May they find comfort in the enduring impact of his work and the countless lives he touched through his leadership, scholarship and commitment to public service.

May his soul rest in eternal peace. His contribution to SAAPAM and to the advancement of public administration will be remembered with deep gratitude and respect.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **SAAPAM student Seminar:** 14 August 2026 “*Beyond the classroom: Unlocking professional growth in the public sector through SAAPAM*”
2. **PSETA and SAAPAM Womens event:** 14 August 2026 “*Inspiring change through Women’s Leadership: Professionalizing the Public Service for a better tomorrow*”



SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
Eastern Cape Chapter
**OPEN
CONFERENCE**

THEME Rethinking Governance for Africa's Transformation:
Homegrown Systems for Contemporary Challenges

19-20 AUGUST 2026 UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE
KUGOMPO CITY

Dr s Lungisa 072 148 6078
saapam.ecchapter@gmail.com

SAAPAM University of Fort Hare NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY Walter Sisulu



CONFERENCE
INVITATION

The SAAPAM EC Chapter is pleased to invite the submission of original research papers for presentation at the upcoming SAAPAM EC Chapter Open Conference scheduled for 19–20 August 2026.

The conference will be hosted by the University of Fort Hare in collaboration with Nelson Mandela University and iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu at the Early Childhood Development Centre, University of Fort Hare.

The conference aims to convene academics, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, students and professionals from various disciplines to foster the exchange of knowledge, engage in critical discourse on emerging trends and explore innovative and sustainable solutions to contemporary governance and developmental challenges.

SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
Eastern Cape Chapter

SAAPAM University of Fort Hare NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY Walter Sisulu



SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME
27 September - 03 October 2026
Durban International Convention Centre

Conference Theme

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

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