CALL FOR ABSTRACT

EXHIBITORS & COLLABORATORS:
The Limpopo Research Forum in collabroration with SAAPAM is inviting you to the:

4th **Annual**

LRF Conference in Collaboration with SAAPAM

10th - 12th March 2027

Karibu Leisure Resort, Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Mopani District, Limpopo Province, South Africa

To register click here: https://bookings.limpopo.gov.za/lrf/

BACKGROUND

Innovation for inclusive growth and community resilience is increasingly important as communities, economies and institutions respond to complex social, economic and environmental challenges. Across the world, governments are seeking new approaches to improve people's wellbeing, strengthen livelihoods, create employment and build communities that can withstand and adapt to change. The 2027 LRF conference, themed "Innovation for Inclusive Growth and Community Resilience: Designing Pathways for Sustainable Community Development and Service Delivery," reflects Limpopo Province's commitment to inclusive, locally responsive and sustainable development. It seeks to translate innovation into tangible improvements in the lives of communities.

This theme is situated within the broader objective of building resilient communities and strengthening the foundations for inclusive and sustainable development. In Limpopo Province, this requires greater attention to human and social development through stronger primary healthcare, improved health outcomes, food security and resilient livelihoods. The integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), traditional medicine, indigenous crops, biotechnology and appropriate technologies can support locally relevant solutions to health and development challenges. It can also create opportunities for innovation, enterprise development and employment. Complementing these efforts, climate-smart agriculture, drought resilience, support for small-holder farmers, Agri-technology and agro-processing can strengthen food systems, expand local value chains and stimulate rural economies. Together, these interventions can improve community wellbeing, strengthen livelihoods and contribute to inclusive economic transformation.

Innovation for inclusive Growth & Community Resilience: Designing Pathways for Sustainable Community Development & Service Delivery

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Limpopo's development potential is also closely linked to its natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage. Renewable energy, responsible mining, circular economy practices, tourism, conservation and the wildlife economy offer opportunities for economic diversification, green jobs and community beneficiation. Digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics and Industry 4.0 can further strengthen public services, institutions and economic participation. Realising these opportunities requires inclusive digital access, appropriate infrastructure, responsible innovation and a skilled workforce. Stronger alignment between universities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, industry and government are therefore essential to advancing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), entrepreneurship, work-integrated learning and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) skills that respond to provincial priorities and prepare communities for the future economy.

Resilient and inclusive development also depends on reliable infrastructure, strong community systems and sustainable environmental management. Investment in transport, water, energy, human settlements, digital connectivity, smart infrastructure, and artisan and engineering skills can strengthen service delivery and economic participation. These investments can also support township and rural economies, cooperatives, youth and gender inclusion, social cohesion and locally driven innovation. Biodiversity protection, climate adaptation, land rehabilitation and sustainable resource management are equally important for building resilient communities and economies. These approaches can also create opportunities for green jobs, sustainable livelihoods and innovation.

The theme therefore shifts the focus from dialogue to delivery, with particular emphasis on research, innovation and partnerships that support implementation and demonstrate measurable impact. It responds to the Limpopo Provincial Research and Innovation (LPRI) Agenda 2025–2030 and the priorities of the 7th Administration and Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024–2029, particularly inclusive growth and job creation, reducing poverty and the high cost of living, and building a capable, ethical and developmental state. It further positions research and innovation as key enablers of the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025–2030, National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supporting implementation, monitoring, evidence-based decision-making and improved service delivery..

To make sense of the above theme and to enable rigorous interdisciplinary discussion, the following sub-themes are formulated:

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HEALTH, LIVELIHOOD & RURAL ECONOMIES

- Strengthening primary healthcare, maternal and child health, mental health, digital health, disease prevention and pandemic preparedness.
- Advancing traditional medicine and IKS to improve community wellbeing and service delivery.

FOOD SECURITY, CLIMATE - SMART AGRICULTURE & AGRO - PROCESSING

- Promoting drought-resilient agriculture, indigenous crops, agri-technology and support for smallholder farmers to strengthen food security.
- Strengthening agro-processing, value chains, biotechnology and innovation to grow the rural economy and create jobs.

ENERGY TRANSITION, GREEN MINING & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Advancing renewable energy, responsible mining and the sustainable use of critical minerals to support economic diversification.
- Promoting circular economy practices, waste beneficiation and water-energy-food nexus approaches for a just and sustainable transition.

TOURISM, CONSERVATION & HERITAGE - LED DEVELOPMENT

- Strengthening the wildlife economy, eco-tourism, cultural heritage and sustainable use of IKS to support local development.
- Expanding community beneficiation and digital tourism opportunities while promoting conservation and environmental sustainability.

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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY & INDUSTRY 4.0 FOR FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

- Harnessing AI, data analytics, e-government and smart technologies to improve governance, planning and service delivery.
- Advancing digitalisation, including Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises digitalisation and 4IR applications, to expand economic participation and strengthen institutional capacity.

EDUCATION, SKILLS & HUMAN CAPITAL FOR A FUTURE ECONOMY

- Strengthening alignment between universities, TVET institutions, industry and government to respond to provincial economic and skills needs.
- Promoting STEM, entrepreneurship, work-integrated learning, teacher development, lifelong learning and 4IR skills for future employment opportunities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL COHESION & INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

- Strengthening township and rural economies through cooperatives, youth and gender participation, participatory research and locally driven innovation.
- Promoting IKS, social cohesion and inclusive partnerships that strengthen community participation and support implementation of the LPRI Agenda.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, BUILT ENVIRONMENT & SKILLS FOR GROWTH

- Advancing research and innovation in roads, water, energy, human settlements, digital connectivity and smart infrastructure.
- Strengthening artisan and engineering skills pipelines through partnerships with industry and Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) to support infrastructure delivery and economic growth.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

- Advancing biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, land rehabilitation and sustainable resource management to strengthen community and economic resilience.
- Promoting green jobs and the localisation of the SDGs through integrated environmental planning and municipal action.

This conference brings together scholars, policymakers, communities, businesses, civil society, private sector stakeholders and development practitioners to share knowledge and explore practical solutions to development challenges. It provides a platform for interdisciplinary engagement and collaboration across sectors.

The conference aims to generate evidence that can support inclusive growth, strengthen community resilience and improve service delivery in Limpopo Province. It also seeks to contribute to broader national, continental and global development priorities.

SUBMISSION OF AN ABSTRACT & FULL PAPERS

Abstracts of between 250-350 words should be submitted on or before the due date:
Highlight the following information on the cover page of the abstract:
TITLE, NAME & SURNAME:
INSTITUTION: INDEPENDENT / STAFF / STUDENT GENDER DISCIPLINE / DEPARTMENT E-MAIL
TEL / CELL NO:
Sub-Theme:
ORAL: (indicate) POSTER: (indicate)

Submission of an abstract and paper to: **lrfabstractssubmission@premier.limpopo.gov.za**

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Papers submitted for possible publication in a journal special issue accredited by the department of higher education and training and strictly adhere to the editorial policy requirements regarding specifications for manuscript submissions of the secured journal.

Prospective contributors are specifically requested to ensure that the language and technical aspects of their contributions are of a high standard. In this regard, proof of this effect would be required. Except in special cases where prior permission has been obtained, papers should not exceed 8000 words.

Papers should be submitted electronically, typed in 1.5 line spacing, 12pt Times New Roman and accompanied by an English abstract of between 250 and 350 words.

Since papers are circulated anonymously for evaluation, the name and affiliation of the author(s) should be on a separate page. Only the Harvard style will be accepted for references.

By submitting a paper, authors certify that all co-authors are aware of the submission and consent to the presentation of the work. No author can submit more than two papers (sole or co-authored) for publication consideration.
All submissions must be in Microsoft Word. The contact information for all authors should be included on the first page of the document.
Final approved papers adjudicated will be considered for publication in a Special Issue of a reputable and accredited Journal.

PAYMENTS OF REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees are payable through the following bank details:
Name: SAAPAM
Account Type:GOLD BUSINESS ACCOUNT
Reference: Limpopo Conference 2027
Bank: First National Bank Limited (FNB)
Account Number: 63198881104
Branch Name: COMM ACCOUNT SERVICES CUST
Branch Code: 210554
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

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CONFERENCE FEES

National Delegates	**R2000**
International Delegates	**R2500**

Make sure that you state the reference on the deposit slip.
Kindly email proof of payment to: SAAPAM@tut.ac.za
and mokgokongj@premier.limpopo.gov.za
and MphahleleR@premier.limpopo.gov.za

IMPORTANT DATES OF SUBMISSION

Submission of abstracts:	**09 December 2026**
Notification of acceptance/non-acceptance:	**05 January 2027**
Submission of full papers:	**30 January 2027**
Final payment for registration:	**28 February 2027**
Late payment for registration:	**06 March 2027**
Conference Dates:	**10 to 12 March 2027**

ACCOMODATION/ BOOKINGS

Delegates are responsible for arranging and paying for their accommodation and transportation. Arrangements can be made directly with Reservation Office at Karibu Leisure Resort:

TELEPHONE: 015 590 3673
CELL: 082 784 1545
EMAIL: karibu@tzaneen.co.za
CONTACT PERSON: Mr Archie Mathale

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CONTACT DETAILS

Dr. Madikana Jackinah Mokgokong
mokgokongj@premier.limpopo.gov.za

066 487 1673

Mr. Namedi Richard Mphahlele
mphahleler@premier.limpopo.gov.za

072 159 0910

Prof. Thanyani Madzivhandila
thanyani.madzivhandila@ul.ac.za

073 522 6776

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