



Theme: Free, Yet Poor: The Precarious Case of Citizens
in the Democracies of the Global South

Venue: Mandela University Business School, 2nd Avenue,
Summerstrand, Gqeberha

Dates: 10 - 12 September 2025

Day 1

Wednesday, 10 September 2025

08:00 – 09:00 | Arrival and Registration in the Foyer [Tea/Coffee provided]

Venue: VC Auditorium

09:00 – 09:30 | Official Opening and Welcome: (NMU Executive)

09:30 – 09:50 | Remarks by SAAPS President, Prof Vusi Gumede

09:50 – 10:00 | Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Prof LT Legodi

10:00 – 11:00 | Keynote Address

11:00 – 11:25 | Tea/Coffee Break

SESSION 1: 11:30 – 13:00

Panel 1.1: Debating pathways to development I: reflections from theory and practice

Venue: VC Auditorium

Chair: Prof Fritz Nganje

Ferim, VB (UFH) & Ndlovu, SI (UFH): Validating the Institutional Transfer Fallacy: Lessons from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Gwandure, C. (UMP): Ministerial responsibility and ethical leadership in African development.

Kotzé, D. (UNISA): Development and democracies – the developmental state versus the democratic developmental state.

Mtimka, O (NMU): Leadership for development: towards micro perspectives and alternative measurements metrics for inclusive growth.

Ndaba, M. Siko, S. & Shelembe, S. (Sibanye Stillwater) Leadership pathways to achieve Mine led socio-economic development outcomes in mining communities: A comparative analysis of the South African and Australian experience.

Panel 1.2: Debating pathways to development II: reflections from theory and practice

Venue: 0005

Chair: Prof Eduard Jordaan

Legodi, L.T. (UL): The dearth of South Africa's better life for all: Scrutinising the Government of National Unity's policy direction following 2024 elections.

Marago, J.L. (NWU) Democracy's mirage: the political economy of "Freedom" and the persistence of poverty in the Global South.

Nombila, A. (UWC) The Political Idea of the National Development Plan in a Fluid International Context: An engagement through the lenses of Claude Ake's "residual option" development paradigm in Africa.

Thwala, S (NSG) & Dlakavu, A. (Wits): Contextualising Meritocracy: A Context-Based Approach to Professionalising South Africa's envisioned developmental public service.

Panel 1.3: South African Politics I: Exploring policy and realising democracy

Venue: 0005

Chair: Mr Giovanni Poggi

Adams, U.L. (SU): South Africa and gender equality promotion: do policy initiatives promote change or stability?

Lamb, G (SU): The political dimensions of policing and violence prevention in an African context

Seokwe, L & Choane, M (UFS): Beyond the Ballot: South Africa's Struggle for True Democratic Consolidation.

Solomon, S (UFS): An analysis of the political and economic freedom dichotomy in the South African context.

13:00 – 13:55: Lunch & Committee Meetings

SESSION 2: 14:00 – 16:00

Panel 2: Postgraduate Student Panel:

Confronting Inequality in South Africa

Venue: VC Auditorium

Chair: Prof Sally Matthews

Basi, T. (RU) The land question: does land expropriation have the potential to reduce inequality in South Africa?

Dhladhla, SD. (RU) Public Employment and the limits of inclusion: Evaluating its role in addressing structural inequality in South Africa.

Gongqa, S. (RU) Asset-based Community Development and inequality: an analysis of the Siyakhana@Makhanda programme.

Mbili, T. (RU) The failure of charity to address systemic injustice in South Africa.

Mondaba, L. (RU) The Basic Income Grant (BIG) and inequality: South African political party discourses.

Sofianos, B. (RU) Non-state actors and equitable service delivery in South Africa: The National Arts Foundation's Social Employment Fund Programme.

End of Day 1

Day 2

Thursday, 11 September 2025

08:00 – 09:00 | Arrival in the Foyer [Tea/Coffee provided]

SESSION 3: 09:00 – 10:30

Panel 3.1: Explorations of Africa and a little beyond: politics, policy, democracy and governance

Venue: VC Auditorium

Chair: Prof Valery Ferim

Allsobrook, C (UFH): The Palestinian scheme: British Trusteeship for Ottoman Territories.

Chikadza, KF. (University of Malawi) Ideas and the role of developmental rhetoric in Malawi's agricultural policy reform under Bingu wa Mutharika (2004-2012)

Mlambo, M.S. (UP) Beyond the Margins: How Women Navigate Governance and Democratic Development in Nigeria.

Modise, N. (NWU): Elections in SADC; Considering the Role of Election Management Bodies.

Ndlovu, PS. (NWU) Legislative manipulation and the shrinking democratic space: democratic backsliding in Zimbabwe's second republic.

Panel 3.2: Exploring the role of BRICS in fostering development

Venue: 0003

Chair: Dr Ongama Mtimka

Shangare, A.R.T. (TMALI): The Intersectionality of Gender and Leadership in BRICS: Addressing Barriers to Inclusive Development in the Global South.

Shangase M. (NWU) & Matshoba, P. (NWU): BRICS Plus Bloc and Poverty Eradication: An Assessment of Policy Interventions.

Thoba, A (UWC): South Africa's participation in South-South groupings through BRICS: Opportunities for aligning this with the domestic economic priorities.

Panel 3.3: South African politics II: the role of people, finances and politics

Venue: 0003

Chair: Dr Ubanesia Adams

Nadvi, L. (UKZN) The people united will never be defeated: reflection on citizen activism and organization within indigent communities in eThekweni.

Ndlovu, S. (UM) Being, citizenship and belonging in a liberal international order: the case of Post apartheid South Africa.

Mvenene, M. (WSU) Money in politics: an assessment of private funding of the African National Congress in power: implications for South Africa's democracy.

Nxumalo, S. (Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs) Chieftancy, colonial interference and the struggle for recognition: the Nzama-Wosiyane claim in post-apartheid South Africa.

Tea/Coffee: 10:30 – 11:00

SESSION 4: 11:00 – 12:30

Panel 4.1: Exploring South Africa's foreign policy

Venue: VC Auditorium

Chair: Prof Valery Ferim

Jordaan, E. (RU): Human rights foreign policy under Ramaphosa: South Africa on the UN Human Rights Council.

Maphaka, D. (NWU) & Motswaledi, T.R. (NWU): An Examination of United States-South Africa Relations in the Second Trump's Administration: An Afrocentric Perspective.

Nganje, F. (UJ) & Phiri, S. (UJ): Localising the spirit of Bandung? City diplomacy and the Global South's struggle for a just and equitable world order.

Shangase, M & Ntlailane, T. (NWU): Trias Politica in Practice: Revisiting the Zuma Administration Foreign Policy (2009-2017).

Panel 4.2: Explorations of African states: challenges

Venue: 0003

Chair: Prof Fritz Nganje

Mngomezulu, B.R. (NMU): Impediments to improving living conditions in countries in the Global South post-independence: A comparative analysis of Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Mpofu, W.J. (Wits): Native Colonialism: A Decolonial Comment on Corruption and Political Violence in Zimbabwe.

Nyere, C. (Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs)
Reforming of gendered financial architecture in Africa: an ideal or an illusion?

Theron, S. (UP): The crisis of the state in Africa as a failure to influence: A conceptual framework.

Panel 4.3: Governance and development in the Global South I

Venue: 0005

Chair: Mr Giovanni Poggi

Barnes, D (NMU): Revitalizing democratic governance in the Global South.

Biel, MR (ISPS South Sudan) What is needed for democracy to improve the living conditions for the majority in the Global South?

Kate, S. (NMU): Analyzing the prospects for Developmental Local Government as a pathway to inclusive economic growth for Global South Municipalities.

Manzini, D.P. (Independent researcher – Mogale City Local Municipality):
Investigating responsiveness as a validated African-cultural instrument for the
enhancement of democracy in the Global South.

13:00 – 13:55: Lunch & Committee Meetings

SAAPS AGM: 14:00 – 16:00

Venue: VC Auditorium

COCKTAIL RECEPTION 18:30 – 19:30

Venue: The Beach Hotel, Agulhas Room

GALA DINNER: 19:30 – 22:00

Venue: The Beach Hotel, Agulhas Room

End of day

Day 3

Friday, 12 September 2025

08:00 – 09:00 | Arrival in the Foyer [Tea/Coffee provided]

SESSION 5: 09:00 – 10:30

Panel 5.1: Governance and development in the Global South II

Venue: VC Auditorium

Chair: Dr Chris Allsobrook

Akinola, A. & Magam-Chaka, N (UNISA): Mercantile Democracy: A Critical Review of Political Leadership Selection Processes in Nigeria.

Motimele, M. (UFS): Democratisation and Inclusive Growth: bedfellows or adversaries.

Mtimka, O (NMU) Strengthening democracies in the global south for future generations: the nexus between leadership and morality.

Vilakazi, K. (UMP): The politics of hegemonic reliance to western democracy in Post-Colonial African States.

Panel 5.2 South African Politics III: Policy, Society and Economy

Venue: 0003

Chair: Dr Ubanesia Adams

Hadebe, S. (UKZN): Democracy and Disparity: Analyzing South Africa's 30-Year Struggle with Poverty and Inequality.

Msila, V. (UNISA): They Still Can't Breathe: Public Leadership, Self-reliance, and the Politics of Poverty.

Mtimka, O & Mkhize, N (NMU): Solving for iinkabi and nyaope boys: economic exclusion, manhood and challenges for fiscal policy in South Africa.

Ntsele, B. & Zubane, S. (Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs): Decolonizing Partnerships: Co-Creating Pockets of Hope.

Nomsenge, S. (UNISA): Menstrual inequity: the 'stain' on inclusive participation in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Tea/Coffee: 10:30 – 10:55

SESSION 6: 11:00 – 12:30

Panel 6: Official Closing of the conference

Venue: VC Auditorium

Chair: SAAPS President 2024 – 2025

Lunch 12:45 – 14:00

----- Formal end of the conference -----

POST-CONFERENCE - SOCIAL EVENT

Baakens River Valley Local Food and Drink Tasting Excursion



Details provided on the various SAAPS online and social platforms

By Booking Only – Contact: Giovanni.Poggi@Mandela.ac.za

From 14h30 on Friday 12 September 2025

Disclaimer: This event is hosted by the SAAPS Conference Events Committee.
SAAPS as an organisation shall not be held responsible for any unforeseen
occurrence during this event.