



Welcome to another issue of the *Reflect*.

The last time you heard from us was in November 2019, before the Global Covid-19 pandemic radically changed the World as we knew it. The “new normal” is here and in this issue of the *Reflect*, we hope to bring you up to speed about what you have missed, what we are currently up to and what you can look forward to.



WHAT HAVE YOU MISSED?

From Centre to Institute

On the cusp of our 10 year anniversary in 2019, the once Albert Luthuli Centre as established in 2011, was repositioned as the Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute. The main difference between a Centre and an institute is where Centre is mandated by a refined and limited scope and impact; an Institute’s mandate is much broader including inter- and trans-disciplinary research, spanning boundaries between academic disciplines and faculty boarders. The Centre’s initial aim was to critically think about Leadership in the context of large scale, complex problems the world continues to face daily.

Over 10 years, the Centre was positioned as a platform for critical scholarly reflections on leadership, which resulted in impactful research and transformative learning

experiences. Initially the vision of the Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership was “*Leaders for Good*”, suggesting both leaders for time to come and leadership in the interest of the common good. As a team, it was agreed that the Centre needs to significantly increase its impact, pursue a dedicated trans-disciplinary agenda and place stronger emphasis on transformative learning pedagogy. Thus, the Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute was formally established in November 2020 and launched in May 2021. The vision of ALLI is “*Reimagine Leadership*”. ALLI’s vision serves as a normative position in so far as the kind of leadership the world needs but also serves to build on our intellectual pursuit of advancing the theory and practice of leadership. We believe that the challenges of social and environmental justice are today more relevant than ever before.

The mission of the institute remains the same which is:

Pursuing scholarship, education and societal engagement that reimagine leadership towards social, environmental, and economic justice.

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REIMAGINE
LEADERSHIP





The Marimba band welcoming guests into the Javett Art Centre



EMS Faculty Dean, Prof Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu and Vice Chancellor Prof Tawana Kupe.

Celebrating 60 years of Chief Albert Luthuli

2021 commemorated 60 years since Chief Albert Luthuli became the first African to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1961 on his role in the non-violent struggle against apartheid, and thus we needed to celebrate momentous anniversary. This unique occasion took guests on a journey through the arts, for art speaks louder than words. From visual arts to song and dance and critical discourse to tie it all together. Prof Derick de Jongh, Director of the ALLI expressed how arts provide more than just creative platform, but emotional connection to the deeper elements of character, values, and intention. It facilitates reflection at a much deeper level, using the freedom of expression as a means to safeguard ideas, legacies, opinions and the voices of many in a single art piece. Transformation and reflection are two key principles at the ALLI as transient caretakers of Luthuli's legacies."

Chief Luthuli always celebrated the arts and as a teacher determined to bring education to the African population, he made sure that Zulu music and literature were included, through co-founding the Zulu Cultural and Language Society. In his role as a chief, he would lead the dancing and singing at community festivals, and through this levelling media is still remembered as a 'man of the people. Through transdisciplinary collaborations by the UP faculties of Economic and Management Sciences, Education and Humanities as well as the Javett Art Centre (Javett-UP), this event was a representation of what Chief Luthuli stood for: to engage collaborative human energy, human skill, and human talent in the service of peace.

WHAT ARE WE UP TO NOW?

SDSN South Africa

On 2 March 2022, the University of Pretoria (UP) launched the SDSN South African Network during a hybrid event at the prestigious Future Africa campus. The event was hosted by the Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute and graced by a plethora of esteemed guests spanning across all disciplines from the private sector to academia to presidency and higher-education institutions, all collectively passionate about achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The purpose of a national or regional SDSN is to mobilise universities, research centres, civil society organisations, business, and other knowledge centres around practical problem solving for sustainable development unique to their local contexts and challenges.

As a champion of academic research and a leader in technological advancements, the University of Pretoria provides an excellent opportunity for leveraging the skills of experts and academics of all South African SDSN members in striving to achieve the SDGs Nationwide and localise the 2030 Agenda.



From left to right: Dr Thandi Mgwebi, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Innovation, and Internationalisation Nelson Mandela University; Mr Lawrence Matemba, Acting Head Policy and Research Services for the Presidency and Prof Peter Lennie, Executive Director of the Worldwide Universities Network



*Dr Yolande Steenkamp,
SDSN Network Manager*



*Mr Jonathan Tager,
Network Assistant*



*Prof Tawane Kupe,
Network Chair*

At the helm of SDSN South Africa is the local Leadership Council, representing various sectors and headed by the network Chair, Professor Tawane Kupe, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Pretoria. The secretariat of SDSN South Africa further consists of a Network Manager (Dr Yolande Steenkamp, Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute) and Deputy Network Manager (Mr Jonathan Tager, UP Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship). The national network was launched on 2 March 2022, and its first member meeting is being planned for September during Africa Week.

“ The event was hosted by the Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute and graced by a plethora of esteemed guests, all collectively passionate about achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. ”

South African SDG Hub

The South African SDG Hub is a metaplatform that aggregates the best and most relevant research on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from South African and selected non-South African universities. The machine-learning-based classification tool classifies research in terms of one or more of the SDGs.

The mission is to increase the impact of research published on universities’ institutional repositories. The South African SDG Hub is a national resource hosted by the Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute at the University of Pretoria. The Metaplatform addresses Access, Relevance, and Time; three challenges related to the use of research in policymaking. Congratulations to Prof Willem Fourie and his team of meta data scientists for bringing the Hub to life.



Prof Willem Fourie



Graeme Ford



Hamish Craze



Jurgens de Lange



Hannes Strydom



SDG Policy Support Initiative

South African SDG Policy Initiative – The first of its kind

The South African SDG Policy Support Initiative (PSI) is a tripartite partnership between the Government of South Africa, led by the Presidency, the German Government (assisted by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and the South African SDG Hub hosted by the University of Pretoria.

It acts as the coordinating mechanism bringing together experts from academia and the Presidency to collaborate on evidence-informed policy decision making. Building on the South African SDG Hub’s objective to connect South African policymakers with the best and most relevant South African research related to the SDGs, the PSI aims to draw such expertise from across the 26 public universities and translate this into a useable format for policy makers.

The seven national priorities aim to holistically address the three main challenges faced by the country of unemployment, poverty and inequality, which were worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic. The top priority is enabling accelerated delivery of the rest of the priorities is to build a capable, ethical and developmental State. We need credible evidence for early warning, for current and for future scenarios. Evidence is core in decision-making process of government and to ensure that limited resources are geared towards impactful policy programmes.

The SDG Policy Initiative was launched on the 6 June 2022. Congratulations Dr Dominique Mystris and Prof Willem Fourie for their hard work to see this Initiative come to fruition.



Thomas Schaeff, GIZ Country Director Acting Deputy Director General for Policy and Research Services within the Presidency Mr. Lawrence Matemba, Vice chancellor Professor Tawana Kupe, His Excellency, Ambassador Andreas Peschke, German Embassy in Pretoria.



Dr Dominique is heading up the secretariat of the PSI within Prof Fourie’s broader work stream of Leadership and Development.



Prof Derick de Jongh, Dr Yolande Steenkamp and Dr Pieter Conradie at the ALLI Graduation Celebration.

Graduation Season

The 16th of May 2022 marked a significant day for the Masters degree graduates of the Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute.

The 2021 students from the institute’s two Masters programmes, MPhil in Development Practice (MDP) and MPhil in Responsible Leadership (MRL), came from all over South Africa to attend their official Graduation Ceremony at the University of Pretoria. After two years of no physical graduations due to Covid-19, it was an absolute pleasure to celebrate the accomplishments of graduates with their loved ones present. We also surprised our graduates with special ALLI Certificates of Achievement.

WHAT CAN YOU LOOK FORWARD TO?

Did you know we have **two new short courses?**



LEADERSHIP

The LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE PROGRAMME is aimed at executives, leaders and managers of the organisations who are responsible for leading or facilitating the implementation of strategic initiatives for a sustainable future.

The course focuses on building leadership capacity through personal integration of the theory of leadership, accountability and sustainable development through action learning, reflection and implementation of strategic initiatives.

The course helps leaders to understand and employ:

- Principles of effective leadership that addresses social, environmental and economic sustainability challenges;
- The role of institutions in responding to these social, economic and environmental challenges;
- The role of leadership in ensuring institutional accountability and the means to develop and grow this leadership capacity;
- Individual and team development opportunities; and
- Reflection as a way to understand the impact of their leadership on the societies in which they live.

“ Aimed at executives, leaders and managers of the organisations who are responsible for the implementation of strategic initiatives for a sustainable future. ”



HEALTH

THE PREMIER AFRICAN LEADERSHIP FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE

The health, economic and political profile of Africa is of crucial importance to present and future developments. However, despite the recent notable improvements in the population health outcomes in the sub-Saharan Africa, there remains considerable health challenges facing the people in the region. Significant health inequalities, large burden diseases coupled with limited human and financial resources for health, poor leadership and governance, continue to undermine positive and sustainable improvements in the population health outcomes. SDG 17 which focusses on implementation with specific emphasis on partnerships and collaboration, is of particular importance for the region. This is where leadership becomes important since neither partnerships nor collaborative action is possible without leadership.

This program is divided into two arms, Research and Innovation as well as Humanitarianism while the three pillars are Policy & Implementation, Leadership & Governance and lastly Capacity Building. It will serve as a nexus of ideas and transdisciplinary research and actions to improve leadership for health in Africa that can influence global health policy, from an African perspective in pursuit of making Africa a healthier, prosperous and peaceful region, for Africa by Africa.

Some objectives:

- To advance the body of knowledge on leadership in Africa by harnessing African scholarship and indigenous knowledge, and conducting relevant novel research on leadership for better health in Africa;
- To conduct research in order to translate evidence into leadership development interventions to prepare the next generation African health leaders with the appropriate skills and attributes;
- To conduct multi-sectoral and citizen inclusive dialogues to determine expectations of leadership in health and relevant policy development;
- To enhance health system governance by establishing a regulatory body for Africa.

STAFF NEWS

Staff Achievements



Dr Pieter Conradie

Dr Conradie, Program lead for Masters in Responsible Leadership at the Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute, won in the PhD in Accounting Sciences category of the SAIPA Top Achievers Awards Competition for his PhD research on the rational purpose requirement in non-financial assurance. Dr Conradie's research investigated the potential emancipatory impact of the Rational Purpose Requirement (RPR) on assurance practices in South Africa. As part of his investigation, key stakeholders in the South African sustainability assurance industry gave inputs on the RPR in a quest to determine how it would operate in South Africa. The study found that, even though antagonistic groups put forward morally and intellectually superior arguments, their inability to manufacture popular support undermines their arguments, and ultimately their ability to advance the emancipatory potential of the RPR.



Elma Akob

Miss Elma Akob's company Elevate Africa which specialises in providing public speaking training all over Africa, recently won an award for being the Top Youth-Owned Education Brand in South Africa. She was also recognised as one of South Africa's Top 10 Young Outstanding Persons by Junior Chambers International.

New staff



Elma Akob

Elma Akob is the new Head of Marketing and Communications at the ALLI. Her qualifications include: BCom Law, Honours in Communication and a Masters in Strategic Business Management degree. Elma handles all of the ALLI's internal and external communications as well as designing and implementing marketing strategies.

FUN FACT:

Elma is a Voice Over Artist for Disney and 100+ other companies.



Teresa Kroesen

Teresa Kroesen has joined the SA SDG Hub team as the Product Lead through the GIZ's Digital Ambassador program. Teresa holds a Master's in Physics with a specialisation in optics and ultra-fast dynamics. Her work for the SA SDG Hub combines her passion for data with her strong interest in politics and research.

FUN FACT:

After she worked as an IT consultant, she became a data scientist for the major German newspaper Der Spiegel, which is known for its investigative journalism.



Andre Kleynhans

Andre Kleynhans is the newest member on the team. He is a UP mathematical statistics graduate with a keen interest in technology and will be handling the operations for the Masters in Development Practise programme.

FUN FACT:

Andre loves to draw and paint portraits.

Farewell



Arend Kahlau

We bid farewell to Arend Kahlau who was heading up the operations for the Masters in Development Practise. Arend was an asset to the team and we have no doubt that his diligence and resourcefulness and work ethic will bring him success and fulfilment in his career and personal life. As Arend says, “When one chapter ends, a new one begins”



Reflections from the Editor



Elma Akob

My first meeting at the ALLI left me feeling thrilled and scared at the same time. Here I was surrounded by the finest academics, hearing first hand what it meant to be a leader. I had never been privy to these kinds of intense, complicated and highly intellectual exchanges about leadership before, even though I have a history of occupying leadership positions.

I tried my best to smile and nod; although I felt incredibly underqualified; because like Anne Harper says in her novel “Fake it till you make it” once you cultivate an attitude or perception of competence you don’t currently have, you will inevitably get there.

But what really stood out to me was when this group of academics turned to me and asked for my opinion. I was shocked, they wanted to know how I felt about the topic at hand, they were willing to listen to me. In that moment I learnt my first lessons about leadership in the Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute, and that is that leadership is inclusive, it is equal, it is ageless and timeless, transcends all disciplines and most importantly it listens.

In that moment I knew I was in the right place, I knew I had found a home in the ALLI, the pinnacle of good leadership



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