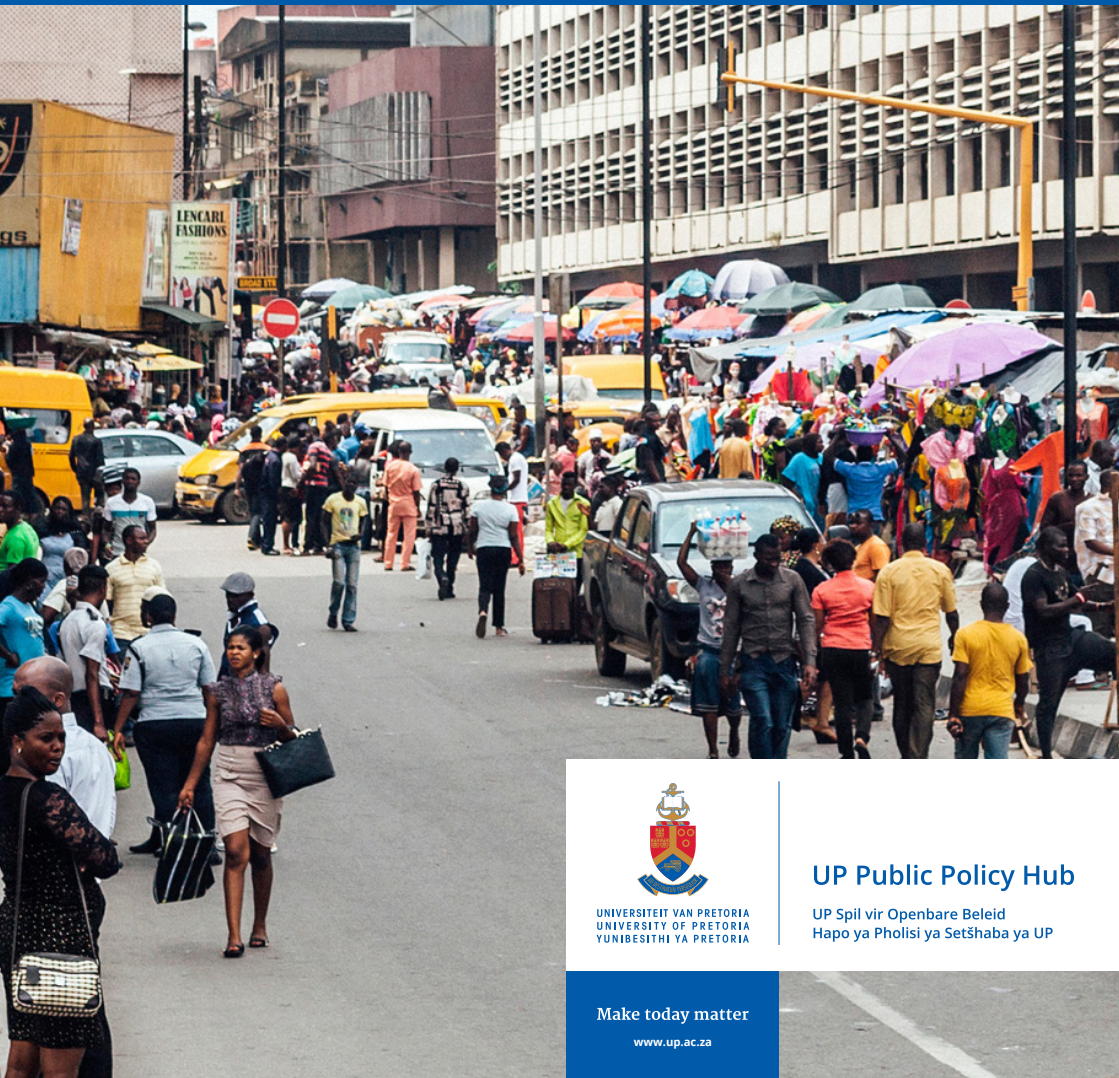


Official Launch of the Chair in Municipal Finance in Africa

FOSTERING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE

23 MAY 2024

Engineering Exhibition Space, Hatfield Campus, University of Pretoria



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Time	Session and objectives
15:00–15:10	Welcoming remarks Prof Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu, Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
15:10–15:20	Opening remarks Dr George W. McCarthy, President and CEO, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy <i>To discuss the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's expectations for the Chair and its role in fostering advancements in municipal finance in Africa.</i>
15:20–16:20	Panel discussion: Collaborative Approaches to Impactful Change in Municipal Finance in Africa Chair: Prof Riel Franzsen, South African Research Chair in Tax Policy and Governance, UP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Ayanda Hlatshwayo, Acting Chief Data Analytics Officer, National Treasury• Ms Veronica Mafoko, Director: Municipal Property Rating, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)• Dr Paul S. Radikonyana, Senior Manager: Advisory and Research, Municipal Demarcation Board• MMC Jacqui Uys, Member of the Mayoral Committee of Finance, City of Tshwane <i>The panel will address the significant challenges South African local governments face, emphasising the crucial role of data analysis and empirical research in informing and shaping public policy. The discussion will also highlight the necessity for transdisciplinary approaches to enhance local governance. By bridging various academic disciplines, practitioners and researchers can develop more holistic solutions that address the economic, social and administrative dimensions of municipal finance. This discussion is set against the backdrop of increasing urbanisation and fiscal pressures, where the efficient allocation of resources and responsive governance structures are more crucial than ever.</i>
16:20–16:35	The Role of the Chair in Advancing Research and Evidence-Based Policymaking in Municipal Finance in Africa Prof Nara Monkam, Associate Professor, Chair in Municipal Finance in Africa, Head: UP Public Policy Hub (PPH)
16:35–17:30	Cocktail and networking session <i>A networking session to foster connections that could shape the future of the Chair.</i>



ABOUT THE CHAIR IN MUNICIPAL FINANCE IN AFRICA

The Chair in Municipal Finance in Africa, housed within the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the University of Pretoria, was established on 1 March 2024. Supported by funding from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (LILP) in Cambridge, MA, USA, the Chair represents a significant commitment to advancing municipal finance across Africa. This initiative marks a crucial milestone in our pursuit of sustainable local development and enhanced financial governance. Dedicated to tackling the specific challenges faced by African cities and smaller municipalities, the Chair focuses on intergovernmental fiscal relations, property taxation, land-based revenue instruments, expenditure management and urban planning to effectively address these issues.

The Chair is set to have a substantial impact in three key areas: research and research collaboration, teaching and learning, and community engagement. Through transdisciplinary and innovative research, it will inform policy decisions and drive sustainable development across African cities. Additionally, the Chair will enhance municipal finance and taxation expertise in Africa by offering specialised courses and training programmes to local officials and scholars and by supervising doctoral students.

This initiative will facilitate collaboration between academia, government, and internationally acknowledged experts in this field, driving positive change at the grassroots level. The establishment of the Chair will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11, which aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. By improving fiscal decentralisation, enhancing the financial capacity of African municipalities and promoting sustainable local development, the Chair has the potential to improve the lives of millions across the continent. We invite academics, policymakers, development partners, stakeholders and communities to join us in this transformative journey.



ABOUT THE CHAIR HOLDER

Nara Monkam has occupied the Chair in Municipal Finance in Africa since it was established on 1 March 2024. She is an Associate Professor of Economics and Head of the Public Policy Hub at the University of Pretoria.

Previously, she served as the Director of Research at the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), where she was a key member of the Executive Management Team. Under its leadership, ATAF grew to become the leading international organisation on tax matters in Africa. Representing over 74% of tax administrations on the continent since its inception in 2009, ATAF has been instrumental in advancing taxation's role in governance, state-building and providing a voice for Africa on domestic and international tax issues. In this role, Prof Monkam directed the organisation's research initiatives to inform tax policy and reforms across Africa. She also contributed as a member of the Davis Tax Committee, which evaluated the South African tax system.

She has more than 18 years of experience in research and policy analysis in Africa, specialising in public economics, domestic resource mobilisation, tax policy, tax administration, intergovernmental fiscal relations and property taxation reforms. Her scholarly and policy-oriented work includes long-term collaborations and advisory services with international institutions across multiple regions. She has also provided consultancy services to a range of bilateral and multilateral development organisations, enhancing their economic and fiscal policy frameworks.

Her contributions to taxation in Africa include launching the ATAF Databank to improve data quality and accessibility across 37 African countries, establishing the African Multidisciplinary Tax Journal (ATRN), and creating the African Tax Research Network (ATRN), a key resource with over 2000 experts. She also initiated the bilingual Executive Master's in Taxation, graduating 86 tax officials from both Anglophone and Francophone Africa, and collaborated with the African Development Bank to produce two seminal guidebooks on enhancing ICT tax systems and informal sector taxation on the continent.

Prof Monkam holds a PhD degree in Economics from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta (USA) and both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from the University of Namur in Belgium.



PANELLISTS



Prof Riël Franzsen

South African Research Chair in Tax Policy and Governance

Prof Franzsen was the Director of the African Tax Institute at the University of Pretoria from 2007 to 2023. He specialises in land and property taxation and has acted as a policy advisor for various entities (including the IMF and World Bank) in more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East. He has authored or co-authored many peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. He is the co-editor of a number of scholarly books, including *Property Tax in Africa – Status; Challenges and Prospects* (2017) and *Property Tax in Asia – Policy and Principles* (2022); published by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.



Dr Ayanda Hlatshwayo

Acting Chief Data Analytics Officer, National Treasury

Dr Ayanda Hlatshwayo is currently the Acting Chief Data Analytics Officer of the National Treasury of South Africa. Her position focuses on data-driven policy data analytics and research to inform policy and decision-making; as well as oversight of the National Treasury Secure Data Facility (NT-SDF). She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Stellenbosch and an MCom (Economic Science) from the University of the Witwatersrand.



Ms Veronica Mafoko

Director: Municipal Property Rating, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)

Ms Mafoko is a seasoned Public Finance Economist with over 15 years of experience in municipal finance, intergovernmental fiscal relations and the regulation of municipal fiscal instruments in South Africa. She holds a master's degree in Economics, specialising in public sector economics. Her expertise includes fiscal decentralisation and tax design and implementation. Currently, she serves as a Director in the Department of Cooperative Governance, overseeing the implementation of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, which empowers 213 municipalities to levy property rates. She played a pivotal role in the 2014 amendments to the Act, introducing key policy changes and technical adjustments for better regulatory transparency and administrative simplicity. Ms Mafoko focuses on ensuring the effective implementation of the property categorisation framework and has been involved in significant litigation related to the Act, particularly concerning property categorisation and its economic impact.



Dr George "Mac" McCarthy

President and CEO of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Lincoln Institute seeks to improve the quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land. A non-profit private operating foundation whose origins date to 1946, the Lincoln Institute researches and recommends creative approaches to land as a solution to economic, social and environmental challenges. Before joining the Lincoln Institute in 2014, Mac directed Metropolitan Opportunity at the Ford Foundation which sought to provide disadvantaged people better access to good jobs and other opportunities for advancement by supporting regional planning, and coordinated transportation and housing development to alleviate poverty and reduce its concentration in metropolitan areas in the U.S. and developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.



Dr Paul S. Radikonyana**Senior Manager: Advisory and Research, Municipal Demarcation Board**

Dr Paul Shimane Radikonyana is a Senior Manager: Advisory and Research at the Municipal Demarcation Board. Throughout his career, Paul was involved in teaching, tutoring, facilitation of learning, lecturing at various institutions of education and training and conducting research in various fields. Paul holds a PhD from the University of Pretoria. His research focuses on areas of governance, public sector performance and sports tourism. His work has been published in journals such as the South African Journal of Human Resource Management, The Journal of Applied Business Research, the African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure and the International Journal of Public Sector Performance Management.



MMC Jacqui Uys**Member of the Mayoral Committee of Finance, City of Tshwane**

Jacqui Uys is a politician and she holds the positions of Democratic Alliance Caucus Chairperson in the City of Tshwane, Tshwane Coalition Joint Caucus Chairperson and Mayoral Committee Member of Finance. Jacqui entered politics in 2009 and was elected to local council in 2016, serving as both a ward Councillor and a member of the Section 79 Finance Oversight Committee where she gained a deep understanding of the municipal finances in the City of Tshwane. She is committed to clean government and building a tax administration that will ensure a Capital City that delivers quality services for all its people.

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