

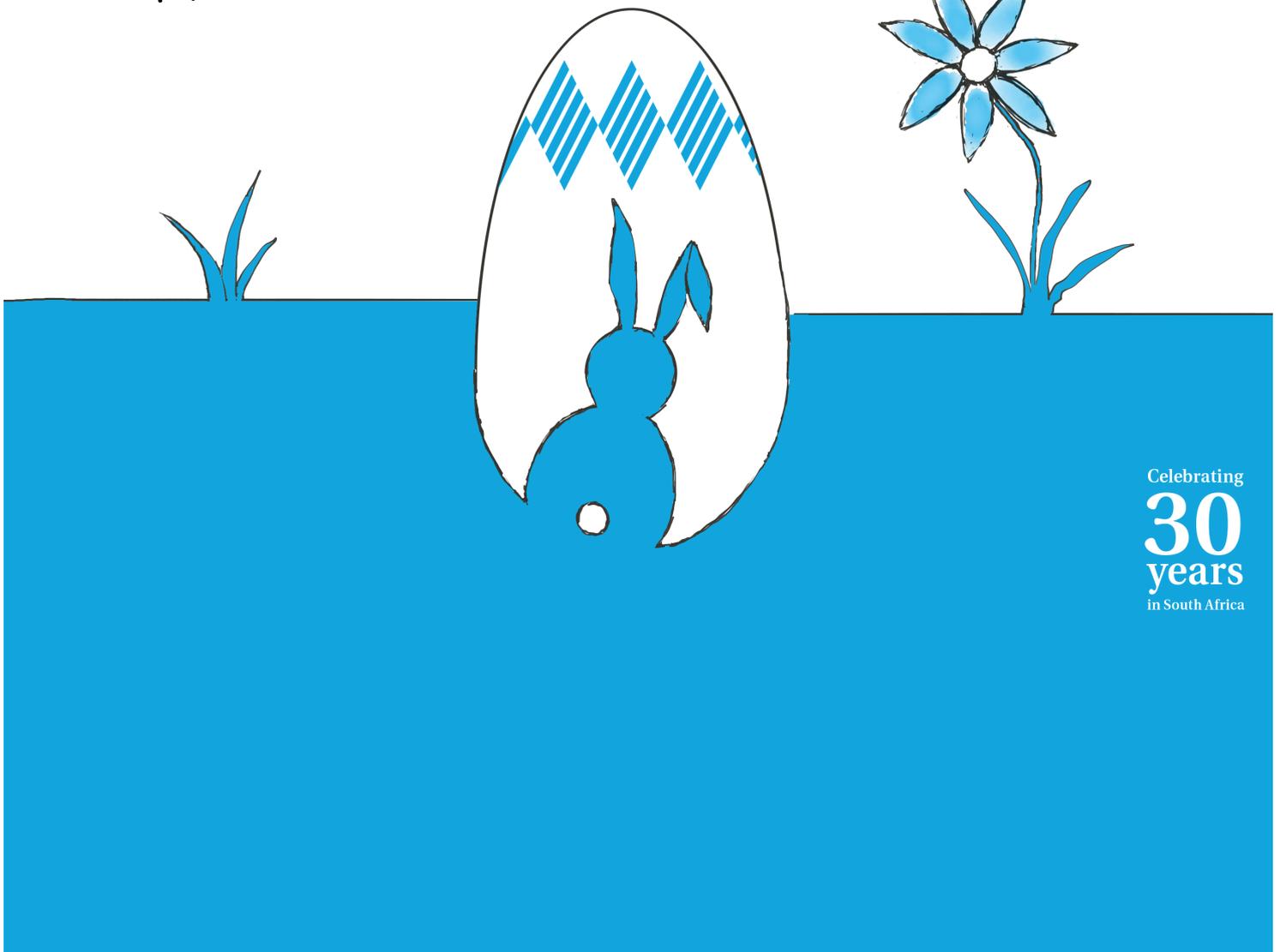
# HSF Quarterly South Africa

April 2021

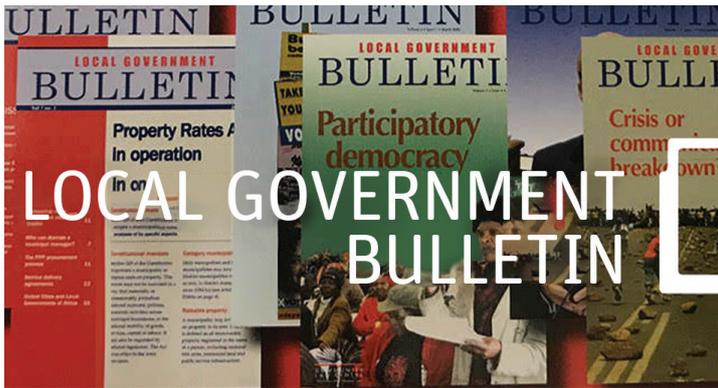
In the service of democracy, peace & development



We wish you  
happy Easter holidays!



Celebrating  
**30**  
years  
in South Africa



## New website Local Government Bulletin

The Dullah Omar Institute (DOI) at the University of the Western Cape and the Hanns Seidel Foundation are excited to announce the launch of a new website for the Local Government Bulletin. The Bulletin has been published by the DOI since 1999 and contains short, accessible articles and analyses on legal and political developments and judgments in the local government sphere in South Africa and Africa, as well as summaries of new bills. The new website comes with great new features to make the site faster, easier to navigate, and more user-friendly. Here are the top six things site visitors can do, or explore on the new website:

- 1) Find information about the Bulletin - its objective, history and editors
- 2) Easily locate the latest Volume/ Issue of the Bulletin
- 3) Search articles by theme relevant to local government e.g. "municipal revenue" or "elections"
- 4) Easily access the Bulletin's archive with hundreds of articles published since 1999
- 5) Find information on how to submit articles for publication
- 6) Subscribe to regular updates of the Bulletin

The new website is also integrated with the Dullah Omar Institute's social media buttons for Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for improved communication with its readers and stakeholders. In order to continuously improve the site visitors' experience the DOI appreciates any feedback via [e-mail](#).

[Website](#)

## City Councillor Training in Cape Town

Our City Councillor Training workshops that were held in February at the City of Cape Town Council Chambers made use of our [Civics Academy Local Government Video Series](#) which is available online in English, isiXhosa and Afrikaans. Skilful facilitation and small groups provided for great opportunities to engage with the material and to discuss practical experience. The training sessions had already been a great success in pre-COVID times and were now arranged in a setting that allowed for "social distancing" as well as interactive group work. City Councillors and Ward Council Members used the opportunity to share experience from their daily work and to discuss problem solving approaches and best practices.



**CIVICS ACADEMY**  
cultivating democracy through civic education

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## Featured Videos

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### Interview: Dr Glenda Gray in conversation with the HSF

South African physician and scientist Dr Glenda Gray is the President and CEO of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and chair of the research committee on COVID-19 in South Africa. In 2013 she was awarded South Africa's highest honour, the Order of Mapungubwe (Silver). In 2017 she was recognised as one of the "100 Most Influential People" by TIME Magazine. Uta Lehmann from the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Cape Town spoke to Dr Gray about South Africa's biggest successes and challenges in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and her take on the international community's vaccination strategy.

Watch



### Live Insights: Mitigating the impact of COVID-19

In this short video the Regional Representative for the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Southern Africa, Hanns Bühler, visits Khayelitsha, one of South Africa's biggest townships, to speak about the impact of COVID-19 especially on the poor in South Africa and on the African continent. In conversation with Mila Payiya, the young manageress of the Monwabisi community centre we learn about the additional challenges the people and especially the children in this area have been facing since the start of the pandemic and the strict lockdown last year, when schools and pre-schools were closed for months, and the centre had to find ways to ensure that the children wouldn't miss out on the nutritious meals provided by these facilities. Without strong partnerships this would have been impossible. For more information on how to mitigate the socio-economic challenges the pandemic presents for most South Africans and Africans also read the recent research reports of our partner organisation, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), on the [Impact of COVID-19 in Africa](#) and South Africa titled "[From Lockdown to Thuma Mina](#)".

Read more

Watch



## Virtual Courtrooms: “How to Do Online Court Hearings Properly”

During COVID, almost all SADC countries’ courts shifted to holding court hearings virtually rather than physically in the court houses. There is little precedent in most jurisdictions of this and a number of challenges have been noted by both judges and lawyers alike as to how to run a trial or hearing appropriately online. There are simple challenges like people not dressing appropriately, addressing the court properly, and then even more serious mishaps such as a computer being left on in a break and private conversations being heard by all parties. The DGRU, with the funding of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, has made a brief tutorial video on “How to Do Online Court Hearings Properly”.

[Watch](#)

## Online Seminar: The State of the South African Judiciary

For many years our courts were hailed as strong defenders of constitutionalism and the rule of law. While other institutions were subverted by the state capture project, the judiciary remained independent. However, populist politicians are increasingly attacking the judiciary. At the same time, some members of the judiciary have been embroiled in scandals of their own making, and the Judicial Service Commission has been dilatory in investigating complaints against judges. Public faith in the judiciary seems not as strong as it once was. On Friday 5th March the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO) and HSF co-hosted a discussion on the state of the South African judiciary with Prof Hugh Corder, former Dean of the Faculty of Law at UCT and Alison Tilley and Mbekezeli Benjamin, Co-ordinator and Researcher at Judges Matter.

[Watch](#)

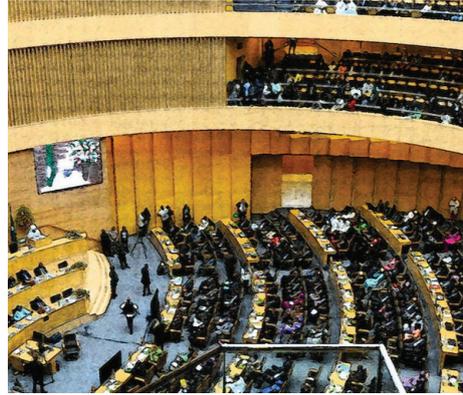
[Summary video](#)

## Online Seminar: Is a social compact key to saving South Africa’s economy?

COVID-19 has disrupted South Africa’s economy, adding further pressure to a country that has, since 2014, seen a decline in average incomes. President Cyril Ramaphosa and his cabinet have been lambasted by some for a lack of leadership in unlocking growth. Business and civil society often call for a social compact as a prerequisite for economic growth, but the African National Congress seems to be moving away from the key policies that could make an inclusive approach possible. Drawing on work of the Institute for Security Studies that models improvement in the use of evidence-based economic policies, this highly regarded seminar, co-hosted by the ISS, News24 and the HSF, examined the notion of a social compact and whether it can unlock growth in South Africa. Follow the lively discussion of Dr Jakkie Cilliers, Chairperson of the ISS Board of Trustees and Head of African Futures & Innovation, ISS, Moeletsi Mbeki, Deputy Chairman, South African Institute of International Affairs, and Xolelwa Kashe-Katiya, Director, Project Management, MISTRA.

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## Opinion: Leadership integrity and the crisis in South Africa's policing

"Long-standing abuses in the appointment of leaders are at the heart of the country's failing police service", writes Johan Burger from the Justice and Violence Prevention Programme of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). "Eight different people have occupied the post of national commissioner since 2000, seven of them since 2009." Changing leadership and internal leadership battles and many high-profile criminal cases involving police generals have contributed to the fact that police performance has deteriorated markedly. The 2012 National Development Plan (NDP) speaks about the 'serial crises' in police management. Nine years later, no NDP recommendations for fixing the leadership difficulties have been implemented and police performance has deteriorated markedly ever since. Read how mismanagement and criminality among some at the highest levels of SAPS officials could be avoided in the future and professionalism and performance could be improved to the benefit of all in South Africa.

[Read more](#)

## Policy Brief: Common African positions on global issues

Negotiating common positions in the AU system is a difficult but vital step for promoting Africa's interests. The African Union's (AU) use of common African positions promotes collective African interests especially on development. A new report of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) identifies lessons from the process of developing these common positions, including all guiding principles, consultations and the role of AU member states, regional economic communities and other key partners. The author of this insightful policy brief, Bankole Adeoye, the newly elected African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (AU-PAPS) who is a former Nigerian Permanent Representative to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti (2017–2020), argues that if Africa speaks with one voice to articulate common positions, the achievement of AU strategic goals becomes feasible.

[Read more](#)

## Response: The Inevitable Killing of Mthokozisi Ntumba

In response to the recent killing of Mthokozisi Ntumba, 35, by the South African Police Service, Adv. Mike Pothier, Head of the Democracy & Governance Programme of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPL) writes: "It would not be fair to say that the South African Police Service is out of control, but the units that deal with public unrest, demonstrations and protests certainly are. The completely unprovoked killing of Mr Mthokozisi Ntumba in Johannesburg was, sad to say, not an aberration; it was business as usual". In his insightful and worrying article Adv. Pothier urges the government to find the political will to enforce profound changes in the ethos of policing in our country to avoid more senseless deaths at the hands of the police.

[Read more](#)



## Analysis: Africa and the USA

A significant realignment of US Africa policy under the new Administration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris is emerging. What are the key priorities of the new government in this regard? What expectations, positions and strategies could African countries and organizations formulate to shape a contemporary, productive agenda for relations with the United States? We have reflected on these important questions and related topics against the background of recent developments and published a new (German-language) article on the website of the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

[Read \(German\)](#)

## Policy Brief: Silencing the guns can reduce forced displacement

Preventing violence and armed conflict in Africa will reduce forced displacement more than any other strategy. Armed conflict is the major driver of forced displacement in Africa and the problem is becoming more severe. How can the African Union's Silencing the Guns initiative help deal with the forced displacement crisis on the continent? Read the full policy brief published by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) that argues that the focus should be on two interventions: strengthening early warning and promoting preventive diplomacy; and addressing structural root causes.

[Read](#)

[Video](#)

## Review: Focus South Africa – 25 years after the end of Apartheid

The German Society for the United Nations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Vereinten Nationen, DGVN) has recently published a brochure with interdisciplinary contributions by diverse authors reflecting on South Africa's past, present and potential future. The insightful articles paint a multi-faceted picture, reflecting on the country's development in the context of global power dynamics. A concise review of this (mostly German-language) brochure, written by the Regional Representative for the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Southern Africa, Hanns Bühler, and the Head of the HSF offices in Johannesburg, Karin April, has just been published in the HSF's Journal Politische Studien (Political Studies).

[Brochure](#)

[Review \(German\)](#)

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### Hanns Seidel Foundation (JHB)

1st Floor, Hyde Gate Building  
Hyde Park Lane Office Park, Hyde Lane  
2196, Hyde Park

**Tel:** +27 (0) 11 325 0589

**Email:** [info@hsf.co.za](mailto:info@hsf.co.za)

**Web:** [southafrica.hss.de](http://southafrica.hss.de)

### Hanns Seidel Foundation (CT)

2nd Floor, 38 Hout Street  
8001, Cape Town

**Tel:** +27 (0) 21 286 0795

**Email:** [info@hsf.co.za](mailto:info@hsf.co.za)

**Web:** [southafrica.hss.de](http://southafrica.hss.de)