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MISTRA's Monthly Briefing is a newsletter from the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. It aims to inform MISTRA's partners about the Institute's research, strategic reflections, published papers, and other news relating to the network of people and organisations committed to MISTRA's strategic engagement with the issues facing South Africa. The briefing is issued monthly.

In **Issue Number#16** we report on colloquia on our research projects on **Nation Formation and Social Cohesion** and on the **Use and displacement of strategic minerals**. And we report on a conference on Sustainable Livelihoods convened by the South Africa Netherlands research Programme on Alternatives in Development (SANPAD) attended by MISTRA researcher, **Catherine Kannemeyer**, as well as on a skafitin session on 22 July 2013 at MISTRA on the philosophies of Dag Hammarskjöld with **Professor Henning Melber**, the Senior Adviser and Director Emeritus of The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Sweden.

Included in this issue is a range of media articles produced by MISTRA staff on topical issues. Including a tribute to Chief Justice Pius Langa by **Dr Mcebisi Ndletyana**, Head of the Faculty of Political Economy. As well as a series of articles by Dr Ndletyana published in The Sunday Independent, including: "*Bury Madiba at Freedom Park*", "*What Price is Madiba's Legacy?*" and "*Could it really be that the DA seeks to relive history?*"

We also report on "*Blue Light Bulbs*" by **Dr Velaphi Msimang** on the Blue Economy, and "*The Role of Science in South Africa in the 21st century*" by **Wilson Manganyi and Jeffrey Sehume** and "*Hydrogen fuel cells reveal rift in science policy*" by **Radhika Perrot**. As well as the publication of "*The state of the State in South Africa*" in The Socialist Correspondent, of the 10th Harold Wolpe Memorial Lecture presented by MISTRA's Executive Director, **Joel Netshitenzhe** in November 2012.

We also report on a recent meeting of the MISTRA Board of Governors, and on **Gail Smith's** response to a keynote address by Poet Laureate Professor **Keorapetse Kgositsile** at the Limpopo Literary festival, as well as the publication of a chapter by **Dr Mcebisi Ndletyana**, entitled "Policy incoherence: a function of ideological contestations?" in the sixth edition of the Human Social Research Council book entitled "State of the Nation".

We hope you find our Monthly Briefings informative and invite you to visit our website, where you will find more information on our research, key papers, media on MISTRA, as well as an [Expression of Interest Form](#) if you are interested in participating in any of the Institute's research projects.

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MISTRA STRATEGIC REFLECTIONS

Colloquium on Nation formation and Social Cohesion



Leslie Dikeni (Project Coordinator), Feibel Mamdoo (Fietas Research site) and project leader Febe Potgieter-Gqubule.

On 15th July MISTRA convened a colloquium on its research project on **Nation Formation and Social Cohesion**.

The main objectives of MISTRA's research project on 'Nation formation and Social Cohesion' were to examine the different interpretations and meanings diverse social actors attach to the prospects of nation formation and social cohesion in South Africa. The key objective was to examine the progress South Africa has made in this regard, and how to address the challenges.

Besides literature reviews and theoretical reflections, the project sought to interrogate the experiences of communities across locales in various parts of the country, in case studies that have unearthed unique insights.



The Colloquium provided a series of presentations highlighting the work done by the research team over a period of 18 months. And provided an opportunity to engage in a critical way with the theoretical and methodological outcomes of the research process. The core research team will integrate key issues emerging from the Colloquium into the final Research Report.

The project leader Febe Potgieter-Gqubule was the programme director for the colloquium, which included presentations by: Professor Andries Oliphant (Lead Writer), Leslie Dikeni (Project Coordinator: KZN Research Site), Mr Robert Gallagher (Field Researcher N Cape Research site), Shepi Mati (Field Researcher W Cape Research Site) and Feibel Mamdoo (Fietas Research site).

Discussants who spoke on "The Role of the State and non-state actors in Building Social Cohesion", included: Rashid Seedat (Gauteng Provincial National Planning Commission) and Josephilda Nhlapho (National Planning Commission Secretariat), Dr Caryn Abrahams (The Ahmed Kathrada Foundation), and Frank Meintjies (private consultant). Phutase

Ntseki (COSATU's Gauteng Provincial Secretary) and MISTRA Director Operations Yacoob Abba-Omar were respondents on "The role of Business and Labour in Building Social Cohesion."

MISTRA's research project on Nation formation and Social Cohesion will be concluded in the next few months and the research report will be launched in early October 2013.

Colloquium on the research project on the use and displacement of strategic minerals



Dr Velaphi Msimang (Head: Faculty of Knowledge Economy and Scientific Advancement - KESA)

Below: Wilson Manganyi (Researcher: KESA) and Ayender Makhuvela (Assistant Researcher: KESA)

On the 3rd of July 2013, a colloquium was held at Cedar Park with key experts and interested parties, to allow for comments, interrogation and interaction on the work of the research project on the use and displacement of strategic minerals. This research project on strategic minerals focuses on the potential applications and impact of platinum group metals (PGM) within the Hydrogen Economy, in which South Africa can play a crucial role.

Presentations of the research project chapters were made by the authors, which include:

- Dr Velaphi Msimang, MISTRA Faculty Head of the Knowledge Economy and Scientific Advancement (KESA)
- Dr Fatima Ferraz from FADO Consulting
- Senior researcher in the Knowledge Economy and Scientific Advancement (KESA) Faculty, Radhika Perrot,
- Mr Adrian Stone from the UCT energy research centre
- Ayender Makhuvela, KESA assistant researcher



Key experts and stakeholders who attended included, the chairperson of the parliamentary committee on Energy Mr Sisa Njikelana, Kleantha Pillay from Anglo American, Kerry Bryans from Umicore and Swazi Twala from the Department of Mineral Resources.

The conference to launch the full report will be on the 30 August 2013 at Gallagher Estate in Midrand, 9h00-14h30.

For more information, please contact Ms Ayender Makhuvela at ayenderm@mistra.org.za

The South Africa Netherlands research Programme on Alternatives in Development (SANPAD) Conference on Sustainable Livelihoods
By Catherine Kannemeyer

In late July I had the opportunity to attend SANPAD's Conference on Sustainable Livelihoods. SANPAD is one of MISTRA's partner organisations and this conference centred on the inclusion of indigent communities, urban renewal, land tenure histories in informal settlements and slums in Brazil, India and South Africa. It followed visits to relevant activists, officials, policymakers and scholars located in Delhi and Mumbai in India, in Recife in Brazil and in eThekweni in South Africa.

Participants at the conference included: Ms Silvia Fernanda Cavalcanti Arrais (Municipality of Recife), Professor Flavio Antonio de Miranda Souza (Universidade Federale de Pernambuco), Professor Urmilla Bob (UKZN), Mrs Seema Redkar (Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai), Dr Pieter de Vries (Wageningen University), Professor Amita Bhide (Tata Institute of Social Sciences), Professor Amitabh Kundu (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Dr Anshu Padayachee (SANPAD), Ms Subhatri Moonsammy (eThekweni Municipality), Thoko Didiza (UNISA), Colleen Titus (SANPAD), Nthabiseng Dlamini (UKZN), and Siyabonga Dlamini (SANPAD).

If sustainable livelihoods policy is to facilitate genuine inclusion in the formal economy, then the need for policy cohesion across various sectors of government became apparent at the outset.

Tensions between established formal communities and their slum dwelling neighbours are apparent across the sites reported upon, especially the imposition of a rising middle class preference for "sanitised public spaces" and the effective exclusion of "dirty" informal sector enterprise from their most profitable markets. Gentrification is not an unambiguously good thing.

[To read more click here](#)



Catherine Kannemeyer

Skaftin session with Professor Henning Melber on the philosophies of Dag Hammarskjöld

On the 22 July 2013, the Mapungubwe Institute had the good fortune of engaging with Professor Henning Melber in a Skaftin session. Prof Melber previously headed the Nordic Africa Institute and is now the Senior Adviser and Director Emeritus of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Sweden.

The session focused on the legacy and philosophies of former United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld and how these philosophies can be used as a frame of reference towards global governance and solidarity. Mr Hammarskjöld was a well-known advocate for the respect of fundamental human rights and the need for global cooperation in order to fight against social inequalities and injustices.

Prof Melber questioned who acts as the conscious of governments and decision makers? Where is the line drawn? According to Prof Melber, much can be learned from the leadership style of Dag Hammarskjöld where a human rights approach to governance is central. He also advised that, civil society and individuals should continue to speak out against unethical leadership.

MISTRA IN THE NEWS

Unconnected in life, United in death

By Mcebisi Ndletyana

AUGUST 3 was probably uneventful to most people. Nothing earth-shattering happened. To others, however, that day was memorable. Burials, for instance, mostly happen over weekends. And, on that Saturday, it was the turn of 74-year-old retired Constitutional Court justice Pius Langa, and Nkosipendule Kolisile, a 40-year-old member of the Gauteng provincial government.

Unconnected in life, united in death

AUGUST 11 was probably successful in most people. Nothing earth-shattering happened. South Africa, however, that day was memorable. Deaths, far from being merely tragic events, were the focus of a 74-year-old retired Constitutional Court justice Pius Langa, and Nkosipendule Kolisile, a 49-year-old member of the governing provincial government.

They were buried roughly 450km apart, one in Durban and the other at Port St Johns. They were completely unconnected, belonged to different generations and may never even meet in life.

But Langa and Kolisile share something in the after-life. They were buried on the same day, yes, but the commonality stretches beyond death. In life they were tied together by a tradition of leadership. Both bucked the trend, epitomising leadership that is increasingly becoming a rarity, if not a subject of ridicule, in our present day public life.

To understand the distinction and interconnectedness of the two men, one first needs to appreciate that leadership is contextual. One can find certain set of values, while another venerates others. Under conditions of oppression, honour and self-sacrifice in black society turned one into a hero. To be self-centred and materialistic was considered most abhorrent. Humane life and freedom, not material satisfaction, were most valued. Sense of the worthy, if not willing to be abused and giving.

Human solidarity – caring for the most person – was a defining trait. A daily experience in black life was suggesting that one didn't make something out to others, sharing the little that one had and standing up for justice, resistance, the degraded, and destruction that they too mattered. Black as they were.

They, in turn, advised those individuals for doing nothing else but simply caring and observing their affliction.

With the arrival of freedom the

Pius Langa and Nkosipendule Kolisile were tied together by a tradition of leadership, writes Mcebisi Ndletyana



HONOURING A GIANT: Former president Thabo Mbeki bids farewell to former Chief Justice Pius Langa who was buried at Red Hill Cemetery in Durban last week. Langa's passing, according to Ndletyana, reminds us of the fading of a moral and diligent leadership, which our country so dearly needs.

PICTURE: GQS

shadow of a "materialist, narcissist and hedonist" leadership. "And here we wonder why the younger generation does not have access to traditions of the struggle. They don't see enough of it in the older generation. There is no such thing as 'young people's behaviour' that is out, in part, as imitation of that to which they are exposed. Proudly to young folks to be successful rather than to be great and they will think it's all about success."

Although thirty-four years younger and less accomplished, Kolisile carried the tradition of an ethical and diligent leadership. He was quite the captain of his team, having served in the ANC Youth League, refusing to simply follow a crowd or court patronage.

He stuck to principle, even at the risk of expulsion from the South African Communist Party. He openly supported the protests by Madisa residents in 2005 and 2008 against their town being placed under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Province, which would have meant the loss of the big chiefs in the party.

And, seeing the party to contest elections independently made him even more unpopular. Kolisile was eventually expelled and the party has expelled quite a lot of members. But he kept quiet and gave nothing with the official line. He would have joined the government as a minister, but he did not join as an ANC member.

Even though he had become

though, he remained engaged in community activities, re-emerging to become a regional leader in Grahamstown. He kept himself to the side but saw a deserved recognition of his community service. And he remained simple, without the

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*Originally published in the *Sunday Independent*

[To read full article, please click here.](#)

Bury Madiba at Freedom Park By Mcebisi Ndletyana

'ONE KING, Two Burials', reads the title of Garrey Dennie's journal article, published in 1992. The article chronicled the sordid saga that enveloped the (re)burial of Sabata Dalindyebo, father to the current cantankerous king, Buyelekhaya. It turns out abathembu are not new to controversy over burial sites of their leaders.

Bury Madiba at Freedom Park

ONE KING, Two Burials, made the title of my Sunday Dispatch article, published in 2013. The article chronicled the saga that developed in the burial of Sabata Dabane, father to the current matanzima King, Mcebisi Ndlela. It is time once again that the king of the ama-Themba are not to be buried in a private site of their leaders.

The most loved king of ama-Themba and popularly known as "Comrade King", Sabata had died on April 6, 1986, in Lusaka, where he had been exiled under the care of then banned ANC. His body was then returned for burial, among his people, at his palace, Bumbane, about 45km outside Umtata (now Mthatha) towards East London. But, KD Matanzima, prime minister of Transkei and paramount chief of (Western) Thembuland, wouldn't allow for Sabata to have a proper burial. Pretending to have come to view his cousin's corpse at the Gwiliza Funeral Parlour, and once allowed entry, Matanzima instructed his soldiers to kidnap Sabata's body for a private burial.

The abduction was not only a transgression in itself, but also a violation of a court order.

Matanzima had earlier issued restrictions preventing any public mourning, limiting mourners to his own kin and instructed that any graves speak at the funeral. Following a request for local intervention by the Dabane family, the Transkei Supreme Court found Matanzima guilty of interfering with the funeral.

But, the law, or rather domestic, wouldn't stop Matanzima from meddling with the dead. Without any proper ritual befitting of royalty, he buried Sabata in the female section of the royal cemetery. Matanzima sought to erase Sabata's name and to deny his royal status even in death.

Matanzima feared the symbolism of Sabata's posthumous rise to his own legitimacy. Using official powers, he had stripped Sabata of the paramouncy of ama-Themba. The burial demanded from Sabata's refusal to recognise Matanzima's paramouncy of Western Thembuland, which was fabricated by the apartheid government.

A justice chief in the House of Transkei, Matanzima had appointed to the judicial system, with Sabata disapproved.

Matanzima was awarded with a title of king and Sabata was posthumously deposed.

Mandela's burial site will be a shrine to democracy where ordinary folk converge to renew their 'faith' in civil religion, writes Mcebisi Ndlelyana



ICONIC MONUMENT: Ambassadors and High Commissioners from various African countries during a tour of the Freedom Park in Pretoria. The writer opines that Freedom Park would be the most ideal place as Mandela's burial site. PICTURE: PHIL MAGAOE

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[To read full article click here.](#)

* Originally published in The Sunday Independent on July 14 2013

What Price is Madiba's Legacy? By Mcebisi Ndlelyana

WHAT becomes of the legacy of an icon when the iconic figure is no more? At times like these, when the inevitable mortality of our founding father has forced itself onto our collective consideration, it seems appropriate to pose this question.

Admittedly, it may seem out of place. After all, we continue to recall Nelson Mandela with fondness. Mention of his name or flashes of his imagery evoke instant warmth. Mandela represents the best of humanity.

It is unimaginable; therefore, that Mandela's name could ever be associated with anything other than the magnanimity of the human spirit. We wouldn't be the first to shrug off any thoughts of the imagery of our iconic figure, long after he has passed on, being sullied into something unlike what we remember of him. African-Americans, too,

once thought that none could ever do anything of the sort to their fond memory of Martin Luther King Jr. The civil rights leader occupies a similar place in American hearts as Mandela does in ours. A descendant of African slaves and an unrelenting champion of equality, King was Mandela's kindred spirit. King derived inspiration from our Struggle, just as much as we did from theirs.

[To read full article please click here.](#)

Could it really be that the DA seeks to relive history? By Mcebisi Ndletyana

'UNLIKE most of the others with whom I had been at circumcision school, I was not destined to work in the gold mines on the Reef... My destiny was to become a counsellor to Sabata, and for that I had to be educated", wrote Nelson Mandela in his autobiography.

His role was ascribed to him by birth. A member of Thembu royalty, Mandela descends from i-Xhiba (ie Left-hand house), whose offspring serve as counsellor to the king. Though prescribed by birth, the young Mandela relished the prospect of being advisor to the future monarch, Sabata. He wanted to be thoroughly prepared so that, when the time came, he'd proffer the king the best advice. So the idea of getting education exhilarated him.

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Blue Light Bulbs on my mind By Velaphi Msimang

Once in a while you are struck by ideas of such elegance you wonder why nobody thought of them before.

One such day was a workshop co-hosted by the SA Reserve Bank and the Mapungubwe Institute (Mistra) on May 2, when about 80 people were dazzled by a staccato of such cases - from a business based on maggots that feed on offal to paper made from mine dumps.



One could not miss the message: there is a lot of space for new ways of doing business that sees opportunities where society sees problems. The brain behind this concept of the "blue economy" - in which "the necessities for life are free, thanks to a local system of production and consumption that works with what you have" - is prolific author, entrepreneur and sustainability thought leader Prof Gunter Pauli. Of the many blue economy applications shared at the workshop, two stood out for me as particularly pertinent for SA: the opportunity to make high-quality paper and car seats from mine tailings, and a polymer waste-based photovoltaic thermal (PVT) hybrid technology.

[To read full article. please click here.](#)

The Role of Science in South Africa in the 21st century By Wilson Manganyi and Jeffrey Sehume

Historical evidence demonstrates the value of science and technology in advancing the general interests of society. Humanity has benefitted immensely from advances and contributions of scientific breakthroughs aimed at improving and enhancing the conditions in people's lives. It can be argued that without science, humankind would be less able to respond effectively to challenges of disease, communication, transportation, and basic survival.

Social relationships therefore are codified by and organised around using the cumulative understandings or mastery of natural laws governing our world.

Science is not value-free since it is subject to dictates of the environments where it is practiced. In the past, while science was used in projects aimed to entrench exclusion and prejudice, similarly it has been used for good to combat superstition, ignorance and oppression.

[To read full article please click here.](#)

Hydrogen fuel cells reveal rift in science policy

By Radhika Perrot

WHEN it comes to science and technology policy, there is often a rift between what a country wants and what it needs to achieve. Often, well-designed policies attempt to align a country's goals with those of its needs, and the two, if they are well aligned, can become mutually reinforcing.

In South Africa, we need to create new jobs through new and existing industries and service sectors and there is a pressing need to beneficiate mineral resources into value-added products and services. While the Department of Science and Technology's role is commendable in this regard, its desire to build a hydrogen industry in South Africa will never align with South Africa's strategic needs without complementary efforts from other departments and institutions.

Below: Radhika Perrot



The department is ambitious in wanting South Africa, to supply 25% of the global demand for hydrogen fuel cell catalysts by 2020 based on its biggest advantage at the moment — owning 75% of the world's platinum resources. Few ounces of platinum are used to develop hydrogen fuel cells, used mostly in the proton exchange membrane type of fuel cell, which is the dominant fuel cell technology. These fuel cells are very expensive but are being used to power hydrogen fuel cell cars; stationary backup systems to power residential units; mobile telecommunication towers and materials handling such as forklifts.

[To read full article click here.](#)

The state of the State in South Africa

By Joel Netshitenzhe

I wish first to thank the Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust for this opportunity to join you and other partners as we acknowledge one of South Africa's sages of social science, Harold Wolpe, on this occasion of the 10th Memorial Lecture. Along with many others of his generation, he contributed not only to the analysis of the social manifestations of Apartheid colonialism. He was also an activist in the destruction and creation that revolution entails. It is due to both these roles that the impact of his intellectual work was and remains that much more profound, because it combined the development of theoretical constructs and their testing and refinement in the crucible of struggle.

I was requested to reflect on The State of the State in South Africa today, an all-encompassing theme with sub-themes that would require lectures in their own right. To make my task easier, I have selected a few issues to illustrate the strategic challenges that South Africa faces as it strives to speed up social transformation.

Proceeding from the premise that we are all familiar with these issues, I will not seek to trace the evolution of the state as such – the Athenian and Spartan versions, the pre-colonial manifestations of social organisation as in the Mapungubwe and other African civilisations and the mfecane wars of nation-formation, or the rise of the colonial state in the geography today called South Africa. Nor will I attempt to interrogate the Weberian, micro-foundational and Marxist theories of the state and their utility.

For purposes of our discussion, I will merely draw from this tapestry, to extract some generalisations on the state of our state today; and the actions required to ensure that it plays an optimal role in leading the efforts to improve people's quality of life. Presumptive as this may sound, I will draw inspiration from Harold Wolpe's methodology of approaching notions of social organisation and the state as being undergirded by class dynamics.

[To read more click here.](#)

* 10th Harold Wolpe Memorial Lecture presented in November 2012 and published in *The Socialist Correspondent*, Issue Number 18, Summer 2013



MISTRA PEOPLE

MISTRA Board of Governors Meeting

MISTRA's Board of Governors meets at least three times a year. The MISTRA Board met in Johannesburg on 31st July 2013, jointly with its Council of Advisers.

The full Board of Governors of the Institute was established in July 2010 and consisted of 24 South Africans with expertise and experience in areas relevant to the Institute's work. The Board was established to exercise fiduciary responsibility in relation to the Institute by ensuring that the Institute operates in accordance with relevant laws, regulations, and corporate governance principles. Its general mandate is to supervise management of the Institute and ensure that the best interests of the Institute are served. The Board, inter alia:

- provides guidance on the broad direction of the Institute's work by approving, monitoring and evaluating the strategic plans of the Institute;
- contributes to the Institute's broad strategic content;
- exercises oversight on governance matters relating to the operations of the Institute, including approval of corporate governance principles, as well as human resources and compensation policies;
- acts as the public face of the Institute on strategic governance matters;
- contributes to building domestic and international partnerships;
- receives reports from management and takes strategic decisions on matters of

governance;

- exercises oversight of the management of the funds of the Institute and, in this regard, approves investment policies, budgets, and financial statements;
- ensures appropriate systems to manage risks; and
- contributes to fund-raising initiatives.



The Executive Director of the Institute is also Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Governors. The Director of Operations is an ex-officio member of the Board.

At the end of the Board's 3-year mandate period, a number of members did not renew their membership due to their workloads in other responsibilities. Members of the current Board of Governors are:

- Professor Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo – Chairperson (re-elected)
- Joel Netshitenzhe – Vice-Chairperson and Executive Director
- Tanya Abrahamse
- Spiridoula Webster [Luli Callinicos]
- Patricia Hanekom
- Jean-Marie Jullienne
- Oyama Mabandla
- Brigitte Mabandla
- Mosibudi Mangena
- Kgabele Solomon [Solly] Mapaila
- Thandi Ndlovu
- Yacoob Abba Omar
- Muthanyi Robinson Ramaite
- Tshilidzi Ratshitanga
- Allister Rogan
- Sibusiso Sibisi
- Peter Vundla
- Sandile Zungu

2nd Annual Polokwane Literary Fair - Writers In Conversation

Gail Smith, MISTRA's Head of Communications, was invited to take part in the "Writers in Conversation" event at the 2nd Annual Polokwane Literary Fair on 18th July 2013.

The Keynote Speaker was Poet Laureate Professor Keorapetse Kgotsitsile whose paper was entitled "Towards some demystification". The two respondents were Professor Pitika Ntuli and Gail Smith.

The conversation between Kgotsitsile, Ntuli and Smith was facilitated by Criselda Kananda and was broadcast live on METRO FM.



On Risk, Rejection and Confronting our Demons By Gail Smith

I wish to begin by thanking the organisers both for organising a festival dedicated to literature and for inviting me and bestowing upon me the honour of sharing a platform with the poet laureate. It is indeed a privilege to be tasked with the role as respondent this evening.

Prof Kgotsitsile has always been someone who has held a lantern and walked ahead for those of us who love writing and literature.

As our national preoccupation on 18th July is invariably fixed on honouring, remembering, and valorising former President Nelson Mandela, I will begin with a poem, penned by Prof Kgotsitsile, entitled, "Mandela's Sermon":

*Blessed are the dehumanised
For they have nothing to lose
But their patience*

*False gods killed the poet in me. Now
I dig graves
With artistic precision*

I think this poem aptly describes the work of writers, poets and literary activists, and echoes what Salman Rashdie said, when he wrote: "The nation requires anthems, flags. The poet offers discord. Rags."

Writers, as you so eloquently argue, Professor, work with both life and language. And as your paper has pointed out, writers working today in South Africa, face a particular range of challenges: linguistic imbalances and widespread illiteracy being among some of the difficulties that bedevil writers that you outline.

I would agree with you on those, and I would further agree with you that "language is the depository of people's cultures" and that we, as a nation, are taking immense risks with both our languages and our culture.

[To read more click here.](#)

On the 26th June 2013, the Human Social Research Council launched the sixth edition of the book entitled "State of the Nation" at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria. This latest edition, themed: "Addressing poverty and inequality", includes a chapter by MISTRA Faculty Head of Political Economy, Dr Mcebisi Ndletyana, entitled "Policy incoherence: a function of ideological contestations?"



The aim of this book is to independently assess South Africa's national agenda within the social, economic and political context. The sections in this year's publication cover themes in politics and the state, economics, society, as well as environment and health.

This highly acclaimed book has been recommended by several university departments, scholars and policy makers as a frame of reference on South Africa's issues, ranging from issues of the past and those that affect us today. Topics which are tackled, amongst many, include: the role of government policies, unemployment, media freedom, citizenship and social justice, climate change and health in South Africa.

Above left to right: Dr Themba Masilela (HSRC), Richard Calland, (UCT), Dr Mcebisi Ndletyana, Dr. Udesb Pillay (HSRC). Seating: Dr. Olive Shisana (HSRC) Judith February (HSRC) and Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu (HSRC)

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