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Democracy and Governance (D&G)

Committed to democracy, justice and human rights

The D&G research programme's main research focus is on democratisation processes in South Africa, southern Africa and in the wider African continent. The programme's work profile includes the evaluation of legislation, policies and the efficiency of public administration. It also involves research in areas as diverse as heritage, culture, foreign policy, public service performance and delivery, accountability, development, the condition of rural women, racial redress, media and social cohesion.

D&G's work involves debating and assessing the practice of the state and private bodies in a way that strengthens democracy and accountability and facilitates socio-economic improvement. The programme's research interests, as with those of the HSRC as a whole, are driven by a normative commitment to the values of the South African constitution, namely: citizenship, democratic ethical standards in public life, equality (in terms of race, gender and class) and overcoming the apartheid legacy. As such it seeks to measure the practice of the state and private bodies against these standards, as well as to deepen public and academic discussion about the conditions of democracy under the current local and global constraints.

D&G's research model is informed by the idea that good policy and political debate are dependent on high-quality research, including research that is theoretical and historical. This research speaks to the nature of the state, and the South African state in particular.

Over the years, D&G's mandate, like the expertise available to it, has expanded considerably. The programme is rapidly developing its reputation as a key national resource for independent strategic thinking and as a home for complementary but wide-ranging multi-disciplinary expertise. The programme has a multi-disciplinary team of researchers with backgrounds in history, political science, public administration, international relations, sociology and media studies. D&G significantly increased its skills base through the incorporation of the HSRC's programme on

Society, Culture and Identity (SCI) in December 2006. More than 60% of the programme's researchers have doctorates. Female researchers constitute one third of the programme research staff. The researchers are spread between Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban.

D&G collaborates with a wide range of local and international partners. These include national, provincial and local governments, international funders and philanthropic organisations, civil society and tertiary institutions.

The programme produces internationally significant work that is of value to national, provincial and local governments and to the wider academic and policy-research community. This includes the definitive annual *State of the Nation* publication – distributed to every South African embassy in the world and a sought after output globally – which charts the current status of South Africa's passage into the post-apartheid era.

Completed projects Publications

D&G researchers published eight books, 26 chapters in books and 21 articles in accredited journals during the year. The subjects addressed by these publications include democracy and governance; trade unions and social movements; land; indigenous knowledge systems and higher education. D&G's high publication rate in international peer-reviewed journals, books and monographs suggests the highest quality of scholarship.

Rural women's rights and traditional authorities

D&G completed the first leg of its project on rural women's rights and the legislated powers of traditional authorities. The project, consisting of a multi-year longitudinal study of communities identified by their application for the registration of communal land, aims to assess the impact of the application of the Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act, 2003 and the Communal Land Rights Bill on the equal rights of rural women in terms of

their access to land and resources, as well as their grassroots participation in political processes.

Commissioned reports

In addition, D&G produced five commissioned reports. One of the reports assessed the relationship between Chapter 9 institutions and civil society, commissioned by the Foundation for Human Rights and submitted to Parliament in January 2007. Another report produced by D&G analysed the relationships between the public service, the universities and the private sector. The study was commissioned by the Department of Public Service and Administration.

Women and integrated development

Women have been marginalised in both society and the economy. Against this background, D&G teamed up with Urban, Rural and Economic Development (URED) to do a study on women, decentralisation and integrated development planning in South Africa. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada funded the project.

Tourism and the second economy

In collaboration with URED, D&G completed two reports focusing on tourism and the second economy. The reports discuss successes, challenges and new models in pro-poor tourism. Both projects were commissioned by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Human rights lecture series

D&G also completed a joint HSRC/Foundation for Human Rights lecture series, which focused on salient and topical human rights issues and other human rights problems endemic to the African continent. The series managed to provoke debate about humanitarian rights among key decisionmakers and civil society. It tried to facilitate dialogue and encourage respect for diversity, justice and equality, dignity and an enduring commitment to the common good.

African partnerships

Besides completing a number of research projects, D&G established formal working relationships with other African research partners, such as the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) so that collaborative research could commence. Locally, D&G consolidated its partnership with the Council on Higher Education. A partnership agreement with Brown University (US) to host D&G junior researchers and interns is in the offing.

Impact of research

The nature of D&G's work is largely qualitative and impact is evident in a number of areas. The priorities and themes of the President's flagship address

in January 2007 were specifically reflected in D&G's work. A paper on the state of the South African social fabric was commissioned from D&G by the Presidency specifically for use in the speech. Other elements in the speech and reflected in D&G's programme include emphases on African collaboration and pan-continental institutional support as well as on improving the efficacy of public administration. The Presidency also commissioned D&G to do a report on Overcoming the legacy of discrimination, focusing on four areas: the public sector; the economy; the role of Chapter 9 institutions; and social capital.

Work undertaken by the programme in the last 18 months further supports the validity of its conceptual thinking and its relevance to the development of state strategic capacity. This work includes research for the Department of Provincial and Local Government, the Presidency, the Department of Arts and Culture and the Department of Foreign Affairs. A document prepared by D&G on the governance sector for the European Commission last year will strongly inform discussion about how and where EU development assistance will be spent.

Throughout 2006/07, D&G researchers continued to be utilised by the South African and international news media as a source for informed analysis and opinion. Senior programme researchers were frequently to be heard on radio, on television and in the pages of newspapers and magazines engaging with a wide variety of critical national and international debates. The repeated requests by authorities at the highest level, such as the Presidency, ministers and directors-general, to provide policy advice, research and feedback indicate a direct impact on the policymaking process.

Facts 'n Figures

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Democracy and Governance (D&G) *continued*

Ongoing projects and future research initiatives

D&G has a number of ongoing projects and has developed several new research initiatives for 2007/08. These include large, multi-year projects such as the South Africa in Africa project that focuses on the emerging linkages between South Africa and the rest of the African continent.

Africa have evoked horror and incomprehension among the South African public, intellectual commentators, and even those in the government's criminal justice sector. D&G's research project, Violence in the South African society, intends to grapple with this problem of understanding violence within the South African social context by bringing critical new theoretical perspectives to the question of violence. Until now, this problem has largely been conceptualised in terms of an instrumental understanding of violence.

Another important area of research is heritage. The programme already has two ongoing projects. The first is the Sol Plaatje project, a community history project focusing on the rise of early African intellectuals in Kimberley and the development of community consciousness in the town. Funded by the National Heritage Foundation, the project interrogates issues of identity, tradition and modernity.

The second is the history of the armed struggle heritage project, focusing on the establishment of a struggle museum in the Amathole District Municipality of Eastern Cape. Museums form an integral part of heritage by virtue of their role in preserving and exhibiting history. They play an increasingly important function with regard to tourism where museums frequently serve as a source of information and a quick reference for visitors curious to learn about the history of our country. The proposed museum has a strong potential to yield significant gains for its host community in terms of both tourism and education.

Inequality has remained endemic in most aspects of life in post-apartheid South Africa, in particular with regard to access to resources. The Race and redress project analyses the consequences of the legacy of racial inequality from the perspective of how this may be addressed in a climate that seeks to foster national unity and national identity among South Africans. The study considers gender inequality as a cross-cutting theme which intersects with racial equality.

The priorities and themes of the President's flagship address in January 2007 were specifically reflected in D&G's work

Of particular interest are issues relating to the involvement of the government of South Africa, civil society and the corporate community in Africa's security; peace-building, democratisation and economic development.

Special focus is given to countries where South Africa's peace diplomacy and corporate investment are concentrated (DRC, Burundi, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Cote D'Ivoire, Somalia etc). The project also reflects on the role of Africa and South Africa in regional multilateral organisations, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the African Union, and international organisations such as the United Nations. The project will involve multiple research partners from different research institutions in South Africa and across Africa, such as CODESRIA.

Another multi-year project is South Africa and the Middle East, an initiative assessing political developments in the troubled Middle East region. The research undertaken in this project will provide independent research and analysis to the Department of Foreign Affairs, particularly during the South African government's tenure on the Security Council.

Various forms of social violence at all levels of society, ranging from armed robbery to sexual violence and murder, have remained at extraordinarily high levels in South Africa. Both the scope and brutality of the violence currently being experienced in South

Presidential
Guard



This three-year study is conducted by a multi-disciplinary team of researchers from various programmes of the HSRC, in collaboration with colleagues from local universities and the NGO sector. The project is being partly funded by Conflict and Governance Facility (CAGE).

The other ongoing projects include the following:

- A social cohesion project, focusing on solidarity and relationships between people as forms of social capital. The project addresses the kinds of values and systems into which South Africans are being socialised;
- A project on fraud prevention in the public service, funded by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), evaluates fraud prevention planning in the public service; and
- A project to audit and analyse knowledge products emanating from the Department of Provincial and Local Government is also underway. The project stems from donor-supported programmes in different provinces and municipalities and will assess their value and develop agreed principles and processes of implementation.

Specialist researchers 2006/07

Dr Ivor Chipkin

PhD, Ecole Normale Supérieure
Questions of the state, nationalism, development and democracy



Dr James Muzondidya

PhD, University of Cape Town
Migration, citizenship and identities



Dr Adrian Hadland

PhD, University of Cape Town
Media policy, journalism, ethics, skills development, governance, political institutions



Dr Mcebisi Ndletyana

PhD, University of the Witwatersrand
The history of African intellectuals, memorialisation of South African history and the formation of national identity



Dr Gerard Hagg

DLit et Phil, University of South Africa
Infrastructure development in the arts sector, community participation in development, community arts centres and arts service delivery, identity and cultural diversity in conflict in Africa



Mr Suren Pillay

MA, Columbia University
Violence in contemporary South Africa, the role of South Africa in relation to the Middle East



Dr Gregory Houston

DPhil, University of Natal
Political history, democracy and governance



Dr Pearl Sithole

PhD University of Cambridge, UK
Gender and governance, local government and development, traditional leadership, land and local economic development in rural areas, indigenous knowledge systems



Dr Peter Kagwanja

PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Developments in peace, security and governance, Africa and the world, South Africa in Africa



Dr Virginia Tilley

PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Comparative ethnic and racial politics and conflict, racial politics of tourism development strategies, Middle East conflict, Latin American indigenous peoples



Dr Darlene Miller

PhD, University of Johns Hopkins
South African companies and their African expansion, labour in southern Africa, social theory, the political economy of the retail sector in Africa and the sociology of work

