



The HSRC and the Parliamentary grant

As a statutory research agency, the HSRC receives an annual Parliamentary grant through the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to undertake, stimulate and promote policy-relevant, applied social science research that contributes to the development of South Africa and the region.

In addition, it receives ring-fenced funding to address specific issues of national importance. During 2006/07, it received approximately R97 million baseline funding from the Parliamentary grant, plus an additional R10,5 million ring-fenced for work on science and technology indicators, and the establishment of a Policy Analysis Unit.

The Parliamentary grant is the HSRC's largest single, and most predictable, source of income. However, there are limits to what can be achieved with the Parliamentary grant. During 2006/07, the Parliamentary grant contributed to approximately 40% of the HSRC's total turnover. The size of the HSRC's annual salary bill alone exceeded its entire Parliamentary grant. The HSRC therefore needs to apply Parliamentary grant funds in the most strategic and beneficial way possible.

During the year under review, some R58,7 million of the Parliamentary grant was directly allocated to research activities. Of this amount, more than R30 million was spent on some 77 research projects that were funded or co-funded by the Parliamentary grant. The remainder of this amount was applied to research capacity building and to infrastructure support within the research programmes.

What follows are some examples of how individual research programmes applied their portion of the grant during the 2006/07 financial year.

Research programmes

Child, Youth, Family and Social Development (CYFSD)

CYFSD uses its Parliamentary grant application to:

- supplement externally funded grant and contract projects, especially to build the capacity of trainees, to network with partners and to extend the dissemination of the results of research through workshops and materials, including film. For example, the programme employed five Master's interns, including two through the DST programme for unemployed graduates;
- add value to research by supporting peer-reviewed publications. During this year, CYFSD researchers published 17 peer-reviewed publications, including one in the prestigious journal *Science* on longitudinal studies of adolescence; and
- initiate research activities in important areas not yet under the spotlight of funders, such as spontaneous community activities to support children affected by HIV and AIDS.

Democracy and Governance (D&G)

Much of the history of the transition from apartheid to democracy has remained unrecorded. With the generation of key national and local leaders now retiring and handing over the

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baton to new leaders, the importance of capturing the detailed history of South Africa's transition has become urgent. This project, funded by the Parliamentary grant, captured the testimony of key liberation movement leaders and their opponents for the benefit of future generations. The recorded video interviews will be distributed to South African tertiary institutions to allow scholarly study and analysis. Furthermore, the video footage is being used to create a documentary programme for television. The recorded testimonies will serve to inform and inspire future generations in South Africa and beyond.

Another project completed with the grant is the Kopanong-Commonage Management Plan, aimed at developing effective management systems, entrepreneurial support programmes and appropriate and economic developmental models for municipal commonage lands.

A project on Language use, identity and future orientation focused on multilingual urban varieties, specifically youth language and its relationship to subcultures and identities. The purpose of the research was to provide a more nuanced understanding of youth language and culture in South Africa so as to promote greater understanding of youth and to inform interventions in youth development, including public health interventions.

The fourth *State of the Nation* book was also funded from the Parliamentary grant, and a series of launch workshops were held in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. The newly-constituted editorial team under the leadership of Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza is currently working on the fifth issue of the highly popular publication.

Education, Science and Skills Development (ESSD)

The Human Resources Development Review 2007 is the second edition in a series of overviews of Human Resources Development (HRD) published by the HSRC, to be launched in December 2007. It follows the very successful launch of the first edition *HRD Review 2003* in March 2004. The main purpose of the *Review* is to put in place a significant information infrastructure for use by the state and human resource development researchers across the education, training, science and technology, industry, employment and labour market policy domains. Information is a critical prerequisite for effective decisionmaking in government, but unfortunately it is extremely difficult for government officials to collect and collate the cross-sectoral data required for HRD policymaking.

As a tribute to the scholarly work of a chief researcher in the programme, Charlton Koen, who specialised in higher education studies until his untimely death in July 2005, the HSRC has published a monograph based on the theoretical

chapters of his unfinished doctoral thesis, entitled *Masters Students Retention and Success*.

ESSD also used the Parliamentary grant money to seed the development of two grant applications, both of which were successful. The first is the U-KNOW project, the HSRC's first-successful attempt at accessing the European Union Framework Programme 6, and indeed among the first such projects in the social sciences in South Africa. The second is a grant application to the Research on Knowledge Systems Competition 2006 (RoKS): Developmental Universities: A Changing Role for Universities in the South. The RoKS grant will open up work on innovation in sub-Saharan Africa, initially with partners in Nigeria and Uganda, but also cross-continental collaboration with nine other countries in Latin America and Asia. Both projects lend themselves to building networks and partnerships with more partners, in Europe as well as across Africa.

Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA)

The Parliamentary grant provided seed funding for the launch of many projects, for example to develop project proposals for funders and donors, and to fund activities that contribute to meeting the HSRC's strategic targets.

The grant was also used to cover operational costs, such as accommodation and overheads, and a large portion was spent on salaries of some of the permanent staff members.

Other costs covered by the grant included capacity building, such as training, seminars, conferences and bursaries. It enabled many staff members to attend the 16th International AIDS conference in Toronto in August 2006, and for post-Toronto follow-up activities, for example a special report back seminar and a major World AIDS Day event on 1 December 2006. As SAHA has two offices, the Parliamentary grant was also used to cover travel expenses not related to specific projects.

Urban, Rural and Economic Development (URED)

A further use for the Parliamentary grant was to complement external funding for several projects, including:

- How indigenous knowledge reduces rural poverty
- The significance of women's property rights
- The roll-out of the South Africa Index of Multiple Deprivation
- The participation of civil society in developing and monitoring Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in the southern African region.

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Other important projects supported by the grant were:

- Cities, space and poverty
- The causes and economic impact of migration
- Urbanisation and migration
- African Migration Alliance
- Homelessness
- The urban implications of the 2010 World Cup.

The money was also used as co-funding to support projects on the place of participation in local democracy, and on women, decentralisation and integrated development planning.

Several projects dealing with service delivery were continued or initiated using the Parliamentary grant in 2006/07, some to provide leverage to external funding. The most important of these were studies of:

- Measuring service delivery in South Africa and southern Africa
- The WASH campaign and health promotion
- Measuring the human-scale development impact of infrastructure-led development projects.

Baseline funding was used as seed money for two new initiatives: tourism and climate change research. A pilot project on tourism was used to leverage external income for a larger project in the following financial year.

Cross-cutting units

Gender and Development (G&D)

Gender mainstreaming training was conducted among staff at the HSRC to improve sensitivity on gender issues related to the organisational culture and to strengthen research using a gender lens.

Research on gender and transport led to a new project on Taxi queens: gender, transport and sex work, to address issues of HIV/AIDS, violence, poverty, transport and economic vulnerability of women and girls in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. This work explores the exploitative and dangerous relationships schoolgirls have with taxi drivers, and is intended to inform policy with the aim to reduce gendered violence.

Public seminars focused on intimate partner violence, on women's representivity and on women and disabilities.

Knowledge Systems (KS)

The major projects in KS supported by the Parliamentary grant are the R&D Survey series and, the Innovation Survey series. The R&D Survey series commenced with the 2001/02 R&D Survey conducted over 2002/04. Since then

three additional such surveys have been produced. These surveys are a component of Official Statistics and provide key indicators for the Department of Science and Technology.

The 2002/04 Innovation Survey is the first such official survey of its kind. It follows the guidelines laid down by Eurostat/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and was for the first time effected by means of a scientific sample drawn from the official business register of Statistics South Africa.

The GIS Centre undertook two projects using Parliamentary grant funding. The first project was Geo-Information for HSRC, which utilised a user needs assessment survey tool to determine the need for geo-information services and products amongst research staff in the HSRC. The second project focused on Geo-Information for Africa. The need for a forum where African researchers and practitioners can share information was established at the AfricaGIS conference in 2005. Based on this expression a web portal was established where such communication is being facilitated.

Parliamentary funding was also used to conduct fieldwork for round four of the South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) and to write chapters for the second SASAS publication; develop survey/statistical applications, data archiving and dissemination of information.

Policy Analysis Unit (PAU)

The Policy Analysis Unit (PAU) was established in July 2006 and is fully funded by DST to serve an independent analytical and impact assessment capability that facilitates the generation of policy recommendations based on research evidence and policy dialogues. It consists of an interdisciplinary team of ten researchers and eight MA and PhD interns. Its activities and initiatives address the five national priority social policy areas of quality education, employment, poverty reduction, service delivery, and HIV and AIDS.

The national government's Programme of Action specifies targets, implementation activities and monitoring protocols in each of these social policy areas and assigns responsibility to various departments in the social, economics and governance clusters of Cabinet. The PAU accordingly collaborates with various national and provincial departments, implementation agencies, policy advocacy groups in civil society, and programmes and national priority initiatives within the HSRC to enhance the implementation and evaluation of social policy.

As emphasised by the Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Mosibudi Mangena, in his address at the launch of the 2005/06 Annual Report of the HSRC in October 2006,



Facts 'n Figures

Nearly 92% of all research projects conducted at the HSRC are for the benefit of the public

'I urge the HSRC Policy Analysis Unit to use the resources allocated to develop new methodologies to analyse progress achieved in meeting the Millennium Development Goals and to assess the impact of social science in the socio-economic development of South Africa'.

Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA)

SAHARA mainly utilised its baseline contribution to strengthen the relationship with the regional offices in East, Central and West Africa and with SADC by visiting the regions more frequently to support regional research initiatives and activities. It was also used to pay for attending a conference planning meeting of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), and contributed to the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA MoU). For capacity development, three staff members were sent to attend an international conference and for gender mainstreaming training.

National Priority Initiatives Employment, Growth and Development Initiative (EGDI)

Under its Employment Scenarios project, EGDI established a forum for dialogue in 2006 with leading opinion- and

decisionmakers from government, business and labour organisations, to deepen the understanding of employment paths, policy choices and the human and financial resources required to achieve employment targets. The forum has been highly successful in enabling open thinking about policy balance and the kinds of decisions needed by different stakeholder groupings to dramatically reduce unemployment and poverty.

The HSRC's Employment Scenarios is by design an independent process. In order to have impact, however, EGDI does work to feed into stakeholder processes. Examples include support to the Directors-General's Economic and Employment Cluster and the Millennium Labour Council.

National Education Quality Initiative (NEQI)

Parliamentary funds were used to complete the analysis of the longitudinal study on Monitoring Education Quality (MONITEQ), as well as for research capacity building of Master's and Doctoral interns. Results from the MONITEQ project were used to develop the methodology and design for the grade 9 systemic evaluation study that will be piloted at the end of 2007 and administered in 2008.