

IN BRIEF

ISSUE 32 | DECEMBER 2022

*Season's
Greetings*



**COLLABORATION
AND PARTNERSHIPS
ARE KEY TO BUILDING
A BETTER TOMORROW**

**The Catalytic Potential of
Cooperative Enterprises**

**Makhanda Youth
Dialogue Exhibition**

**Education for
Sustainable Futures**

**Presidential Social
Sector Summit**



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OUR IDENTITY

OUR VISION

A prosperous, peaceful, equitable and just society

OUR MISSION

To contribute to development through sustainable funding, with like-minded partnerships and innovative scalable development models

OUR VALUES

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Passion for Development
- Hands On, Bottom Up Approach

4IR

Committed to developing and implementing technological innovation

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS:

- **EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PILLAR**
To extend educational development programmes
- **SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PILLAR**
To promote and support socio-economic development
- **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PILLAR**
To support strategic institutional capability development for sustainability
- **FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR**
To ensure financial sustainability of Kagiso Charitable Trust



KAGISO
T R U S T
Overcoming poverty

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

SHAPING OUR WORLD

This *In Brief* sees us closing out a year that has been defined as one of great challenges and great change.

The year began with the country still in recovery mode from COVID-19. April saw the Kwa-Zulu-Natal floods. The Ukraine/Russia conflict has brought with it far ranging economic effects, not least of which has been the huge rise in local and international energy prices – causing substantial knock-on price increases. All this whilst the country has been dealing with the damaging effects of water shortages and Eskom’s loadshedding. If these challenges weren’t enough, the country has been dealing with serious leadership, governance and corruption issues. To highlight just one critical area impacted by these is education. The education sector is reeling from underspending - this is a serious problem in what is one of any country’s most fundamentally important and foundational sectors.

All this is to say that development space is under enormous pressure to be leading from the front and carrying the torch on society’s behalf. However, the responsibility for effecting development and change cannot be carried by development organisations alone. We, as citizens and communities, of all shapes and forms need to rally together and start playing our role creating change and holding the government accountable.



South African civil society, as a collective, has a crucial role to play in the coming months and years and KT’s CSSP pillar is and will continue to play a leadership role in this respect.

KT’s work with the Makana Municipality in the Eastern Cape has proven that through collaboration and community involvement, local government can be held accountable and made to function more effectively, whilst, at the same time, addressing pressing community developmental issues. It has created a win, win situation.

Ultimately, meaningful collaborations and partnerships between civil society, the private sector and government is the only way that South Africa’s challenges will be met. KT is pursuing such partnerships in its efforts to achieve its development goals.

Further to addressing these challenges is the task of coping with the enormous changes that society is grappling with. Change is happening at an unprecedented rate, and, in a sense, we are all building the road as we walk it. Just take look at

“
The root of transformation lies within education. Education has the power to change and influence world views, so that people are able to imagine and plan for better futures.
”



the current buzzwords in the (virtual) boardroom: agile, scalable, adaptive, lean, future-facing, next generation.

University of Johannesburg's, Prof Kat Yassim, introduces the concept of the **VUCA world** in her article '*Education for Sustainable Futures.*' **Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity (VUCA)** are the new watch words currently shaping our 'new normal.'

Whilst change can be daunting and stressful, it points towards a dynamic and exciting road ahead. There is an air of expectancy of even greater change in the near future. KT has and continues to effect change management within the organisation, positioning itself to effectively operate in this 'new normal.'

In this issue of In Brief, we cover the role of cooperatives in socio-economic development, the future of sustainable education, the role of SA's youth in effecting change and the crucial importance of civil society in South Africa today.

Enjoy the read and I wish you and yours a safe, peaceful and joyous festive season.

Mandisa Tselane.
Head of Communications and Marketing.

THE CATALYTIC POTENTIAL OF COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES TO DEVELOP AND TRANSFORM OUR ECONOMY

Co-Authored by Zanele Mabaso, Kagiso Trust Head of Policy Development Unit and Luvuyo Sandi, Kagiso Trust Business and Fund Manager SED.

The World Cooperatives Monitor is an initiative of the International Cooperatives Alliance to track the economic contribution of cooperative enterprises across the world. Their report for 2021 indicates that the top 300 cooperatives generated a combined turnover of more than \$2 trillion (2019 data).

The Eurozone appears to dominate the rankings, with France and Germany featuring seven cooperatives in the top ten. Cooperatives from developing countries feature strongly in the rankings of turnover per capita. This demonstrates the catalytic capacity of cooperative enterprises the world over.

South Africa produced a number of successful cooperative programmes prior to the democratic era, with current local leading brands such as Bokomo, Clover and KWV having started life as farmers cooperatives. They bear testimony to the catalytic merits of cooperatives as a business entity.

Present day cooperative efforts in South Africa however paint a sad picture of failure and missed opportunity. It is often quoted that 85% of SMMEs in South Africa perish within the first two years of registration. The failure rate of cooperative enterprises is even worse. The problems can be traced back to the introduction of a new cooperatives framework that brought about the Cooperatives Act of 2005.

While the expansion of the framework to include all sectors was a good idea, its introduction was marred by ideological dogma, political baggage and an absence of sound business principles. This resulted in dysfunctional cooperatives with a profound lack of capacity across the value chain. This is despite a long-standing commitment by the government to support and promote cooperatives.

Quite recently, the Department of Small Business Development held a public dialogue session in Nelspruit to present its National Integrated Strategy on Enterprise Development (NISED) and SMME and Cooperatives Funding.

The purpose was to gather together key stakeholders to discuss government plans and strategies for supporting cooperatives and SMMEs. This formed part of government's commitment to build a strong and vibrant cooperatives movement, aimed at creating jobs and addressing economic inequality.

A fundamental error of the government efforts to drive the establishment of cooperatives is that a cooperatives movement cannot be driven by government alone. The stakeholders themselves need to be self-reliant, self-responsible and self-sustainable - critical elements of the DNA in ensuring a cooperative's success. Historically, cooperative enterprises have emerged organically out of the ashes of poverty and hardship. They were a response to the adverse circumstances in which communities found themselves.

Successful cooperative enterprises and movements are driven by the cooperative's members and not by the state. The state has a constitutional duty to promote and support enterprise development and cooperatives provide an ideal vehicle by which to channel such support. What is envisaged is a system in which enterprising



The session was well attended by a diverse range of delegates.



Ecosystem Development for Small Enterprise (EDSE) Programme Team Leader and SMME expert Nigel Gwyn-Evans providing a message of support, encouraging partnerships as being instrumental in building a thriving enterprise ecosystem.



Panel Discussion on co-operatives' additional legislative and tax burdens with experts from the Dora Damana Cooperative Agency, Sefa, Cooperatives Bank Development Agency and the Reserve Bank.

individuals organise themselves into cooperatives. Such cooperatives would be designed to enhance the business activities of their members, providing them with economies of scale and scope. These are the types of cooperatives that support industries and contribute to developmental imperatives such as employment and economic growth.

Worker cooperatives also play an important role in creating employment for their members and democratising the workplace. In one of its policy conferences, the ruling party took a resolution to do away with labour brokers. This resolution has never been implemented, and to this day labour brokers continue to exploit black workers with apparent impunity.

This is a void that could be closed through labour cooperatives. A labour cooperative is a type of worker cooperative in which workers of similar skill such as construction or domestic work organise themselves into a jointly owned enterprise in which they are simultaneously the owners and the workers. An administrator is typically hired to assist with routine clerical work while the members undertake both the governance and the work itself.

Housing cooperatives can deliver a mortal blow to the housing and land access challenges currently facing South Africa. It is estimated that in our urban areas, young workers often spend up to a third of their earnings in accommodation expenses. Housing cooperatives have



Breakaway discussion discussing sectoral MasterPlan alignment and co-operative development and policy reform.



Mzoxolo Maki, Chief Director: Co-ops Development at the Department of Small Business Development speaking on the Co-ops Development Policy and Actions.



Minster Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams was the keynote speaker talking about Small Enterprise and Policy Dialogue.

the potential to lower the cost of accommodation and provide a share of ownership.

In contrast, housing cooperative schemes are a common site in developed western countries. These are housing schemes, including apartment buildings, that are collectively owned by the tenants. The effect is a reduced housing expenditure and an improvement in social cohesion. The increased disposable income may explain the higher level of aggregate demand and faster economic growth in these countries.

It must also be emphasised that, contrary to popular belief, the purpose of cooperatives is not job creation or economic growth. Cooperatives exist for the sole purpose of creating and maximising member benefit. In the same vein, the purpose of non-cooperative enterprises is to maximise profits for their shareholders. Job creation and economic growth are government imperatives and are ancillary to these enterprise objectives, respectively. The role of government is to harmonise these objectives through appropriate policy measures and to create a conducive environment for enterprises to flourish, thereby realising the own objectives of job creation and economic growth.

There is a positive correlation between member benefit and participation in the business of the cooperative. When members benefit from their cooperative, they are more inclined to conduct more transactions with the co-op and play a more active role in the running of its affairs. But member participation is a function of member capacity. Those countries with successful cooperative sectors, are characterised by higher levels of human capital indices. The socio-economic conditions in South Africa, including our human capital index, are probably the reason why our cooperatives programme is driven by the state.

Bearing in mind the structural challenges facing our economy, the following steps might be considered for an environment that is conducive to the organic development of sustainable cooperatives.

- The classification of cooperatives must be reconfigured to reflect those catalytic features that make cooperatives possible agents of change. Cooperatives can broadly be classified as worker cooperatives and user-owned cooperatives.
- Government policies and support must be designed to harmonise the member benefit objectives of the cooperative with state developmental agenda.
- Depoliticise cooperatives development and support. Government support for cooperatives must not be used for political mileage.
- Lastly, focus on education and educational capacity. Education has always been a cornerstone in the evolution of the cooperative. Each district should have at least one cooperatives academy.
- Draw from a multitude of skills and knowledge sources including the business sector, academia, success cases from the African continent and the rest of the world.

From the forgoing, it has hopefully been demonstrated how cooperative enterprises can play a pivotal role in the development and transformation of our economy.

It must also be accepted that fundamental mistakes have been committed in the process of ushering in the existing framework for the development of cooperatives in South Africa. The authors of this article therefore call for a vigorous overhaul of the system in order for South Africa to benefit from cooperative enterprises.

MAKHANDA YOUTH DIALOGUE EXHIBITION



In the spirit of creating a collaborative culture and environment, the Makhanda Youth Dialogue Exhibition gathered various youth and community orientated organisation together at the Joza Indoor Sports Centre in Makhanda on July 18th, 2022. The purpose of the event was to create a platform whereby the youth, the municipality, and the community of Makhanda, were given the opportunity to collectively engage and collaborate on projects to better the state of the community.

By Nomkhosi Khumalo, Kagiso Trust Marketing and Communication Officer

The dialogue was a two-part session that was facilitated by Maso Nduna from Assumption Development Centre (ADC) as the programme director.

The Makhanda Youth Dialogue Exhibition was officially opened by Paul Smith KT Local Government Head, highlighting the importance of Civil Society and Stakeholder Collaboration. Sakhe Ntlabezo, the Makhanda Circle of Unity (MCU) Programme manager then spoke, stating that the purpose of engaging the community, the municipality, and local NGOs was to use the platform as a means of engaging with each other to find common ground on how collaboration and partnerships can be formed to the betterment of the youth.

Utilising the Kagiso Trust Stakeholder Collaboration Model of stakeholder mobilisation, other organisations such as the Department of Social Development (DSD),

“Collaborative, inclusive, communal engagement is also a rich incubator of creative ideation and solution focused initiatives.”

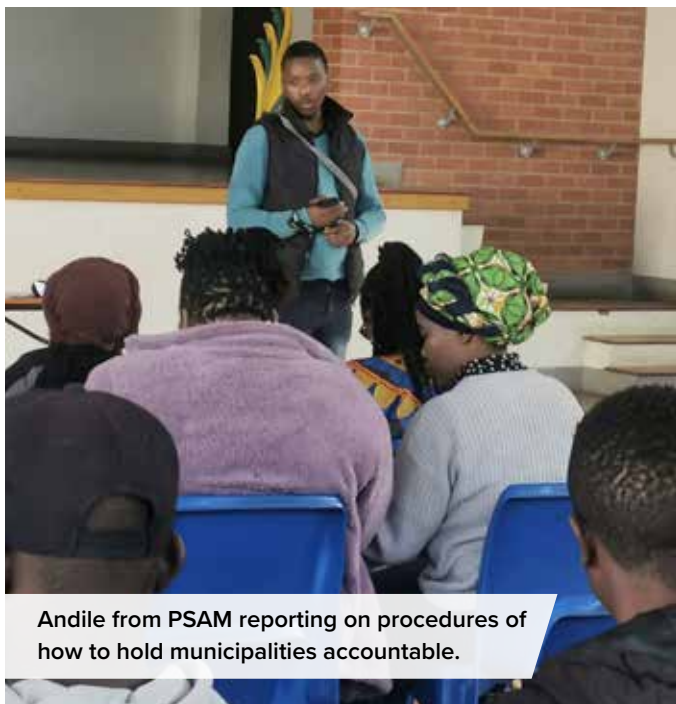
– Paul Smith, the Local Government Support head at Kagiso Trust.

PSAM and SA Youth, were brought in to form partnerships to aid community empowerment through various fields such as education, research, food security, public development, employment development plan and internships. The purpose of the day was to improve the manner in which Kagiso Trust and the MCU communicate with the community. COVID-19 changed the dynamics of communication, resulting in communication that took place mainly via virtual platforms to the exclusion of those who did not have access to data, mobile phones or digital platforms. With the absence of COVID-19 restrictions, it is time to bridge the communication divide and come to where the people are and hear directly how they want to see change happen within their communities. In this way, when projects are finally implemented, the communities involved and impacted know how the projects came about and how the projects will benefit them as the community.

Lungile Penxa and Andile Nayika from PSAM spoke on strengthening social accountability and civil society support for communities and provided feedback on the



The Kagiso Trust Stakeholder Collaboration Model of Stakeholder Mobilisation.



Andile from PSAM reporting on procedures of how to hold municipalities accountable.

organisations involved. Representatives of the Makhanda youth took to the platform to discuss youth activism and what it means today. An important issue raised was that communication via social media platforms is very exclusionary as some of the members of the community do not have access to the internet. Furthermore, engagement concerning the community usually happens in town, instead of being held within in the community, meaning there are transport costs which again limits participation. Apart from overcoming these issues, ensuring that these engagements happen within the communities also shows a real commitment to wanting to assist the community.

In wanting to engage and hear more from the youth in terms of how KT and MCU can assist the youth and empower them, Paul Smith opened a dialogue by asking the following questions:

What does it look when the youth is supported?

What does it look like when the youth are involved?

One response for ‘*What does it look like when the youth is involved?*’ – was that ‘*It looks promising*’ as they are then responsible for their futures and it would look ‘*unique,*’ as they would get to engage as the youth, and become active in these programmes. Furthermore, become better informed in what is going on in the community. In responding to ‘*What does it look like when the youth is supported?*’ It was suggested that there should be ‘*more inclusivity and a focus on education, and to get more departments involved, but that should not be boxed off.*’ There should be more introspection and procreation so that there is a broader scope of the type of support that is given according to the needs of the community.

initiative sets to mobilise the public into standing up and hold their leaders and municipality accountable for their commitment to the public and use of resources.

Maso Nduna from the Assumption Development Centre (ADC) opened the plenary discussion. Reflecting on the session with reference to the IDP (Integrated Development Planning), it was noted that there needs to be an opportunity for the public to talk and participate in initiatives that will impact the communities themselves. This was the purpose of the event, to host a Youth Dialogue, affording the youth of Makhanda the opportunity to engage with the various



Maso Nduna opening the plenary discussion.



Makhanda Youth sharing with Paul Smith about issues they face within the community.



Youth singing zizojika izinto – a song of hope that things will change.

Paul then asked ‘How can KT/MCU engage the youth and the community in implementing projects?’

The common census was that communication needs to be a priority. The Youth answered that ‘Communication is important as it is what keeps people informed, for example not a lot of groups in Grahamstown know about Kagiso Trust and the kind of plans that they have for young people.

KT needs to communicate more effectively what the specific objectives are. For the youth, their priority right now is to be employed. ‘There needs to be an address of the socio-economic conditions that young people are subjected to which limits growth, access and participation, jobs and exclusion from participating in the political and economic landscape – how can KT/MCU assist in navigating these issues? These issues are not unique to

us only.’ What they would like is for Kagiso Trust to support their initiatives.

An idea emerged in the discussion that ‘Kagiso Trust can use the youth to advance its objectives through the use of internships. Also, involve the youth in creating a communication strategy that will enable the youth to be the voice of Kagiso Trust within the community of Makhanda.’

Paul commented that when Kagiso Trust came to Grahamstown it was looking at formulating a civic coalition, which is how the MCU was created. It is a structure that enables people to report their issues so that they are heard and that is how we (KT) will know how we may assist the people. He elaborated that processes and structures are vital in everything, thus formulating a structure that



Sakhe Ntlabezo and Paul Smith listening to the community inputs on matters regarding the youth.



Department of Social Development (DSD) had the youth well engaged on how they can access opportunities.



PSAM's Lungile talking with stall visitors.



Registration for info on workshops held by SEDA.



Mthatha Training Projects brought fresh crops as a visual demonstration of produce from their organic food gardens.

will enable the communication strategy. But structures are ineffective without the buy in from the people and structures need to remain objective and not subjective. By the end of this discussion the youth agreed that WhatsApp would be the most effective and cost-effective communication tool.

The second session offered the community the chance to engage with the stalls at the back of the hall in which the following organisations were represented:

MAKHANDA CIRCLE OF UNITY (MCU)

Kagiso Trust has been instrumental in the continuous collaboration with Makhanda Circle of Unity which provides platforms for stakeholders to collaborate for the betterment of the indigent. In this regard, the Youth Dialogue Round table was strategised and brought to fruition by both organisations.

HARAMBEE/SA YOUTH

Harambee is a youth employment accelerator that aims to overcome youth unemployment through collaboration and forming partnerships that will avail more employment opportunities to the youth. These opportunities are accessible through a free online portal called SA Youth.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (DSD)

The DSD was present in the capacity of providing knowledge on how the youth can access a range of opportunities available for communities to empower and sustain themselves. This would include social assistance in the form of grants and how one can apply for them.

PSAM

Stemming from Rhodes University School of Journalism and Media is the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM). PSAM investigates and addresses key issues that lead to failures of public resource management (PRM)

SEDA

The Small Enterprise and Development Agency (SEDA) provides information on how the youth can pursue entrepreneurship as an avenue of income and how they can go about heading this direction.

MTHATHA TRAINING PROJECTS

Mthatha Training Projects was able to inform the youth on the possibilities of small organic food gardens as a source of income, providing in-depth knowledge on how to go about it.

After the event, refreshments were handed out which had been prepared by local Makana SMME's – supporting local business.



Paul Smith having a discussion with the Makhanda Youth.



Harambee/ SA Youth had brought mobile devices to show the youth how to navigate their website.



KT Local Government Project Manager, Kabelo Motushi, informing a delegate about Kagiso Trust.

The Makhanda Youth Dialogue was considered a success as it got the youth, community, and the community organisations to engage with each other and provide some solutions that will empower all concerned. It is evident that there is an opportunity to formalise and organise the youth, community, and NGO collaboration in Makana. But there needs to be extra effort directed to ensure that there is no duplicate initiatives and that these initiatives are born out of the need of the community so as to build a common vision of active citizenry and participation.

At the core, communication needs to be formalized and structured so that it has extensive reach and is effective in making the youth and the community aware of what is happening in Makhanda and how they can actively engage. Furthermore, for the youth and the community to know what resources and organisations are available to them so that they can empower themselves and drive their own socio-economic development through being active citizens.

One solution that has been kickstarted is the creation of a Makhanda Youth WhatsApp Group so that all the youth that were present can start communicating with each other and keeping abreast with information that might be beneficial to them.



Stall engagement at the back of the hall during the second session.



Youth delegate inquiring about the programmes offered by Kagiso Trust.



The event programme director, Maso Nduna from Assumption Development Centre (ADC).



Discussions at the KT stall about the involvement of Kagiso Trust within the Municipality of Makana.



Vuyokazi Douse, Makana Municipality Manager advising youth on how to utilise readily available resources to empower themselves.



Tshezi from the Unemployed Peoples Movement (UPM) Chairperson motivating the youth if they have the same spirit as the youth from 1976.



A queue around the Harambee / SA Youth stall as the youth await to be shown how to access the job registration portal online.



Delegate registration at the DSD table so that they are included in communications about the various types of funding offered by the DSD.

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

By Prof Kat Yassim, University of Johannesburg

Education and the future are inseparably intertwined. How we understand the future influences, how we think about education.

Given the experiences of the pandemic, that witnessed 1.6 billion learners worldwide suffering learning losses, a VUCA world emanated before our eyes. If the reality of a constantly changing world was ignored before, the sudden and startling changes to lives and to education delivery demanded immediate attention and action.

It brought to the fore that if the future cannot be predicted with certainty, decisions about education for the future will not have a precedence. Postmodern and postcolonial theories make us aware of the problem of a linear and teleological approach to the future, advocating for a humanistic understanding of education.

The ideal is that education should bring society closer to a humane future (which includes the environment). One has to only contemplate the current struggles (like the war in Ukraine, the effect of climate change, persistent poverty, violence etc.) to establish that a future that offers one the freedom to shape one's own future, as well contemplate the possibility of potential alternative futures is required.

Mental images of the future require a differentiation between “expected” (probable), “promised” (possible) and “preferred” (positive visions of) futures. Studies of young people refer primarily to probable futures – promised and preferred futures seem to be missing. It stands to reason that if sustainability is a desired goal, then a change towards offering conversations linked to preferred futures (one where morality is the basis for decision-making) is required.

In this regard, the aim of education for sustainable futures should be to educate learners so that they acquire competencies that help them to learn to think and behave in a sustainable way.

This learning extends across all types of education, to all disciplines and to persons of any age because it goes beyond imparting knowledge or raising awareness, but rather towards fostering proficiencies like systems-thinking competencies, anticipatory competencies, normative competencies, strategic competencies, interpersonal

NATIONAL EDUCATION COLLABORATION TRUST

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2nd **LEADERSHIP** Conference

28-29 September 2022

Sustainable Futures



Prof. Kat Yassim, University of Johannesburg.



Dual presentation from Yoliswa Mahobe (Right) and Jess Schulschenk (left) from the Sustainability Institute.

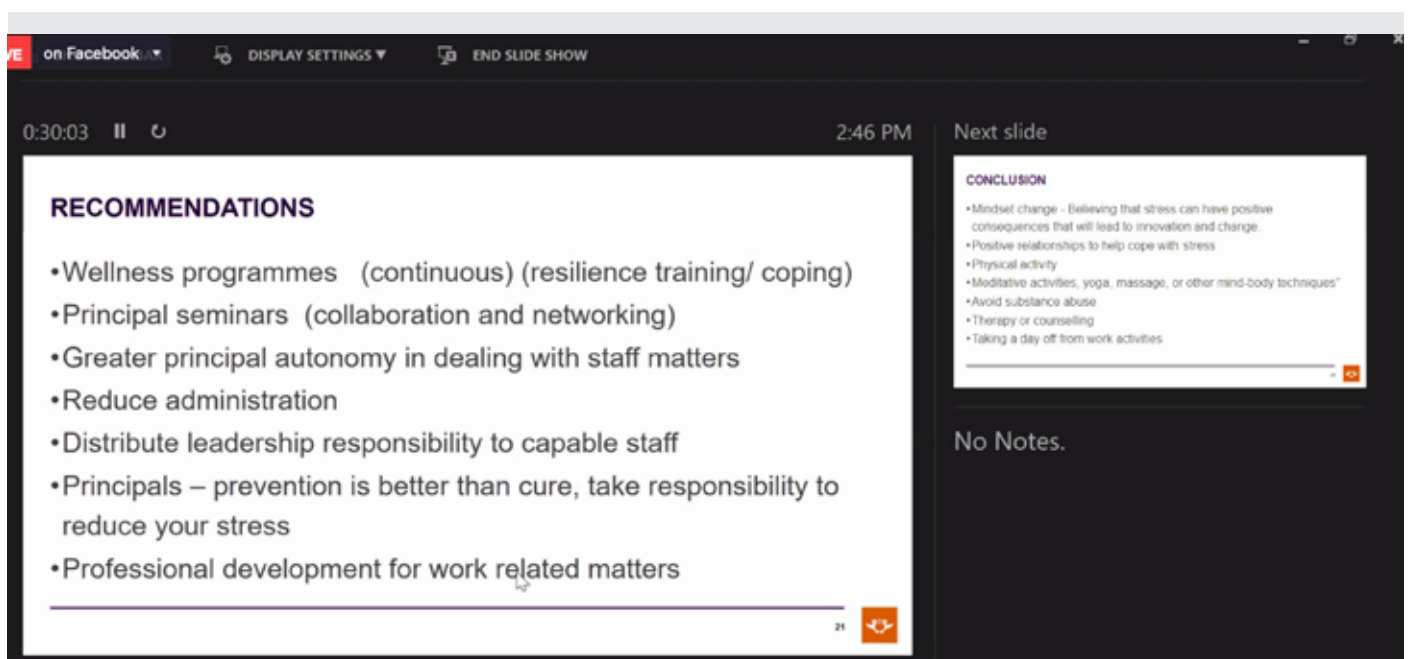
competencies, and critical thinking. Therefore, education for sustainable futures cannot be based on any specific knowledge content, but rather it should be oriented towards questions of how education can contribute towards societal transformation for a better future.

Education for sustainable futures must be considered as a process in which citizens need to take an active part where critical thinking, reflecting, the inclusion and integration of pluralistic and alternative viewpoints and where participation and decision-making skills become important aims in education.

It is in this spirit that a school leadership conference was held in September 2022 in partnership with Kagiso Trust and the NECT. The aim was to foster conversation on four themes that directly concern education for

sustainable futures. The themes discussed were, social well-being, economic resilience, good governance, and environmental integrity. Through presentations of school leaders, a number of education stakeholders and university researchers' ideas on the impact and implications of education for sustainable futures was shared.

Conclusions and learnings included rethinking the purpose of education, creating orientations to education that offer relevant and responsive approaches with the intent of a sustainable future. In this way, education for a sustainable future was conceived as a form of subjectification, one that supports and enables self-efficacy, formability, and creativity and where education serves as a platform for experimentation and critique and one that has the potential to open up alternative futures for learners to pursue.





NEW SOCIAL COMPACTING:

PRESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SECTOR SUMMIT

*By Boichoko Ditlhake, Kagiso Trust
Civil Society Support Programme Project Manager*

The long-awaited Presidential Social Sector Summit (PSSS), themed “Fostering Social Cohesion to enable economic participation in communities”, was held on 4-5th August 2022 at the Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg and was attended by 600+ delegates, drawn primarily through provincial consultations which had taken place in the run-up.

Kagiso Trust presented and participated in the plenary session and commissions. The key areas of Kagiso Trust’s purview, such as work on capacity building; regulatory framework; civil society coordination; resource mobilisation and community development are not only aligned with but ahead of the deliberations of the PSSS.

The PSSS was convened as a result of the President’s State of The Nation Address, calling for a social compact with social partners, such as business, labour, and Civil Society, to be convened and concluded within in 100 days. The aim being to address the various social challenges facing



Boichoko Ditlhake, Kagiso Trust
CSSP Project Manager

South Africa. Collaboration between Civil Society and Government is critical in ensuring there is mutual trust and provision of service delivery to the most vulnerable communities. This is particularly relevant in the current context, where the country is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the distracting 2021 July civil unrest, unprecedented high unemployment, exorbitant energy (fuel and paraffin) prices and the rolling electricity loadshedding by ESKOM.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL SECTOR SUMMIT

The objective of the Social Sector Summit was to discuss common issues and seek solutions to problems shared by Civil Society Organisations. Moreover, one of the anticipated outcomes of the summit is the development of a framework agreement with an implementation plan, clear deliverables, time frames, roles, and responsibilities for the social partners. The PSSS concluded by the presentation and signing of the “Framework Agreement of the Presidential Social Sector Summit”. The Framework Agreement articulates Principles for Social Partnership and anchors the implementation of the various areas outlined within a proposal to develop an Implementation Plan. The key areas of recommendations are resource mobilisation; capacity building; transformation; job creation and community development. It is noteworthy

that most of these areas are aligned with Kagiso Trust’s programme interventions, which have already established strong thought leadership, networking, and advocacy/positionality around them. It is further noted that the overall conceptualisation of the “new social compact”, which was pioneered by a Kagiso Trust study was also taken onboard by the PSSS, although not to the extent that we would have liked.

KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Some delegates protested, correctly, that they were not prepared to rubber-stamp something which had already been written and which had not been properly canvassed for their input. The failure to circulate the draft framework created a sense of a rubber-stamping exercise, angering many delegates and provoking objections, which led to some negative media reports. As it was to be expected, given the above, several civil society formations have already called into question the legitimacy of the process and the outcomes of the PSSS, which may then lead to contestation and even legal questions being posed by those who feel dissatisfied and excluded.

IS SOUTH AFRICA READY FOR A SOCIAL COMPACT?

“Several summits, on jobs, investment, and gender-based violence, have been held under the auspices of NEDLAC,

resulting in several commitments by social partners towards job creation and investments. NEDLAC was also instrumental in ensuring the adoption of the National Development Plan (Vision 2030) published in 2012, which faced resistance from some quarters, notably labour. Despite these agreements and ongoing social dialogue, the challenges of high unemployment and inequality persist. The economic recovery plan first agreed to by business and the government and endorsed by social partners at NEDLAC was less of a single plan than it was a lining up or alignment of the priorities of different sector stakeholders. This aligns with the approach of 'each to their own' subscribed to by Kagiso Trust. This might justify the doubts about the effectiveness of NEDLAC's ability to negotiate the kind of social compact necessary to fundamentally transform society”.

It is in this context that Kagiso Trust believes the PSSS framework agreement is destined to falter, as many others before it, given that there exist a nationally agreed social contract but that there exists a trust deficit between the governed and governors. The government needs to rebuild the foundations for national social cohesion and agreed priorities to take South Africa out of the existing crisis. The current framework and processes for a new social compact have missed the opportunity to rally the nation behind a common plan of action, and instead seemed to have deepened the divide, lowering trust



Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu officially opened the summit.

Pic: www.flickr.com/photos/governmentza

levels further. Despite these challenges, the PSSS created a more tangible set of areas of collaboration between government and civil society, potentially with positive outcomes if managed well. It can also be argued that as a contribution towards social cohesion the PSSS brought a wide range of constituencies and sectors together. Its success will hinge on the willingness to widen the scope and invite further contributions to strengthen ownership of



Summit delegates enjoying an engagement session with exhibitors.



President Ramaphosa addressing the summit.

Pic: News24



Address by Thulas Nxesi, Minister of Labour and Employment.

Pic: www.flickr.com/photos/governmentza

the framework agreement. This will enhance commitment to an Implementation Plan as it will provide a measurable instrument for monitoring implementation and foster mutual accountability amongst stakeholders.

Ultimately, the PSSS must be seen as one of many initiatives currently underway which can positively reshape

State-Civil Society relations. The Defend Our Democracy Campaign, the planned Social Justice Sector Summit and many other initiatives can be engaged with alongside the PSSS to enhance the self-activity of civil society.

The planned National Civil Society Consultative Conference (9-11 November 2022) which Kagiso Trust is facilitating, together with a wide variety of stakeholders, presents a unique convergence point between events such as the PSSS and the various other efforts currently underway. The credibility and leadership contribution Kagiso Trust is making is an important bridge between the diverse stakeholders, allowing for dialogue, to align and critically engage each with other to strengthen not only civil society but national development priorities.

CONCLUSION

The PSSS is a positive step-forward for development, social cohesion, and frameworks for implementation which it is hoped will emerge. While Kagiso Trust's contribution was well received and impactful, current, and planned activities must continue to be catalytic, independent, and dynamic to widen and deepen the contribution of citizens and the sector in setting and meeting local-to-national development needs of communities and stakeholders. South Africans will have to come together in a local, social compacting movement to find each other and find common ground towards addressing the national questions.

OUR FOOTPRINT

Limpopo

KST:

- 60 Anglo American Schools Project

PMO:

- University of Limpopo Research partnership

BNSDP:

- 243 schools in Sekhukhune East

SED:

- Spar Mopani Rural Hub Initiative

North West

PMO:

- North West University Research Partnership

SED:

- BPI Funding

Northern Cape

KST:

- 25 Anglo American Schools Project

Free State

BNSDP:

- 166 schools in Thabo Mofantsanyaya

KST:

- 323 schools in Motheo & Fezile Dabi

EMSP:

- 51 Students, including 2018 intake of 15 students

PMO:

- UFS Research partnership

Western Cape

PMO:

- Stellenbosch and Western Cape Universities Research partnerships

Eastern Cape

KTC:

- CoGTA

Local Government Support Programme:

- Makana Municipality

SED:

- Groendal Workers Trust

Gauteng

Leadership Conference

- Faculty of Education, UJ
- National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT)

Kagiso Trust Consulting:

- CoGTA

PMO:

- Thabo Mbeki Foundation
- Human Science Research Council
- South African Human Rights Commission

SED:

- PROPreneurX

Mpumalanga

KST:

- 25 Anglo American Schools Project

KwaZulu-Natal

Beyers Naude Memorial Lecture:

- University of Zululand

SED:

- Funding through – For Farmers East for yellow maize crops and Sebenzangamandla Pty (Ltd)

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