

Advancing Excellence in Public Administration and Management

Presidency’s Message

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2026, it is with great pride that we acknowledge the remarkable strides SAAPAM has made in strengthening partnerships, advancing professional development and aligning its programmes with national priorities. These achievements are a testament to the organisation’s unwavering commitment to building a capable, ethical and responsive public service one that drives meaningful governance transformation across South Africa.

Over the past months, SAAPAM has not only fostered strategic collaborations with key government departments and institutions but has also created platforms for knowledge exchange, mentorship and professional growth. From engaging emerging public sector leaders during student orientations to facilitating internships and research opportunities, the organisation continues to open doors for skills development, innovation and evidence-based practice within the public administration landscape.

This newsletter highlights the momentum generated in the first quarter, setting the stage for the months ahead. It showcases initiatives that reinforce institutional capacity, strengthen professional networks and promote collaboration between academia, government, and practitioners. These efforts are integral to SAAPAM’s mission of enhancing service delivery, cultivating leadership excellence and advancing a professionalised public sector

As we look to the future, we remain committed to creating opportunities that inspire innovation, encourage engagement and ensure that governance in South Africa is guided by competence, accountability and forward-thinking solutions. Together, we continue to shape a public administration that not only responds to the challenges of today but also anticipates the demands of tomorrow. Through collective effort, shared vision and sustained dedication, SAAPAM will continue to champion transformation, uphold governance excellence and support a public service that delivers effectively for all South Africans.



Prof. John Molepo

A Message from the Executive Director

As we draw to the close of the first quarter of 2026, it is with immense pride and optimism that I reflect on the strides SAAPAM has made in advancing public administration, governance and professional development across South Africa. The past few months have been a testament to the dedication of our members, the enthusiasm of emerging professionals and the strength of our partnerships with key institutions. Together, we are shaping a public sector that is capable, innovative, ethical and committed to sustainable development.

Our engagements with first-year students and being present at orientation sessions allowed us to welcome the next generation of public sector leaders and to introduce them to the opportunities and benefits that SAAPAM membership offers. Beyond simply sharing information, these interactions have been about inspiration showing students the possibilities that lie ahead in their academic and professional journeys and helping them see how engagement with a professional body can accelerate their growth, open doors to mentorship, and provide a platform for research, networking and skill development.



Prof. Kgothatso Shai

Similarly, feedback from our internship programme highlights the transformative impact of practical workplace experience. Students such as Tumelo Seema and Prince Mohale have not only gained hands-on skills in policy development, administration and project coordination, but have also developed the confidence and professional acumen to contribute meaningfully to the public sector. These stories reaffirm the value of SAAPAM's programmes in bridging the gap between academic learning and professional practice, providing both guidance and opportunity for emerging leaders.

Strategic engagements with our institutional partners have further strengthened the foundation for impactful collaborations. Our discussions with the DPISA focused on aligning conference themes with critical policy reforms and ensuring access to research outputs that inform evidence-based governance.

The engagement with DPME centred on visibility and the translation of research into actionable policy briefs, emphasising the importance of monitoring, evaluation and data-driven decision-making.

Our partnership with the NSG has opened exciting pathways for professionalisation, CPD initiatives and ethical governance, ensuring that facilitators and public servants not only enhance their skills but also belong to recognised professional bodies that uphold standards of excellence, integrity and accountability. Together, these partnerships reflect a shared commitment to capacity development, research-informed policy and innovation in public service.

As we prepare for our 25th Annual Conference, themed **“Growth and Sustainability through Improved Governance: Reimagining Institutions, Leadership and Development in a Changing World,”** we are creating a platform where knowledge meets action. The conference will integrate professional development, research dissemination, mentorship and policy engagement, ensuring that participants leave with skills, insights and connections that will have lasting impact. By anchoring discussions in evidence-based practice, ethics and inclusive leadership, the conference will not only celebrate scholarly excellence but also contribute meaningfully to the transformation of public administration and governance in South Africa.

Looking forward, SAAPAM is committed to sustaining momentum in all areas of our work. We will continue to expand opportunities for students, interns, and members; enhance collaborations with government and academic institutions; and drive initiatives that promote professionalisation, ethical governance, and capacity development. Our vision remains clear: to build a capable, forward-looking and accountable public sector where innovation, leadership, and excellence are the standard and where every interaction whether through workshops, conferences, or research initiatives strengthens the foundation of a resilient and effective public service.

I encourage all our members, partners, and emerging professionals to actively participate in SAAPAM's programmes and seize the opportunities on offer. We warmly invite you to join us at our **25th Annual Conference** and be part of this transformative dialogue.

Your participation will not only enrich the discussions but also enable you to network, learn and contribute to shaping the future of public administration and governance in South Africa. Let us come together to share knowledge, drive innovation and collectively advance excellence in the public sector. Well wishes to all our members, colleagues and future public sector leaders may this year be one of growth, learning, and meaningful engagement. We look forward to welcoming you at the conference. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) for graciously hosting SAAPAM, and for providing the necessary resources and support that enable our offices and staff to operate effectively. Your collaboration continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening SAAPAM's capacity and outreach. For further information, membership inquiries, or to get involved with upcoming initiatives, please contact SAAPAM at:

Email: SAAPAM@tut.ac.za
 Phone: **012 382 9769 / 076 750 2300**
 Website: www.SAAPAM.co.za

Membership and Professional Designation

Why become a SAAPAM member, for professionals

Becoming a member of the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) offers public servants, academics, researchers and policy practitioners the opportunity to join a vibrant professional community committed to advancing excellence in governance, public administration and policy leadership. Membership provides a space where professionals can exchange knowledge, collaborate on solutions and contribute meaningfully to strengthening public sector performance.

As a professional member, individuals gain access to national and international conferences, seminars and workshops designed to promote continuous learning and professional development. These platforms create opportunities to stay informed about emerging trends, engage with thought leaders and participate in discussions that shape the future of public administration.

Membership also provides opportunities to publish scholarly work in peer-reviewed journals and SAAPAM publications, enabling professionals to contribute to academic discourse and share practical insights from the field. This exposure not only strengthens professional credibility but also supports knowledge sharing that informs policy and practice.

In addition, SAAPAM offers a platform for members to actively contribute to policy debates and participate in conversations that influence public sector reform. Through these engagements, members can play a meaningful role in addressing governance challenges and promoting innovative approaches to public service delivery.

Professional networking is another key benefit, as members interact with senior scholars, government officials, and fellow practitioners across different sectors. These connections foster collaboration, mentorship and the exchange of ideas that can enhance both individual careers and institutional effectiveness.

Ultimately, membership provides recognition as part of a respected public administration association, reinforcing professional identity and commitment to ethical and effective governance. SAAPAM empowers professionals to remain informed, engaged and influential while contributing to the ongoing development of a capable and responsive public service.

Why become a SAAPAM member, for students.

Joining SAAPAM as a student member opens doors to meaningful academic growth, professional development and mentorship within the field of public administration and governance. It provides students with an opportunity to become part of a supportive professional community where learning extends beyond the classroom and into real-world public sector engagement. As a student member, individuals gain exposure to real-world policy and administrative issues, helping them better understand the practical challenges and opportunities within the public service environment. This experience allows students to connect theoretical knowledge with current governance practices, strengthening their academic and professional foundation. Student membership also offers opportunities to present research and participate in conferences, creating a platform for students to share ideas, receive constructive feedback and build confidence in academic and professional settings. These engagements encourage critical thinking and help students develop communication and presentation skills essential for future leadership roles. Members further benefit from access to SAAPAM publications and academic resources, which support learning, research, and knowledge development. These materials keep students informed about emerging trends, debates and innovations in public administration and governance, enriching their academic journey. Networking is another key advantage, as student members engage with experienced professionals, academics and fellow students. These interactions foster mentorship, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas, while also helping students build valuable professional relationships early in their careers. Ultimately, SAAPAM student membership provides a competitive edge for internships, bursaries and career advancement opportunities. It serves as an ideal platform for students who aspire to become future leaders and innovators in public service, equipping them with the knowledge, connections and confidence needed to make a meaningful impact.

SAAPAM Membership Terms and Conditions

The South African Association of Public Administration and Management membership process requires applicants to complete the online application form and submit all relevant supporting documentation. Prospective members are encouraged to apply using the official application portal, ensuring that all required information is captured accurately to avoid delays in processing. Applicants must attach certified copies of all required documents, which should be date-stamped and not older than three months. This requirement ensures that all information submitted is current and valid. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that all documents are properly certified and uploaded to the application system before submission. A non-refundable application fee applies to both Individual and Institutional membership applications.

In addition, both the application or reactivation fee and the membership fee payable by first-time applicants or those reactivating their membership are strictly non-refundable. Applicants are therefore advised to confirm their eligibility and readiness before completing the payment process. The membership cycle runs from **1 January to 31 December** each year. Applications will only be approved once proof of payment of the full membership fee for the applicable year has been received and uploaded to the system or submitted via email. This ensures that membership records remain accurate and aligned with the organisation's annual cycle. All membership applications are reviewed by the SAAPAM Membership Officer for consideration and approval. Processing will only commence once proof of payment has been received and applicants should ensure that payment confirmation is submitted promptly to avoid delays. Upon approval of the application, feedback will be communicated to the applicant together with a membership confirmation letter. After payment has been verified, the applicant will also receive an official acceptance email outlining how and when the membership certificate will be delivered, including dispatch arrangements through Postnet.

Professional Designation

The professional designation framework provides a structured pathway for recognising expertise, experience and academic achievement within public administration and governance. These designations are aligned with the National Qualifications Framework and are designed to promote professionalisation, strengthen competency development and enhance credibility across both academic and public sector environments.

The framework outlines two primary categories of professional designations, namely those for public sector practitioners and those for academics. For practitioners, the progression moves from Public Sector Professional at **NQF Level 7**, to Public Sector Senior Professional at **NQF Level 8**, and ultimately to Public Sector Executive Professional at **NQF Level 9**. Each level reflects increasing responsibilities, leadership expectations and strategic decision-making capabilities within the public service. Similarly, academic professionals are recognised through a parallel pathway that includes Academic Associate Professional at **NQF Level 8**, Senior Academic Professional at **NQF Level 9** and Executive Academic Professional at **NQF Level 10**. These designations acknowledge scholarly contributions, research leadership and advanced academic expertise in public administration and management.

Applicants seeking professional designation are required to submit supporting documentation, including an application letter, a recent curriculum vitae with references, certified copies of qualifications, proof of CPD participation and evidence of publications or conference presentations where applicable. This process ensures that candidates demonstrate both academic qualifications and practical competencies relevant to their professional level. The professional designation system also emphasises continuous professional development, ethical conduct and competency-based assessment. Members are encouraged to accumulate CPD points, participate in professional activities and maintain alignment with SAAPAM's code of conduct to remain compliant and actively contribute to the advancement of public administration practice.

SAAPAM Publications; Journal and Books

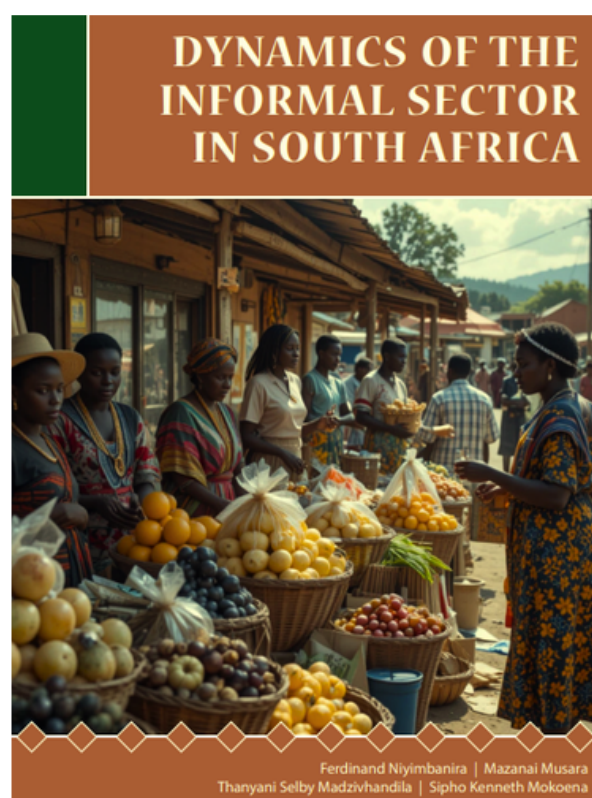
South African Association of Public Administration and Management publishes a prestigious journal that is recognised among the top ten journals in the social sciences. The Journal of Public Administration (JOPA) is led by **Professor Kedibone Phago** and **Professor David Mello**. The journal editions have been published regularly, providing a consistent platform for thought-provoking scholarship in governance and public administration. Some of the articles published in JOPA have even been cited in court judgements, demonstrating the real-world impact the journal continues to make. Those who wish to submit their articles are encouraged to use the provided link and contribute to this growing body of knowledge.

In addition to the journal, SAAPAM continues to expand its publication portfolio. One of the latest releases is the book *Dynamics of the Informal Sector in South Africa*. This publication offers an engaging and accessible look at the informal economy and the people who drive it. It highlights how informal businesses contribute to employment creation, support households and strengthen local economies, particularly in communities where formal job opportunities are limited. The book also reflects on the resilience of entrepreneurs who operate in challenging conditions, yet continue to innovate and sustain livelihoods.

What makes this book stand out is the way it brings together a variety of themes. It covers the overview of the informal sector, gender dynamics, governance and policy considerations, the impact of digital transformation, and real-life case studies from different communities. These themes collectively show how the informal sector continues to evolve and why it remains central to economic inclusion and development. The publication also discusses challenges such as access to finance, infrastructure limitations and regulatory barriers, while pointing to opportunities for growth and stronger policy support.

Available Title

Dynamics of the Informal Sector in South Africa



Authors/Editors: Ferdinand Niyimbanira; Mazanai Musara; Thanyani Selby Madzivhandila; Siphon Kenneth Mokoena

Foreword by: (Not specified in the publication)

Publisher: South African Association of Public Administration and Management

ISBN (Print): 978-1-0492-2377-3

ISBN (eBook): 978-1-0492-2378-0

This book joins SAAPAM's growing collection of scholarly publications that aim to strengthen governance, advance research and support practitioners. Readers are encouraged to explore not only this new release but also other SAAPAM publications that address critical issues in public administration, leadership, governance and development. Together, these books provide valuable insights for academics, students, policymakers and practitioners who are passionate about building a capable and developmental state.

In a rapidly evolving governance and public administration landscape, access to credible and relevant knowledge resources remains essential. South African Association of Public Administration and Management publications continue to play an important role in supporting evidence-based decision-making, strengthening institutional capacity and encouraging meaningful dialogue between academia and practice. Through journals and books, SAAPAM provides platforms that not only document current challenges, but also offer practical solutions, innovative ideas and forward-looking perspectives for the public sector. These publications reflect diverse experiences and research insights that contribute to improving governance, service delivery and leadership across different sectors.

Individuals, practitioners, academics and institutions are therefore encouraged to explore SAAPAM's publications and take advantage of these valuable resources. The books offer a balanced combination of scholarly depth and practical application, making them relevant for teaching, research, policy formulation and professional development. They also serve as useful reference materials for students and emerging professionals who are building their understanding of public administration and governance in the South African and broader African context. By engaging with these publications, readers become part of a growing community committed to knowledge sharing, innovation and the strengthening of public sector excellence.

Readers are invited to browse available titles, learn more about current and past publications, and purchase books that align with their interests and professional needs.

Visit the SAAPAM online publications page to explore the full range and order your copies online:

<https://jopa.wemasoft.co.za/public/portal/articles/book>

TuesdaysBelongToTUT in partnership with the Faculty of Humanities led by Prof. Mashupye Maserumule

The partnership between the South African Association of Public Administration and Management and Tshwane University of Technology through the **#TuesdaysBelongToTUT** initiative represents a meaningful collaboration aimed at strengthening dialogue between academia, public sector practitioners and policy leaders. This partnership has created an accessible virtual platform where critical national and global governance issues are explored, allowing students, professionals and researchers to engage directly with influential thought leaders and decision-makers. The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to knowledge exchange, professional development and building a capable and informed public service.

One of the highlights of the series featured Ambassador to Vietnam Vuyiswa Tulelo, who led a discussion on South Africa's foreign policy in a multipolar world, focusing on balancing BRICS relationships, Western partnerships and African solidarity. The session encouraged participants to critically reflect on South Africa's diplomatic positioning and the strategic considerations shaping international engagement. Contributions from respondents, including Siphamandla Zondi, enriched the conversation by providing academic and policy perspectives on evolving global dynamics.

The series also hosted Zwelinzima Vavi, General Secretary of the South African Federation of Trade Unions, who addressed the theme **"Broken or Becoming? The State of Trade Unions in South Africa."** This discussion explored labour movements, worker representation and the role of trade unions in shaping socio-economic development. The session provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing organised labour in the country.

Another thought-provoking engagement was led by Jonas Magedi PHD candidate, who examined whether universities are under siege from patronage networks, cartels and institutional capture. This conversation encouraged critical reflection on governance within higher education institutions and highlighted the importance of transparency, accountability and ethical leadership in academia.

The series further featured Pali Lehohla, who unpacked the State of the Nation Address, offering a dissection of its shortcomings and exploring what it could have been. This session provided participants with a deeper understanding of policy direction, governance priorities and the broader implications for service delivery and national development.

Collectively, these engagements demonstrate the value of the SAAPAM and Tshwane University of Technology partnership in fostering inclusive dialogue on governance, policy, labour, education and international relations. Through **#TuesdaysBelongToTUT**, the collaboration continues to create a dynamic knowledge-sharing platform that strengthens professional learning, encourages critical debate and contributes to shaping informed leadership within the public administration landscape.

SAAPAM and PSETA Bursaries

Four beneficiaries of the SAAPAM and PSETA bursary reflected on how the financial support positively influenced their academic journeys and future aspirations.

Kagisho Makgati, a beneficiary of the SAAPAM bursary, successfully completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Affairs. Kagisho learned about the bursary opportunity through members of SAAPAM, which played a pivotal role in making the application possible. The financial support received through the bursary significantly eased the burden of tuition costs, allowing Kagisho to complete the qualification without the stress of outstanding fees. This assistance ensured continuity in academic progress and created an opportunity to focus fully on studies. Following completion of the qualification, Kagisho is currently unemployed and actively exploring opportunities to transition into the professional environment within the public administration field.



Kagisho Makgati

Thenjiswa Mabuza, who also completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Affairs, was introduced to the SAAPAM bursary by a lecturer. The funding proved particularly valuable after NSFAS support ended upon completion of a first qualification. Without an alternative source of income, the bursary provided crucial financial assistance that enabled Thenjiswa to continue academic pursuits. The support alleviated financial pressure and ensured that studies could be completed successfully. At present, Thenjiswa is unemployed and seeking opportunities that will allow the application of newly acquired knowledge and skills in the public sector.



Thenjiswa Mabuza

Kagisho Makgati, in an additional reflection, reiterated the importance of the SAAPAM bursary in completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Affairs. Having learned about the opportunity through SAAPAM members, Kagisho again emphasised that the bursary made it possible to pay tuition fees that would otherwise have been unaffordable. This support contributed directly to academic completion and professional readiness. Kagisho is currently unemployed and actively pursuing career opportunities that align with the qualification and career aspirations in public administration

Phumudzo Simangwe completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Affairs and is currently pursuing a Master in Public Affairs at Tshwane University of Technology. Phumudzo learned about the SAAPAM bursary through a supervisor, and the support received played a meaningful role both academically and personally. The bursary eased financial constraints, particularly in a context where funding opportunities were limited and allowed greater focus on academic performance without concern over expenses. The assistance contributed to continued academic progression, culminating in postgraduate studies. Phumudzo has since transitioned into professional practice and is currently working as a Social Facilitator, reflecting the positive impact of the bursary in supporting both educational advancement and career development.



Phumudzo Simangwe

The South African Association of Public Administration and Management remains committed to supporting student success and strengthening the future of public administration through its bursary programme. These reflections highlight the meaningful impact of financial assistance in enabling academic completion, reducing financial barriers, and supporting graduates as they transition into professional roles. SAAPAM continues to invest in developing capable, skilled and ethical public sector leaders who will contribute to effective governance and service delivery. Through ongoing support and collaboration, the association aims to expand opportunities for students and empower them to shape the future of public service.

SAAPAM Internship Student Feedback

The SAAPAM internship programme continues to create meaningful opportunities for students by providing practical workplace exposure and professional development. Feedback from interns highlights the positive impact of the experience and how it has contributed to their career growth and readiness for the professional environment.

Tumelo Seema completed a Master of Public Affairs and learned about the internship opportunity through the SAAPAM office. During the internship Tumelo gained valuable experience in policy development and analysis as well as office administration and project coordination. These responsibilities provided practical exposure to both operational and strategic aspects of public sector work. The internship strengthened analytical skills, enhanced organisational capabilities and offered insight into professional workplace expectations. Following completion of the internship Tumelo is currently working as a programme coordinator and lecturer where the skills acquired through SAAPAM continue to support professional growth and contribution to academia and programme management.

Prince Mohale completed studies in Public Affairs and Public Finance and also learned about the internship through the SAAPAM office. During the internship Prince developed practical skills in project coordination, correspondence management and administrative support. The experience provided an opportunity to understand organisational operations while improving communication and coordination abilities. The internship assisted in building confidence, strengthening professional competencies and preparing for entry into the public administration environment. Upon completion of the internship Prince is currently seeking employment opportunities where the knowledge and experience gained through SAAPAM can be applied within a professional setting.

These reflections demonstrate how the SAAPAM internship programme equips students with practical skills, professional exposure and confidence to pursue careers within the public sector and related fields. Looking ahead, SAAPAM remains committed to expanding internship opportunities that empower emerging professionals and strengthen capacity within the public sector. By continuing to provide structured workplace exposure, mentorship and skills development initiatives, SAAPAM aims to create pathways that support graduates in transitioning from academic environments into meaningful careers. The association will further enhance collaboration with institutions, practitioners and policymakers to ensure that interns are equipped with relevant competencies aligned with evolving governance and development needs. Through these ongoing efforts, SAAPAM seeks to cultivate a pipeline of capable, ethical and innovative leaders who will contribute to effective public administration and sustainable development in the future

25th SAAPAM Annual Conference 2026 : Growth and Sustainability through Improved Governance

The South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) is proud to announce its 25th Annual Conference, taking place from 27 September to 3 October 2026 at the Nkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex, ICC Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

Conference Background

Since the 2008 global financial crisis and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic, countries worldwide have increasingly emphasised strengthening governance systems as a pathway to sustained economic growth and development. Governance remains a critical enabler for achieving long-term development objectives. Yet, many nations continue to face persistent challenges, including weak institutions, political instability, deficits in trust and accountability and inadequate service delivery.

These issues highlight the need for innovative, context-sensitive governance models and robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks that promote transparency, resilience, inclusivity and accountability. Such reforms are essential for optimising state administration and enhancing development outcomes. The 2026 conference provides a timely platform for scholars, policymakers and practitioners to reflect on the role of governance in driving growth and sustainability, particularly as South Africa enters a new local government election cycle.

Conference Theme

The conference is organised under the theme “*Growth and Sustainability through Improved Governance: Reimagining Institutions, Leadership and Development in a Changing World.*” The event aims to explore how governance, leadership and institutional reforms can serve as catalysts for inclusive growth and sustainable development in South Africa and beyond.

Conference Sub-Themes

Governance, Institutions, Leadership and Decolonisation

Topics include decolonising governance theory and practice, governance structures and institutional performance, leadership, ethics and accountability, professionalisation of public sector institutions, trust and accountability deficits and the relevance of existing governance frameworks.

Local Government, Democracy and Political Dynamics

Discussions will focus on coalition formation and breakdown, local government elections, intergovernmental relations, political administrative interfaces in municipalities and lessons from the White Paper on Local Government.

Development Planning, Service Delivery and Sustainability

This theme addresses planning and service delivery coordination in urban and rural contexts, the role of traditional leadership and local institutions, monitoring and evaluation of interventions, fiscal governance, socio-economic development and spatial planning.

Economic Growth, Innovation and Regional Development

Sessions cover Special Economic Zones, local economic development, infrastructure projects, public–private partnerships, climate change strategies and inclusive growth initiatives.

International Relations, Global Governance and Decolonial Development

Focus areas include decolonising international relations, multilateral governance institutions, South cooperation, aid effectiveness, diplomacy and development linkages and comparative public administration.

Higher Education Governance, Decolonisation and Transformation

Topics include higher education governance, curriculum transformation, university–industry collaboration, academic freedom, institutional autonomy, digital transformation and innovation in higher education.

Digital, Smart and Future Governance

This theme explores digital and smart city governance, e-governance, AI and public sector innovation, data-driven decision-making, responses to global shocks and future-ready governance systems.

Types of Contributions

The conference welcomes:

- Panel Discussions: In-depth engagement on governance theory and practice with groups of scholars, researchers and thought leaders.
- Individual Papers: Research, conceptual papers, policy analyses, or reflective pieces aligned with the sub-themes.
- Pre-Conference Workshops: Sessions on policy brief writing, media engagement and research development.

Publication Opportunities

Selected contributions will be considered for publication in the Journal of Public Administration (JOPA), the SAAPAM book series and collaborative publications with research chairs focusing on rural governance.

Postgraduate Seminar

The conference will commence with a postgraduate seminar for Master’s and Doctoral students, facilitated by experts to guide discussions on key issues in Public Administration and Governance research

Benefits of Attending

Delegates will gain access to SAAPAM's formal communication network and ample opportunities to connect with academics, practitioners, policymakers and other professionals. The conference provides a platform for knowledge-sharing, networking and participation in cutting-edge discussions on governance, development and sustainability

Important Dates

- Abstract submission deadline: 3 April 2026
- Notification of acceptance: 8 April 2026
- Full paper submission: 31 May 2026
- Final registration payment: 1 July 2026
- Late registration payment: 31 July 2026

Conference Fees:

- R8000 per delegate (members)
- R9000 per delegate (non-members)
- R6000 per delegate (students; proof of registration required)

Please note that accommodation is not included and must be arranged separately. This is a prepaid event and registration fees are non-refundable or transferable.

SAAPAM invites all scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners and postgraduate students to join this important conversation on reimagining governance as a driver of growth and sustainability in a changing world.

SAAPAM Welcomes First-Year Students

As first-year orientation unfolded within the Faculty of Humanities and the Department of Public Management, SAAPAM was present on both occasions, not only to welcome students into this exciting new chapter, but to serve as a guiding light on their journey toward excellence.

These events provided a platform for SAAPAM to engage directly with students, introducing them to the association's mission, values and extensive network of public sector professionals. Students learned how SAAPAM supports the development of future leaders in public administration and management and how membership can open doors to mentorship, career guidance and professional development opportunities.

Through the SAAPAM Student Chapter, students can actively participate in workshops, seminars and conferences that expose them to current trends, debates and research in public administration. They also gain access to networking opportunities with academics, policymakers and practitioners, helping to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world public service.

Furthermore, SAAPAM provides avenues for students to contribute to publications, participate in panel discussions and engage in collaborative research projects.

These experiences enhance their academic profiles, build critical skills such as leadership, teamwork and problem-solving, and prepare them for successful careers in the public sector.

These orientation sessions were more than information-sharing events they were moments where vision met purpose. Students had the opportunity to see first-hand how SAAPAM fosters growth, innovation and engagement, inspiring them to imagine the possibilities that lie ahead in their academic and professional journeys.

You truly had to be there to witness our vision come to life and to feel the excitement of a new generation of public sector leaders taking their first steps toward making a meaningful impact.

Positive Impact of Orientation

The first-year orientation proved to be a mutually enriching experience, leaving a lasting impact on both SAAPAM and the students. For students, it provided clarity, inspiration and tangible pathways to engage with the public administration sector, equipping them with knowledge, networks and opportunities to grow academically and professionally. For SAAPAM, it reinforced our role as a mentor and thought leader, allowing us to connect directly with the next generation of public sector professionals, share our vision and strengthen our student community. These interactions have laid the foundation for meaningful, long-term relationships and a shared commitment to excellence, innovation and leadership in public service.

Training and Capacity Building

SAAPAM continued to demonstrate its commitment to professional development and capacity building through the implementation of the following initiatives during the reporting period:

Strategic Planning Workshop
07 January - 10 January 2026

Discussions were guided by the theme **Building a Coherent, Sustainable and Impact-Driven SAAPAM Strategy**, which emphasised the importance of strategic alignment, long-term organisational sustainability and the delivery of measurable impact. The deliberations focused on strengthening collaboration and ensuring alignment with SAAPAM's key strategic affiliations, including the **Department of Public Service and Administration, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, National School of Government, University of South Africa, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority, Public Service Commission, Tourism Film Office, and Tshwane University of Technology**. The theme further guided the development of a structured, collaborative action plan aimed at enhancing institutional effectiveness, supporting capacity-building initiatives and advancing SAAPAM's mandate to promote excellence in public administration and management.

Events & Conferences

Youth Symposium at the National School of Government
10 FEBRUARY 2026

SAAPAM was honoured to participate in the “Beyond the Internship: Challenges and Opportunities through Entrepreneurship” Symposium hosted by the National School of Government. The organisation expresses its sincere appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to a meaningful platform that brought together key stakeholders to engage on youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and sustainable career pathways beyond internship programmes. The symposium provided a valuable space for knowledge exchange, collaborative dialogue and the strengthening of partnerships aimed at supporting young professionals navigating an increasingly competitive labour market.

Representing SAAPAM, Noluthando Key delivered a presentation highlighting the importance of networking as a critical enabler of career growth and entrepreneurial success. The contribution emphasised how intentional networking, engagement in professional associations and participation in collaborative platforms can unlock opportunities for mentorship, partnerships and access to essential resources. Particular emphasis was placed on empowering young professionals to strategically position themselves for long-term career development beyond internship programmes, while fostering a culture of collaboration and shared learning.

SAAPAM’s participation reinforced its role as a strategic connector within the public administration and management ecosystem, while further strengthening relationships with government institutions, development agencies and youth-focused organisations. The organisation extends its appreciation to the hosts and partners for facilitating a platform that aligns strongly with SAAPAM’s commitment to capacity building, knowledge sharing and empowering young people to actively shape sustainable and impactful career pathways in an evolving world of work. The organisation further anticipates strengthening its collaboration with stakeholders across government, academia and professional bodies to co-host events that address emerging challenges within the public administration and management environment. By aligning upcoming activities with its strategic priorities, SAAPAM aims to expand platforms that encourage innovation, foster entrepreneurship and enhance professionalisation



Georgina Gantana with Noluthando Key

Cape Peninsula University of Technology
20 FEBRUARY 2026

The Executive Director, John Molepo, together with the Media and Communications team, visited the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) to introduce SAAPAM and strengthen networks beyond the organisation’s traditional scope of engagement. The visit provided a platform to present SAAPAM’s mandate and its role in shaping the public sector through professionalisation, research and knowledge-sharing, while fostering meaningful collaboration with the academic community.

The engagement highlighted the value of SAAPAM membership across all levels from students entering the field to experienced practitioners and dignitaries and emphasised opportunities for networking, professional development and thought leadership. This outreach reflects SAAPAM’s commitment to expanding its footprint, building sustainable partnerships and nurturing a strong professional community dedicated to advancing effective governance.

By engaging with students, lecturers and institutional stakeholders, the interaction reinforced the importance of cultivating future public administration professionals while promoting a shared commitment to ethical leadership, accountability and service excellence. This outreach reflects SAAPAM’s dedication to building sustainable partnerships, broadening its influence and nurturing an inclusive professional community that contributes meaningfully to the advancement of governance and public sector transformation.

Polokwane University of Turfloop
20 FEBRUARY 2026

SAAPAM successfully hosted a Leadership and Sustainability Dialogue in collaboration with the University of Limpopo and the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), bringing together key stakeholders committed to advancing sustainable development within the public sector. The engagement provided a platform for meaningful exchange on the intersection of leadership, governance and long-term socio-economic growth.

A core highlight of the event was the official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), marking a significant milestone in bridging academic excellence with practical economic implementation. From the opening remarks delivered by Professor Omphemetse S. Sibanda to the robust panel discussion moderated by Mr Mngqobi B. Njoko, discussions emphasised a shared understanding that sustainable development is driven by visionary leadership and collaborative partnerships.

The SAAPAM Limpopo Chapter reaffirmed its commitment to fostering and participating in platforms where policy meets practice, reinforcing its role in promoting professionalisation, knowledge exchange and impactful public administration



Reamogetse Motlonye with Koena Matlala

Public Sector Trainers Forum 2026 Conference hosted by National School of Government.

09 - 10 MARCH 2026

The Public Sector Trainers' Forum (PSTF) Conference 2026, held at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre, brought together public sector practitioners, academics and policy leaders to engage in critical discussions on professionalisation and strengthening the developmental agenda of the state. The opening sessions emphasised the role of public sector practitioners as drivers of economic growth, digital transformation and ethical governance, while exploring how values-based leadership, youth development, and strengthened curricula can contribute to building a capable and developmental state. A key highlight of the conference was the contribution by Prof. Kgothatso Shai, President of the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM), who addressed the importance of curriculum development in advancing state capacity and professionalisation within the public sector. This engagement reinforced SAAPAM's role in shaping thought leadership and strengthening the knowledge base that informs governance and public administration in South Africa. Throughout the conference, sessions examined innovation enablement, digital integration in education and training and public-private sector collaboration. These discussions highlighted how partnerships and knowledge exchange drive transformation in government institutions. Collectively, the outcomes of the conference align with SAAPAM's mission to support the development of ethical, skilled and future-ready public sector professionals who can effectively advance South Africa's governance and development priorities

Webinar held at Cape Peninsula University of Technology

10 - 11 MARCH 2026

The Department of Public Administration and Governance within the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences hosted a hybrid webinar on 10 March 2026 under the theme The Politicisation of South Africa's Civil Service: Risks to Independence and Governance.

The session created an important platform for robust engagement on the evolving relationship between political leadership and administrative structures and the implications this dynamic holds for institutional independence, accountability and effective service delivery. The discussion highlighted the need to safeguard professional public administration while ensuring that governance systems remain responsive to democratic oversight. The webinar brought together distinguished panellists, including Prof Isioma Ile from the University of the Western Cape and Mr Lwazi Phakade, Councillor at the City of Cape Town. Moderated by Prof Rozenda Hendrickse, Head of the Department of Public Administration and Governance, the session drew on diverse perspectives grounded in state capacity, democratic governance, ethical leadership and political-administrative relations. The dialogue explored how politicisation can influence decision-making, organisational stability and the professionalisation of the civil service, while also identifying strategies to strengthen governance frameworks and preserve institutional integrity



Prof Isioma Ile

Key themes that emerged from the engagement included the importance of reinforcing ethical governance, promoting merit-based appointments and enhancing training and development for public servants. Participants also reflected on the role of academia, professional bodies and practitioners in advancing evidence-based policy and cultivating leadership that upholds transparency and accountability. The hybrid format further enabled broader participation, facilitating knowledge exchange between academics, students and public sector practitioners. This engagement aligns closely with SAAPAM's mandate to promote professionalisation and thought leadership within public administration. By participating in and supporting dialogues that address critical governance challenges, SAAPAM continues to contribute to strengthening institutional independence and building a capable, ethical and developmental state. Such platforms reinforce the organisation's commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, encouraging reflective practice and advancing a resilient public sector equipped to meet South Africa's evolving governance priorities

Limpopo Research Forum Conference
11 - 13 MARCH 2026

Are We Chasing the Fourth Industrial Revolution While Failing at the First?

The 3rd Annual Limpopo Research Forum (LRF) Conference in Lephalale offered a sobering reflection on the state of South Africa's public administration. In his address, the Director General highlighted a stark reality: while conference halls are alive with discussions on AI, digital governance and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, millions of citizens continue to wait for basic services such as reliable water supply and a stable electricity grid. Technological transformation, he emphasised, cannot serve as a silver bullet for a state grappling with persistent deficits in planning and execution capacity.

The Director General noted that frameworks such as the National Development Plan and Limpopo Development Plan provide ambitious roadmaps for a capable developmental state. Yet these plans remain largely aspirational in the absence of the technical capacity required to implement them effectively. He cautioned that digital solutions cannot simply be layered onto weak municipal foundations; billions of rands invested in smart projects achieve little if the fundamentals are not addressed.

A central theme of the address was the need for an integrated approach to development. Public administrators were urged to leverage digital tools, including the Internet of Things for water management and decentralised technologies for energy distribution, not as isolated innovations but as practical solutions to tackle foundational infrastructure challenges simultaneously. The call was clear: it is time to move beyond theoretical buzzwords and commit to persistent, results driven execution.

SAAPAM proudly participated in the LRF Conference, engaging with stakeholders and showcasing our work at the exhibition stall at Palala Boutique Game Lodge. The event reinforced the importance of aligning digital innovation with practical on the ground solutions to strengthen South Africa's public sector



Prof Thanyani Madzivhandila

Launching the SAAPAM UMP Chapter
13 MARCH 2026

SAAPAM proudly marked the launch of its student chapter at the University of Mpumalanga (UMP), a milestone in nurturing the next generation of public administration professionals. The event featured a message of support from Professor Phago, Dean of Economics, Development and Business Science, who is also a member of SAAPAM and the Chief Editor of the Journal of Public Administration.

Professor Phago emphasised the importance of early engagement in the public administration sector, noting that student involvement provided a platform to develop practical skills, critical thinking and professional networks. The SAAPAM UMP Student Chapter aimed to equip students with knowledge, mentorship and opportunities to engage with thought leaders, thereby strengthening their readiness for future public service careers.

The initiative reflected SAAPAM's ongoing commitment to education, professional development and the promotion of excellence in public administration. By fostering collaboration between students, academics and practitioners, the chapter served as a vital bridge between academic learning and practical application in the public sector



Prof. Kedibone Phago

SAAPAM Designation Committee Holds Strategic Meeting in Pretoria

On 16 March 2026, the SAAPAM Designation Committee convened in Pretoria for a two-day strategic meeting, bringing together senior members tasked with guiding the professional designation processes for public administration practitioners. The meeting provided a critical opportunity to review progress on the committee's objectives, assess current challenges in professional recognition and chart a clear roadmap for strengthening standards within the public sector. Over the course of the two days, the committee engaged in in-depth discussions on policy alignment, competency frameworks and strategies to enhance the value and credibility of professional designations. Key outcomes included recommendations for streamlining assessment processes, improving practitioner engagement and fostering greater collaboration with academic and public sector institutions

The strategic meeting underscored SAAPAM's commitment to professionalising public administration through robust, transparent and forward-looking designation processes. By ensuring that practitioners meet recognised standards of excellence, the committee continues to play a pivotal role in supporting a capable, ethical and effective public service

SAAPAM Eastern Cape Chapter Hosts Webinar on Advancing Gender Equality

On 19 March 2026, the SAAPAM Eastern Cape Chapter hosted a webinar under the theme Advancing Gender Equality in Academic Institutions. The virtual event brought together academics and practitioners to explore strategies for promoting gender equity, inclusion and representation within higher education.

The session featured insightful contributions from Ms Oyisa Sondla and Dr Asiphe Mxalisa, both from North-West University (NWU), who shared research findings and practical approaches to addressing systemic barriers to gender equality. The webinar was expertly facilitated by Ms Nobulelo Phuza (NWU), ensuring a dynamic and engaging discussion that encouraged participant interaction and knowledge sharing.

The event reaffirmed SAAPAM's commitment to promoting inclusive practices, fostering dialogue on critical social issues, and supporting the professional development of public administration and academic practitioners alike

Public Lecture organised by the Department of Public Service and Administration
20 MARCH 2026

On 20 March 2026, SAAPAM hosted a public lecture in collaboration with the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) under the theme Professionalising Public Service: Restoring State Capacity in the Changing South Africa. The event brought together public sector practitioners, academics and policy stakeholders to discuss strategies for enhancing efficiency, accountability and capacity within government institutions.

The keynote address was delivered by Honourable Pinky Kekana, Deputy Minister of the DPSA, who highlighted the urgent need to restore state capacity and professionalise public service delivery across all spheres of government. In her address, Deputy Minister Kekana emphasised that strengthening technical skills, ethical leadership and collaborative governance are central to building a capable and responsive public sector capable of meeting the evolving needs of South Africa's citizens.

The lecture served as a critical platform for reflection, knowledge exchange and dialogue, reinforcing SAAPAM's commitment to fostering professional development and promoting excellence in public administration.

ICASA Hosts Discussion in Celebration of #SALibraryWeek

In celebration of #SALibraryWeek, ICASA hosted a stimulating and insightful discussion on 20 March 2026 at its Head Office from 11:00 to 13:00. The event featured Professor Robert Nkuna, author of Infrastructure and Regulation for Economic Development: Institutional Reforms in South Africa's Network Industries, with the session expertly facilitated by Dr Pali Lehohla.

The discussion provided a platform for attendees to engage deeply with critical issues surrounding infrastructure development, regulatory reform, and the role of institutional frameworks in driving sustainable economic growth in South Africa. Professor Nkuna shared key insights from his research, highlighting the challenges and opportunities in regulating network industries and the impact of institutional reforms on national development objectives.

Participants explored practical approaches to strengthening governance, improving policy implementation, and fostering an enabling environment for investment and innovation. The dialogue also encouraged reflection on the broader implications of regulatory frameworks for public administration and economic development.

The event underscored ICASA's commitment to promoting knowledge sharing, thought leadership and informed discourse, while highlighting the importance of continuous learning and engagement in shaping South Africa's economic and institutional landscape



Prof. Robert Nkuna with Dr Pali Lehohla.

Department of Public Service and Administration
23 MARCH 2026

SAAPAM's engagement with the Department of Public Service and Administration focused on strengthening collaboration in relation to policy reforms and the identification of special thematic issues relevant to the upcoming conference. Discussions explored how the partnership could support the alignment of conference topics with current public sector priorities, ensuring that deliberations remain responsive to emerging governance challenges.



Department of Public Service and Administration with SAAPAM

Emphasis was also placed on improving access to research papers and knowledge outputs that can inform policy development processes. This collaboration aims to create a stronger link between academic scholarship and practical policy reform by encouraging the sharing of research findings and conference outputs with policymakers.

Through this engagement, both institutions recognised the importance of positioning the conference as a platform for advancing evidence-based governance, supporting institutional reform and promoting dialogue on innovative approaches to public administration. The partnership is expected to enhance the relevance of conference discussions while contributing to long-term improvements in policy formulation and implementation within the public sector. The engagement with DPSA underscored the critical role that collaboration between academic, professional and governmental institutions plays in driving meaningful policy reform. By aligning the conference's thematic focus with DPSA priorities, SAAPAM ensures that discussions are not purely academic but are directly relevant to current governance challenges. This partnership highlights an opportunity to transform research outputs into actionable policy recommendations that can strengthen public sector efficiency, accountability and service delivery. Looking ahead, continued engagement with DPSA could foster a systematic pathway for bridging gaps between evidence generation, policy design and institutional reform, positioning the conference as a strategic hub for knowledge driven governance innovation



South African Association of Public Administration and Management

Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
23 MARCH 2026

The meeting with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation focused on enhancing the visibility and impact of research presented at the conference. Discussions highlighted the importance of ensuring that conference outputs are translated into practical policy briefs that can support government planning, monitoring and performance management processes. The collaboration also emphasised strengthening the monitoring and evaluation dimension within conference deliberations to encourage data-driven decision-making and accountability.

Both SAAPAM and DPME explored ways to improve dissemination of research findings to a broader audience, including policymakers, practitioners and academics. By prioritising visibility and structured research outputs, the partnership seeks to ensure that knowledge generated during the conference contributes to evidence-based policymaking and improved governance practices. This engagement further underscored the importance of integrating research insights into national development priorities while promoting a culture of continuous learning and evaluation across the public sector.

The collaboration with DPME demonstrates the vital importance of visibility, dissemination and evaluation in ensuring that research presented at the conference influences real-world governance outcomes. By emphasising the creation of policy briefs and structured reporting of conference outputs, SAAPAM and DPME can transform scholarly research into practical tools for planning, performance monitoring and evidence-based decision-making. This partnership opens opportunities for emerging researchers to see the tangible impact of their work and encourages public administration practitioners to engage with data-driven insights. Moving forward, the focus on evaluation and visibility can catalyse a culture of continuous learning, where conference outputs feed directly into improving government processes, strengthening accountability and informing future public policy interventions.



Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation with SAAPAM

National School of Government
24 MARCH 2026

The engagement with the National School of Government highlighted a strategic alignment between SAAPAM and NSG in advancing professionalisation, capacity building and knowledge-sharing within the public sector. Key discussions emphasised the importance of formalising membership and designation opportunities for facilitators and trainers, ensuring that professionals involved in training public servants are recognised and belong to accredited professional bodies. This approach not only strengthens individual credentials but also raises the standard of public sector training, ensuring that facilitators uphold ethics, good governance principles and professional conduct.



National School of Government with SAAPAM

NSG identified challenges in implementing professional body assignments, CPD points and membership fees, highlighting the need for standard operating procedures that clearly define responsibilities and expectations. SAAPAM's role in supporting NSG includes clarifying membership benefits, guiding the designation process and offering practical solutions to unlock bottlenecks in implementation. Both institutions recognised the importance of documenting achievements, reflecting on challenges and collectively developing strategies to ensure objectives are met. This collaborative approach provides a blueprint for more systematic, measurable outcomes that extend beyond the conference. Conference preparation was also central to discussions, with NSG emphasising participation in delivering papers, mentoring emerging researchers and contributing to evidence-based policy briefs. SAAPAM and NSG agreed on the need for structured pre-conference and post-conference planning, including the creation of webinars to enhance visibility, delegate profiling and policy lab initiatives. By anchoring topics and balancing contributions between academic, professional, and political perspectives, the partnership seeks to ensure that the conference is inclusive, rigorous and practically relevant.

Looking forward, several forward-thinking objectives emerged from this engagement:



National School of Government with SAAPAM

- 1. Institutionalise Professionalisation:** Establish a formalised framework where all public service trainers, facilitators and public servants belong to accredited professional bodies, supported by SAAPAM designation and CPD points
- 2. Integrated Training and Research:** Link conference participation, workshops, and research initiatives to professional development, creating a continuous learning ecosystem where knowledge, skills and practical application reinforce each other.
- 3. Ethics and Governance Leadership:** Develop and implement a formal code of conduct and ethics for facilitators and members, embedding principles of good governance, accountability and professionalism across all programmes.
- 4. Strategic Conference Planning:** Implement a structured roadmap for pre- and post-conference activities, including publication of policy briefs, recording sessions for institutional memory and ensuring emerging researchers have equal opportunities to contribute.
- 5. Collaborative Capacity Building:** Partner with institutions like ASDA to ensure facilitators possess the necessary certifications and skills, strengthening the quality and credibility of training programmes across the public sector.
- 6. Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish mechanisms to track progress against objectives, including the impact of CPD initiatives, conference outcomes and long-term professionalisation goals.

Through this partnership, SAAPAM and NSG are not only preparing for a successful conference but are also laying the foundation for a future focused professional ecosystem. This ecosystem prioritises excellence, ethical practice and innovation while ensuring that emerging leaders and facilitators are fully equipped to contribute meaningfully to South Africa's public service. By formalising professional designations, embedding ethics and governance standards and linking research, training, and conference activities, both institutions are creating sustainable pathways for public servants and facilitators to grow, contribute, and lead with impact. As we move forward, this collaboration will continue to strengthen the public administration profession, inspire emerging leaders and ensure that the upcoming conference not only showcases knowledge and research but also drives practical, long-term transformation in governance and service delivery.

AFROGM Conference 2026
24 - 25 MARCH 2026

SAAPAM participated in the AFROGM Conference, which centred on reclaiming the African voice in governance and advancing Afrocentric approaches to public administration. The keynote address by Melanchton Makobe, Acting Director-General of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, set a forward-looking vision towards 2030, emphasising the revival of the “Kgoro” model as a participatory governance framework. This traditional consultative approach promotes inclusive deliberation between leadership and communities, reinforcing the principle that citizens should serve not only as recipients of policy, but as active contributors to its formulation and implementation. The discussion highlighted the relevance of community-driven governance in addressing contemporary challenges and strengthening accountability within the public sector. The conference also underscored the importance of strengthening collaboration between government and academia, including the acceleration of partnerships with North-West University to enhance work-integrated learning opportunities and create pathways for students to gain practical experience within public institutions. This approach aims to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and policy implementation, while supporting youth development and building technical capacity within government. In addition, strong emphasis was placed on the promotion of African languages within higher education as a strategic enabler of inclusive governance and locally grounded policy development. The dialogue further highlighted the role of universities and researchers in championing Afrocentric models, leveraging intellectual leadership to shape governance frameworks rooted in indigenous knowledge systems. Collectively, the engagements reinforced the need for evidence-based, community-centred approaches to public administration, positioning Afrocentric governance as a critical pillar for sustainable and responsive leadership. The discussions concluded with a compelling reflection that the future of governance lies in drawing from Africa’s own knowledge systems, strengthening community participation and elevating indigenous perspectives in policy development. The renewed focus on Afrocentric governance highlighted the importance of building inclusive, evidence-based approaches that empower communities, leverage academic expertise and shape sustainable public administration rooted in local realities



Acting Director-General at DPME, Adv Melanchton Makobe

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New Appointments and Announcements

SAAPAM is pleased to announce the following appointments made during the first quarter, reflecting the organisation’s continued commitment to strengthening leadership capacity, enhancing governance structures, and advancing its strategic objectives. These appointments bring diverse expertise and renewed energy to the organisation, further supporting SAAPAM’s mandate to promote excellence, professionalisation, and innovation within public administration and management.

- Prof. Modimowabarwa Kanyane – *Executive Director: Research, Development and Support at the University of Johannesburg*, as a prolific scholar who has supervised over 70 postgraduate students and produced more than 100 scientific outputs.
- Prof. Robert Nkuna – *Administrator of the college of Cape Town* ,
- Prof. Gerda van Dijk – *reappointment as a School director of SPMA at the University of Pretoria*
- Prof. Kedibone Phago – *Dean: Faculty of Economics, Development and Business Sciences at the University of Mpumalanga*
- Dr. Tando Rulashe – *programme leader for Public Administration at the University of Mpumalanga*
- Prof. Siphon Mokoena – *promoted as a full professor at the University of Limpopo*
- Ntombi Zwane – *promoted as an associate professor at the University of Limpopo*
- Xolili Thani – *promoted as an associate professor at the University of South Africa*
- Valery Louw – *promoted as an associate professor at the University of South Africa*
- Prof. Melvin Diedericks – *appointment as the director of the School of Government at the North West University*
- Zama Mabel Mthombeni – *appointment as an associate professor at the University of Johannesburg*
- Prof. Dee Koza – *appointment as full professor at the University of South Africa*
- Metji Makgoba – *appointment as associate professor at the University of Limpopo*