UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

The School of Social Sciences cordially invites you to a webinar on

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHICS OF SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY THROUGH DATA-DRIVEN INSIGHTS

The webinar will examine the state of South African society through a data-driven lens. This engagement brings together scholars, students and the broader University community to reflect on key socio-economic trends shaping the country and the role of data in understanding and responding to national challenges.

MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2026 | **TIME: 14H30** | **Enquiries: sibran@ukzn.ac.za**

» **CLICK HERE TO RSVP** «

Keynote Speaker
Mr Risenga Maluleke: Statistician-General of South Africa

Discussants
Dr Nompumelelo Nzimande Mbele – Chair of Council, Statistics South Africa
Mr Dumisani Hlophe – Deputy Director-General, Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)

Chair
Professor Mandla Masuku, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

BIOGRAPHIES

Risenga Maluleke was appointed South Africa's 2nd Statistician-General in November, 2017. Prior to November, 2017, Mr Maluleke was the Deputy Director-General for Statistical Collections and Outreach. He has been with Statistics South Africa for the past 20 years. He was responsible for the provincial offices' data collection for censuses and sample surveys; international statistical development and communications.

Mr Maluleke has also been instrumental in International Statistical Development. Mr Maluleke has represented South Africa on countless occasions and has extensive experience in international and diplomatic matters. He has been instrumental in managing Stats SA's participation in international meetings such as the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC). He holds a BSc in mathematical statistics from the University of Limpopo and a Master's in Urban and Regional Science from the University of Stellenbosch. He has also completed Senior Executive Programmes from the University of the Witwatersrand and Harvard Business Schools.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dumisani Hlophe is a Deputy Director – General at the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA). Part of his responsibilities include state capacity building, and policy development. Hlophe is currently pursuing PhD studies with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) focussing on the relationship between state fragility and basic service delivery in South Africa. Hlophe is a researcher, writer, policy specialist, and political scientist.

Nompumelelo Nzimande-Mbele is a demographer in the discipline of Population Studies at the School of Social Sciences. She is the Director of USINGA, which is a Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) within the South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN). She is that Site PI for the ARISE-Network, which explores adolescent health and wellbeing across sub-Saharan Africa. She Chairs the Statistics Council for South Africa, which is an independent advisory body whose primary mandate is to advise the Minister in the Presidency and the Statistician-General on the production and use of official statistics.

Mfundo Mandla Masuku is an Associate Professor of Development Studies and Academic Leader of Teaching and Learning in the School of Social Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He serves extensively on college and university committees. He specialises in the intersection of African philosophy and food security. Part of his substantive research explores the Ubuntu philosophy and its application in contemporary community-driven projects to provide essential services. In the process, it critically challenges Western paradigms with African indigenous knowledge systems.

Masuku also contributes to the South African government's strategic agenda to build a developmental state through research in partnership with the Department of Public Service and Administration. He is currently funded by the National Research Fund on the Ubuntu philosophy and housing provision for the poor and supervises a number of Master's and PhD students. He has published 7 books and more than 71 articles in reputable peer-reviewed journals, and has earned more than 1197 citations since 2019. Prof Masuku won a research award as one of the top 10 young researchers in 2024.