



# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

Reflections on Collaboration to Enhance Education Reform Efforts in South Africa

NECT  
+ NDP =



11 – 12 September 2023  
Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg

NECT  
+ NDP =





## To Conference Participants

As we gather here to commemorate a remarkable milestone in the journey of the NECT, it's not just an anniversary we celebrate, but a decade of your unwavering commitment to building social capital for the betterment of education. Therefore, the NECT's 10th Anniversary National Convention is a testament to the dedication, vision, and passion that have driven us forward.

Together, over the past ten years, we've navigated the educational landscape, overcoming obstacles, and improved taking advantage of opportunities as they emerged. Today, we stand as a beacon of hope and progress.

Looking back, we find valuable lessons etched into the tapestry of our journey. We've learned that even in the face of adversity, we can innovate, adapt, and emerge stronger. The challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic tested our resilience, and they also revealed our capacity to be creative and collaborative. We've shown that together, we could reboot, recover, rebuild, and forge a brighter future for education.

Find in the document the planned program of the two-day procession and some background details of the chairpersons.

Wishing you a fruitful engagement.

## Programme

1. Showcasing NECT partnerships throughout the programme
2. Reflecting and celebrating 10 years of the NECT and collaboration
3. Presenting a forward-looking perspective on education improvement
4. Relevant and representative target market of practitioners, mid- to senior management and executives across government, unions, private sector, civil society, and academia

Day 1: Monday, 11 September 2023

09:00 – 16:35

Chairperson: Prof Brian Figaji – NECT Trustee

### SESSION 1: Exploring the Future & Building Back Better in the Education System within the Context of Economic Constraints

Time	Item	Speaker
<b>08:00 – 09:00</b>	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>	
<b>09:00 – 09:15</b>	<i>Opening and Welcome</i>	<i>Mr. Sizwe Nxasana – Chairman: NECT</i>
<b>09:15 – 09:35</b>	<i>Opening remarks from the Department of Basic Education</i>	<i>Min. Angie Motshekga – Department of Basic Education</i>
<b>09:35 – 10:00</b>	<i>Reflection on 10 Years of Social Capital Building</i>	<i>Dr Godwin Khosa – CEO: NECT</i>
<b>10:30 – 12:30</b>	<i>Facilitated Discussion: Provincial Reflections on the NECT Collaboration: Showcasing NECT work done in Provinces, with case studies and commentary.</i>	<i>Provinces will make presentations: 5 Provinces, MP, EC, LP, NW and KZN, 10 minutes each of interactive presentations: Mr Elijah Nkosi: MP, Dr Soyisile Nuku: EC, Dr Louis Madondo: KZN, Ms Pauline Mokhutle: NW, Ms Tinyiko Nkuzana: LP</i>
	<i>Facilitator: Professor Loyiso Jita – University of Free State</i>	
<b>12:30 – 12:35</b>	<b>Announcements</b>	
<b>12:35 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>13:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Stall Watching</b>	
<b>14:00 – 14:30</b>	<i>Reflections on Education Change</i>	<i>Mr Charles Fadel – Founder: Centre for Curriculum Redesign</i>
<b>14:30 – 14:50</b>	<i>Leveraging AI – Case for Reading</i>	<i>Professor Vukosi Marivate – University of Pretoria</i>
<b>14:50 – 15:10</b>	<i>Future of Education from DBE's perspective</i>	<i>Ms Cheryl Weston – Director: Department of Basic Education</i>



**15:10 – 16:30**

**Panel Discussion**

*Facilitator: Professor Ihron Rensburg – Former National Planning Commission member & Vice-Chancellor of UJ*

*Discussants:*

- *Mr Charles Fadel – Founder: Centre for Curriculum Redesign*
- *Professor Vukosi Marivate*
- *Mr Mweli Mathanzima – Director-General: Department of Basic Education*
- *Mr Mugwena Maluleke – Secretary General: SADTU*
- *Mr Basil Manuel – Executive Director: NAPTOSA*

**16:30 – 16:35**

*Closing remarks: Mr Nkosana Dolopi, NECT Trustee*

Day 2: Tuesday, 12 September 2023

08:30 – 17:30

Chairperson: Mrs Sesi Nxesi – CEO: ETDP-SETA

**SESSION 2: REFLECTIONS ON THE PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION CHANGE**

Time	Item	Speaker
08:30 – 08:40	Chairperson Remarks	Mrs Sesi Nxesi – CEO: ETDP-SETA
08:40 – 08:55	Recap of Day 1	Ms Kanyisa Diamond – Senior Manager, Education Futures and Change Management: NECT
08:55 – 09:25	District approach and system change	Professor Jo-Anne Baird – Oxford University
09:25 – 09:55	Plenary Discussions:	Respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professor Brahm Fleisch – University of Witwatersrand</li> <li>- Dr Deva Govender – National Programmes Manager: NECT</li> <li>- Dr Andile Dube – Education Manager: UNICEF South Africa</li> <li>- Ms Heather Van Ster – Chief Director: WCED</li> <li>- Professor Jo-Anne Baird – Oxford University</li> </ul>
09:55 – 10:00	Introduction to Streams	Mrs Sesi Nxesi – CEO: ETDP-SETA

**TEA BREAK**

<b>SESSION 3: POLICY ANALYSIS AND PROGRAMMING FOR ACTION</b>		
<b>Stream 1: Districts and Schools</b>	Roles of Districts and the Way Forward: Centralisation, Decentralisation and Capacity to Deliver  Chair: Ms Simoné Geyer – DDG: Department of Basic Education	Lead Input: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr Gunjan Sharma – Ambedkar University Delhi</li> <li>- Ms Candy Lugaz – IIEP-UNESCO</li> </ul>
<b>Stream 2: System Programming</b>	Policy & systems capacity to deliver improved education  Chair & Lead Input: Professor Ihron Rensburg – Former National Planning Commission member & Vice-Chancellor of UJ	Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Albert Chanee – DDG: Gauteng Education Department</li> <li>- Professor Michael Sachs – Professor: University of Witwatersrand</li> </ul>
<b>Stream 3: Education Policy</b>	Education Futures: Translating employment and global trends into action.  Chair: Dr Njeri Mwangi – Senior Futurist at Institute for Future Research.	Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms Mamphokhu Khuluvhe – Director of the Labour Market Intelligence Unit: DHET</li> <li>- Dr Olebogeng Selebi – Deputy Director for the Centre for the Future of Work at UP</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms Cheryl Weston – Director: Curriculum Implementation and Quality Improvement</li> <li>- Mr Marc Fuster Rabella – OECD</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stream 4: Partnerships and Collaboration</b></p>	<p><i>Corporate Social Investment and Philanthropy</i></p> <p>Chair: Ms Gail Campbell – CEO: Zenex Foundation</p>	<p>Lead Input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms Laura Savage – Executive Director: International Education Funders Group</li> <li>- Zanele Twala – CEO: Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation</li> </ul>

**12:00 – 13:30 LUNCH**

**13:30 – 15:00 SESSION 4 : REFLECTIONS ON THE PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION CHANGE (Cont'd)**

Stream	Topic	Leads
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<p><b>Stream 1: Districts and Schools</b></p>	<p><i>The Challenge of Early Grade Reading and Numeracy</i></p> <p>Chair: Prof. Leketi Makalela – University of Witwatersrand</p>	<p>Lead Input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms Nompumelelo Mohohlwane – Deputy Director for Research: DBE</li> <li>- Dr Brian Ramadiro – Deputy Director: University of Fort Hare</li> <li>- Mr Akiho Itagaki: Expert for Strengthening the Implementation of Mathematics Education – JICA</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Stream 2: System Programming</b></p>	<p><i>Designing and Implementing Large-scale change Initiatives</i></p> <p>Chair: Ms Onica Dederen – HOD: Limpopo Education Department</p>	<p>Lead Inputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms Palesa Tyobeka - Former DDG: DBE</li> <li>- Dr John Thurlow – NECT Programme Manager: Reading</li> <li>- Mr Haroon Mohamed – DDG for Curriculum and Assessment.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Stream 3: Education Policy</b></p>	<p><i>Policy Instruments for Driving Education Reform</i></p> <p>Chair: Dr Godwin Khosa – CEO: NECT</p>	<p>Lead Inputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Tsatsi Montso – Chief Director: Free State Education Department</li> <li>- Prof. Mary Metcalfe – Director: PILO</li> <li>- Dr Mark Chetty – Director for National Assessment, DBE</li> </ul>
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**Stream 4: Partnerships  
and Collaboration**

*Role of Teacher Unions and Professional Associations*

*Chair: Mr Duncan Hindle – Education Dialogue SA Manager: NECT*

**Lead Inputs:**

- Mr Enoch Rabotapi – Chief Director: Department of Basic Education
- Dr Logan Govender – Senior Lecturer, University of Johannesburg
- Dr Deva Govender – National Manager: NECT
- Ms Julia Hlahle – South African Principal's Association

**Discussants:**

- Cadre Faseega Solomon – SADTU
- Ms Hema Heriram – NAPTOSA
- Prof Imenda Sitwala – NATU
- Dr Peter Boase – PEU
- Dr Huw Davies – SAOU

**15:00 – 15:30**

**TEA BREAK**

**15:30 – 17:00**

**SESSION 5: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT**

Stream	Topic	Leads
<b>Stream 1: Districts and Schools</b>	<i>Classroom Pedagogics Pilot Research Output: Chair: Prof. Yusuf Sayed – Cambridge University</i>	<p>9 Universities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prof Yusuf Sayed (CPUT)</li> <li>- Prof Anil Kanjee (TUT)</li> <li>- Prof Cina Mosito (NMU)</li> <li>- Prof Joel Mamabolo (UL)</li> <li>- Prof Thinavhudzulu Mafumo (UL)</li> <li>- Dr Hlabathi Thobejane-Maapola (UNISA)</li> <li>- Dr Maria Tsakeni (UFS)</li> <li>- Dr Percival Mavuso (UFH)</li> <li>- Mr Obakeng Kagola (NMU)</li> <li>- Mrs Nonzukiso Mpondwana (WSU)</li> </ul>
<b>Stream 2: System Programming</b>	<i>Reading Improvement: From Planning to Action Chair: Dr Naledi Mbude – Head: Language Policy Unit</i>	<p><b>Lead Inputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professor Leketi Makalela – University of Witwatersrand</li> <li>- Ms Kulula Manona – Chief Director: DBE</li> <li>- Mr Dhianaraj Chetty/ Ms Sabi Matiwane – NECT</li> </ul>





<b>Stream 3: Education Policy</b>	<i>NECT's role in supporting NDP Implementation: Findings from Independent Reflection Paper</i>	<i>Lead inputs:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Professor Crain Soudien – University of Cape Town</li><li>- Dr Hlengani Baloyi – University of Venda</li><li>- Dr Granville Whittle – DDG: Department of Basic Education</li><li>- Dr Soyisile Nuku – HOD: Eastern Cape DoE</li></ul>
	<i>Chair: Dr Godwin Khosa – CEO: NECT</i>	
<b>Stream 4: Partnerships and Collaboration</b>	<i>Drawing Additional Technical Capacity from NGOs , Academia and Private Sector</i>	<i>Lead inputs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mr Giles Gillet – CEO:NASCEE</li><li>- Professor Loyiso Jita – University of Free State</li><li>- Dr Andile Dube – Education Manager: UNICEF South Africa</li><li>- Ms Noxolo Kahlana – Sasol</li></ul>
	<i>Chair: Mr Sizwe Nxasana – Chairperson: NECT</i>	
<b>17:00 – 17:30</b>	<i>Conference Closure: Dr Godwin Khosa, Mr Sizwe Nxasana &amp; Deputy Minister Reginah Mhaule (PhD)</i>	

## Biography of Chairpersons and Facilitators



**Mr. Sizwe Nxasana**  
**Chairman: NECT**

Sizwe Nxasana is a South African business executive, educator & chartered accountant.

He is the founder and CEO of Future Nation Schools and Sifiso Learning Group. He is the founding Chairman of the NECT as well as the chairman of the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) which funds and supports students pursuing occupations in critical skills from 'missing middle' backgrounds. Nxasana was the CEO of the FirstRand Banking Group for 10 years and before that the CEO of Telkom SA for 8 years. He is the director of the Solidarity Fund and chairs the Fundraising Committee. Sizwe is also a member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants.

He founded Sizwe & Co, KwaZulu-Natal's first black audit firm, in 1989, and in 1996 he became the founding partner of Nkonki Sizwe Ntsaluba, now Sizwe Ntsaluba Gobodo (SNG Grant Thornton). He is the co-founder and chairman of the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) as a response to the call by the National Development Plan (NDP) for increased collaboration among stakeholders to improve educational outcomes. He was the chairperson of NSFAS between 2015 and 2018.

Mr. Nxasana is one of the founding members of the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants (ABASA) and served as the initial chairperson of its KwaZulu-Natal Branch as well as the organisation president from 1995 until 1998.

Nxasana was cited as one of the Top 100 most influential Africans by New African magazine in 2016.

He holds a BCom Accounting degree from the University of Fort Hare and a BCom Accounting Science honours degree from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and was one of the first 10 African CA's in South Africa. He also holds a postgraduate certificate in education from UNISA.

Sizwe Nxasana has been conferred with honorary doctorates by the Universities of Fort Hare, the Durban University of Technology, the University of Johannesburg, and the Walter Sisulu University. He is pursuing his PhD in Education at the Aalborg University in Denmark.



**Dr Godwin Khosa**  
**CEO: NECT**

Godwin Khosa served as CEO of JET Education Services for nearly five years before his appointment as CEO of the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT). While at JET Education Services he headed the NECT Secretariat pending the establishment of the Trust's full-time office.

A teacher by profession, Dr. Khosa worked as a policy analyst and senior manager at the Centre for Education Policy Development in the 1990s before joining the Human Sciences Research Council as a research manager and proceeding to JET Education Services. There he served initially as a team leader in an education transformation programme in Limpopo and then as the organisation's Programme Director before being appointed CEO in 2009.

Dr Khosa was also a member of the Council of the University of Johannesburg, serving from 2012 to 2021. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Sussex; a diploma and a master's degree in Public and Development Management from the University of Witwatersrand; a BA (Hons) in Geography from the University of South Africa, and a BA in Education from the University of the North.



**Prof Brian Figaji**  
**NECT:Trustee**

Brian Figaji studied at the Universities of the Western Cape (UWC), Cape Town (UCT), University of South Africa (UNISA) and Harvard University in the USA.

He practiced as a professional engineer for 10 years in both contracting and design and then joined Peninsula Technikon which subsequent to the merger of 2004 became known as the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Prof Figaji served the institution for 25 years with 10 of these years as Vice Chancellor (President). He left the institution in 2004 in opposition to the pending merger.

Among the many positions he held the most relevant positions were as:

A member and later Vice President of the Engineering Council of South Africa,

A member of the South African Council on Higher Education,

A representative of SA on the UNESCO Executive Board from 2005 to 2009,

Chair of the SA National Commission for UNESCO from 2009 to 2013 and

a member of the Council advising the President on National Orders (National Presidential Awards) until 2014.

He is also a:

Fellow of the Society for Professional Engineers

Fellow of the Institute for Civil Engineers

Fellow of the Academy of Engineering

Member of the Academy of Science of SA

In the context of civil society, he served on Education Trusts, a Performing Arts Board, a Board for Blood Transfusion services, National Board of the Scout Association, Environmental bodies like the Green Trust and the TMF, and on a body serving the needs of war blinded individuals. Until recently he was the chairperson of WESGRO, the Trade and Investment Agency for the Western Cape.

Currently he is also the non-executive Chair of one of the large fishing companies in the country and is involved in a few business ventures. He is married to Vera, and they have two children and four grandchildren.



**Prof Ihron Rensburg**  
**Former National  
Planning  
Commission &  
Vice-Chancellor of  
UJ**

Prof Rensburg is Non-Executive Director at the ABSA Group (one of Africa's largest banking groups), Chairperson of the South Africa National UNESCO Commission, Senior Advisor to the Principal, Visiting Professor and Life Fellow at King's College London, Senior Associate at Higher Education Leadership and Management (a programme of Universities South Africa, where he is project lead on the Executive Leadership Programme), and Honorary Professor at Nelson Mandela University.

Most recently he was Ombud (Interim) of the University of Cape Town, Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee on the Review of the South African Higher Education, Science and Technology Landscape, and Administrator of Vaal University of Technology (in which capacity he served as both council and Vice Chancellor of the university).

He was the founding Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg (from 2006 to 2017), prior to which he was CE Strategic Services at the South African Broadcasting Corporation (from 2001 to 2006), Deputy Director General of South Africa's Department of Education from 1995 to 2001, where he spearheaded post-apartheid education policies and programmes.

Prof Rensburg was Commissioner of South Africa's National Planning Commission, where he chaired the working group on Social Protection and Human Capabilities. He served as Chairperson of the South Africa as well as the Southern Africa Universities Vice Chancellors Associations, Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee on Student Accommodation in South African Universities, Member of the Ministerial Committee on the Funding of South African Universities, Councilor of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and Governor of the Commonwealth of Learning.

Prof Rensburg was General Secretary of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, the National Education Crisis Committee, from 1986 to 1992, where he spearheaded local, regional and national teachers' and students' movements, and their anti-apartheid protest and post-apartheid policy initiatives.

Prof Rensburg holds the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Comparative Education at Stanford University, USA., an MA degree in Political and Organisational Sociology, also from Stanford University, USA, and the B. Pharmacy degree from Rhodes University. In 2004 he completed the Global Executive Development Programme at the Graduate Institute of Business Science (GIBS, University of Pretoria).

His recent publications are: SADTU and the Origins of Professional Unionism, 1976-1995, In, SADTU and the Struggle for Professional Unionism, (editors Michael Cross, Logan Govender and Ahmed Essop, UKZN Press, 2023); Serving Higher Purposes: University Mergers in Post-Apartheid South Africa (2020, African Sun Media); and, Transforming Universities in South Africa: Pathways to Higher Education Reform (editor, with Shireen Motala and Micheal Cross) (2020, Brill/Sense).



**Prof. Leketi Makalela**

**University of  
Witwatersrand**

Leketi Makalela is a full professor, founding Director of the Hub for Multilingual Education and Literacies and Deputy Head of the Wits School of Education at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at City University of New York. His research areas include translanguaging, multilingual education and literacies. He is a B-rated researcher and a holder of the National Research Foundation SARChI Chair on Advancing African Languages for Social Inclusion and Access. He pioneered a globally acclaimed theoretical model: “ubuntu translanguaging” and its pedagogical equivalent, “ubuntu translanguaging pedagogy” to normalize simultaneous learning and teaching in more than one language in complex multilingual education systems. One of his highly influential publications is “Shifting lenses: multilingualism, decolonization and education in the global South.” His latest books are: ‘Decolonising multilingualism in Africa: Recentering Silent Voices from the Global South’ (with Finex Ndlovu); ‘Rethinking Language Use in Digital Africa: Technology and Communication in Sub-Saharan Africa.’ (with Goodith White); ‘Not Eleven Languages: Translanguaging and South African Multilingualism in Concert’; and ‘Language and institutional identity in the post-apartheid South African higher education: perspectives on policy and practice’. His academic citizenship includes being past Executive Committee of Umalusi Council and current Technical Advisor to the Department of Basic Education’s National Language Unit.



**Mr Duncan Hindle**

**Education  
DialogueSA  
Manager: NECT**

Mr Hindle has taught at primary and secondary school levels, and lectured at Edgewood College of Education (Education Technology) and the University of Natal (Sociology of Education).

In 1995 Duncan Hindle was elected President of SADTU, and in 1996 he joined the newly formed Department, in the position of Chief Director: Human Resources. Following a period as Deputy Director General (Curriculum), he was appointed Director General in 2005.

In 2010, after overseeing the division of the Department into two new Ministries, Mr Hindle served as Special Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, and as Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Energy.

Mr Hindle currently runs the DialogueSA Programme of the NECT. He is appointed to the Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education (Umalusi), and chairs the accounting Authority of the ETDP SETA. He has recently been appointed as chair of the HRDC Summit Content Committee, preparing for the 2024 Summit.





**Dr Naledi Mbude**  
**Head Language**  
**Policy Unit**

Naledi Mbude is a Science teacher, having studied both at the University of Cape Town and at Rhodes University. Her interest in socio-linguistics was ignited at UCT while studying towards her Bachelor of Education majoring in Science Education coached by Professor Rochford (MHSRIP).

She discovered Multilingual Education through Professor Neville Alexander (MHSRIP) who later nurtured and appointed her at the Project for Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA) at UCT as a Multilingual Science Education Coordinator (1999 – 2004). She worked with diverse specialists in Language in Education viz. Professor Sizwe Satyo, Dr S Gxilishe, Dr M Jadezweni; Professor K Heugh and many others who were colleagues at UCT and some at other HEIs, they had a positive contribution to her passion. Naledi has made numerous presentations on the subject of Multilingual Education in seminars and conferences locally; in other African countries and internationally throughout her career as a Multilingual Education Specialist. Professor R. Kaschula journeyed with Naledi while juggling her work as a Senior Member of the civil service in the DoE, who was pursuing both her Master's and PhD at Rhodes University. Professor Kaschula provided a much needed anchor as a supervisor at a very difficult time. This phase in her journey highlighted why Language-in-Education Policies in Africa rarely get fully implemented for the benefit of the majority of African language learners. Their schooling experiences are characterized by an exclusion of their home languages as Languages of Teaching, Learning and Assessment (LoLTA). It highlighted that it is not sufficient for language activists to ensure that African governments have apt Language-In- Education Policies; implementation lives or dies at the hands of teachers/ officials. Their opinions, attitudes, skills and willingness matters. Invest in bringing them along. Dr Mbude pioneered Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education (MTBBE) in the Eastern Cape (EC) from 2010. She established the Only Language Unit in the country to implement Multilingual Education. The unit addresses issues of racism, linguisticism and language policy mismatches in schools. These efforts led to the first Grade 12 Bilingual Trial examinations in 2020 for the EC, a ground-breaking first for the country. Dr Mbude – Mehana is a proponent of the rights of children to epistemological access to the Curriculum.



**Prof. Yusuf Sayed**

**Cambridge  
University**

Yusuf Sayed is the Professor of Education: Equity and Social Justice at the University of Cambridge. He was previously the Professor of International Education and Development Policy at the University of Sussex, the South African Research Chair in Teacher Education, and the Founding Director of the Centre for International Teacher Education (CITE), at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), South Africa. Yusuf was also the Senior Policy Analyst at the EFA Global Monitoring Report, UNESCO, Team Leader for Education and Skills, the Department for International Development UK, and Head of the Department of Comparative Education at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

Yusuf is an international education and development policy specialist. His research focuses on understanding the nexus between the development and implementation of policy at different levels of the education system and its implications for the achievement of national and global education policy goals focused on equity, inclusion and empowerment. His work examines the development and implementation of education policies for achieving the right to, in and through education based on an ethic of substantive, inclusive social justice. To date, he has published more than 10 books/monographs, over 130 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and over 50 research reports on key education policy focusing in particular on teachers and teacher education; education exclusion and inclusion; the governance of education. He has recently completed several large scale comparative education and development projects: an ESRC/DFID (now FCDO)-funded project "Engaging teachers in peacebuilding in post-conflict contexts: evaluating education interventions in Rwanda and South Africa; an European Commission (EC) funded study 'Safe and quality education for girls and boys in displacement situations in Ethiopia and Somalia'; a project on Global Teacher Education Policies and Practices for Equitable and Quality Education together with partners in India including AUD, JMI, NIEPA and TISS ,and National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) BRICs funded grant focusing on India and South African examining Crisis, Education Policy and Equity in both contexts.

He is currently engaged in several large-scale studies about teacher professionalism, and teacher professional development in South Africa and globally. He is currently leading the first large scale national study of Teacher Pedagogy and Practice in South Africa.



**Mrs Sesi Nxesi**

**CEO: ETDP-SETA**

Mrs Sesi, Nombulelo Nxesi is the Chief Executive Officer of the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP SETA) and has been at the helm since 2004. Prior to her appointment as the CEO, she was with the Department of Education, National Office, where she was appointed as Director for Teacher Development from 1999-2004. Mrs Nxesi was the Chief Education Specialist for Curriculum and Teacher Development (1998-1999) and Deputy Chief Education Specialist, Teacher Supply, Utilisation and Development (1997-1998), both these specialist posts were based at the Gauteng Department of Education. She Lectured in Mathematics and Physical Science at the Daveyton College of Education from 1995-1997.

Mrs Nxesi's career commenced in the teaching space in 1989 where she was a Teacher and Head of Department: Mathematics and Sciences.

Mrs Nxesi serves as a Member of the Advisory Committee of the Public Service Training Forum (PSTF) which is chaired by the Minister of the Department of Public Service and Administration.

She is currently a Council and Executive Member of the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC). She also serves as the President of the Southern African Society for Cooperative Education and Work Integrated Learning (WIL).

Mrs Nxesi served as the chairperson of the SETA CEOs Forum until September 2018, she was re-elected as the Deputy Chairperson of the SETA CEOs Forum.

She also served as a Council member of Higher Education (CHE) until November 2019.

Mrs Nxesi served as a Council Member, Senate Member and Human Resource Committee (HRC) at the Central University of Technology (CUT).



**Ms Gail Campbell**

**CEO: Zenex  
Foundation**

Gail Campbell is the Chief Executive Officer of the Zenex Foundation, a non-profit, independent donor organisation that invests in mathematics, science and language education. She has been involved in developmental philanthropy for over 20 years with a particular emphasis on school education. She is a strong proponent of monitoring and evaluation as a tool for measuring impact and learning from practice.

Ms Campbell has a Social Science background and practiced as a Social Worker working primarily with women and youth. She also lectured in the field of Social Work at the University of Natal for five years before joining ABSA as General Manager of Corporate Social Investment where she was responsible for the ABSA Foundation, pioneering the Employee Giving Programme.

Gail currently serves on a number of non-profit boards in education including the Gauteng Education Development Trust (GEDT), Independent Philanthropy Association of South Africa (IPASA), the International Education Funders Group (IEFG) and the National Association of Social Change Entities in Education (NASCEE). She contributes extensively in these various forums drawing on her knowledge and experience in social development, philanthropy and education in particular.



**Ms Simoné Geyer**  
**DDG: Department**  
**of Basic Education**

Ms. Simoné Geyer has worked in the Education system in South Africa since 1987. Nine years were spent in the classroom as an English teacher, educating the South African child. During this time, she became involve in teacher unionism and was actively involved in teacher unity talks that paved the way to establishing the South African Democratic Teachers Union. Between 1990 and 2001 she was elected to various leadership positions in the union, including serving as the Chief Negotiator for the union in the PSCBC and ELRC. She completed her cause in teacher union service and joined the Department of Education to contribute her experience and skills to help build the education sector in 2001. Her working career has always been in the formal education system at various levels, from a high school teacher to a Deputy Director-General in the National Department of Basic Education.

Ms. Geyer currently holds the position of Deputy Director General: Delivery and Support Branch of the Department of Basic Education. She is currently the only serving woman leader in this position, after other veteran females have gone on retirement. Her main functions and responsibilities is to give strategic leadership and guidance to six (6) Chief Directorates that includes Curriculum Enhancement Programmes, Foundations for Learning, National Education Evaluation Development Unit; Provincial Monitoring and Co-ordination; District and School Level Planning; Special Intervention and Support.

Ms. Geyer has serves on various professional councils and boards in Education, including: ETDP SETA Board and UMALUSI Council. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Rhodes University, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education from University of Cape Town and a Masters in Law from the Nelson Mandela University. She also furthered her studies in relation to her area of expertise and has a number of post-graduate diplomas and certificates in the area of labour relations and negotiations. She has a wealth of experience and is passionate about labour law, legislation, policy formation, legal skills and human resource development and practice in education.

She driven by a life motto that says, “ A good leader is able to paint a picture of a vision for the future and then enlist others to go on the journey with her. A truly conscious leader recognizes that it is not about her, but that the team is looking to her for inspiration and direction. Keeping her ego in check is essential.”

- Tamra Ryan (CEO, Women’s Bean Project) ”



**Dr Njeri Mwagiru**

**Senior Futurist  
Institute For  
Futures Research  
(IFR),  
Stellenbosch  
University Business  
School  
South Africa**

Dr Njeri is a Senior Futurist at the Institute for Futures Research (IFR) at Stellenbosch Business School. Her work focuses on strengthening capabilities of individuals, organisations and governments in Africa, to navigate complexity and uncertainty, to realise long-term goals and visions. Her research interests include leadership, organisational performance, knowledge, gender and diversity, inclusivity and transformation.

Njeri has a Masters in International Relations and holds a PhD in Business Administration.

She has worked with a range of organisations in several capacities and contexts including research and higher education; organisational capacity building and executive management training; policy planning, strategy development and programme delivery; project design, management and coordination; evaluation of initiatives for valued business, public sector, and international partners.

Her vocation is to support knowledge sharing and exchange, to facilitate integrated strategic planning, and enhance evidence-based decision making and high performance to achieve desired futures.



**Prof. Loyiso Jita**

**Professor of  
Science Education:  
University of the  
Free State**

Professor Loyiso C Jita began his career as a science and mathematics teacher, after graduating with Biochemistry and Microbiology from the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS). He later took up a lectureship position at the University of Zululand from where he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to read for a PhD at Michigan State University in the USA. In the mid-1990s, he worked as a Policy Researcher at the Education Policy Unit (EPU), University of KwaZulu-Natal where, among others, he led the compilation and presentation of the submission on the Violation of Educational Rights of South Africans, during apartheid, to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). He joined the University of Pretoria (UP) in 2001, after a post-doctoral fellowship at Northwestern University in the USA and was later appointed the Director of the Joint Centre for Science, Mathematics and Technology Education (JCSMTE) at UP. In 2008, he took up an appointment as an associate professor at the University of South Africa (Unisa), where he later became the inaugural Director of the School of Education. In 2011, he became a full professor and was appointed the acting Deputy Executive Dean in the College of Human Sciences at Unisa. He joined the University of the Free State (UFS) as a Research Professor in the School of Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Technology Education in 2012. In November 2014, he was appointed as the Inaugural SANRAL Chair in Science and Mathematics education. Professor Jita has published many articles on Instructional Leadership, Teacher Development and change, Science and Mathematics education, Lesson Study and has presented over 50 papers at local and international conferences. He has also supervised to completion over 40 PhD graduates and is currently the Dean of Education at the University of the Free State in South Africa.



**Ms Onica Dederen**

**HOD: Limpopo  
Education  
Department**

Ms. KO Dederen is currently the Superintendent General for the Department of Education in Limpopo Province. She combines both the academic and highly experienced practitioner's approach to Leadership, Management, Governance, Curriculum and Planning. She is a Wits graduate who holds a Masters' degree in Curriculum and Evaluation.

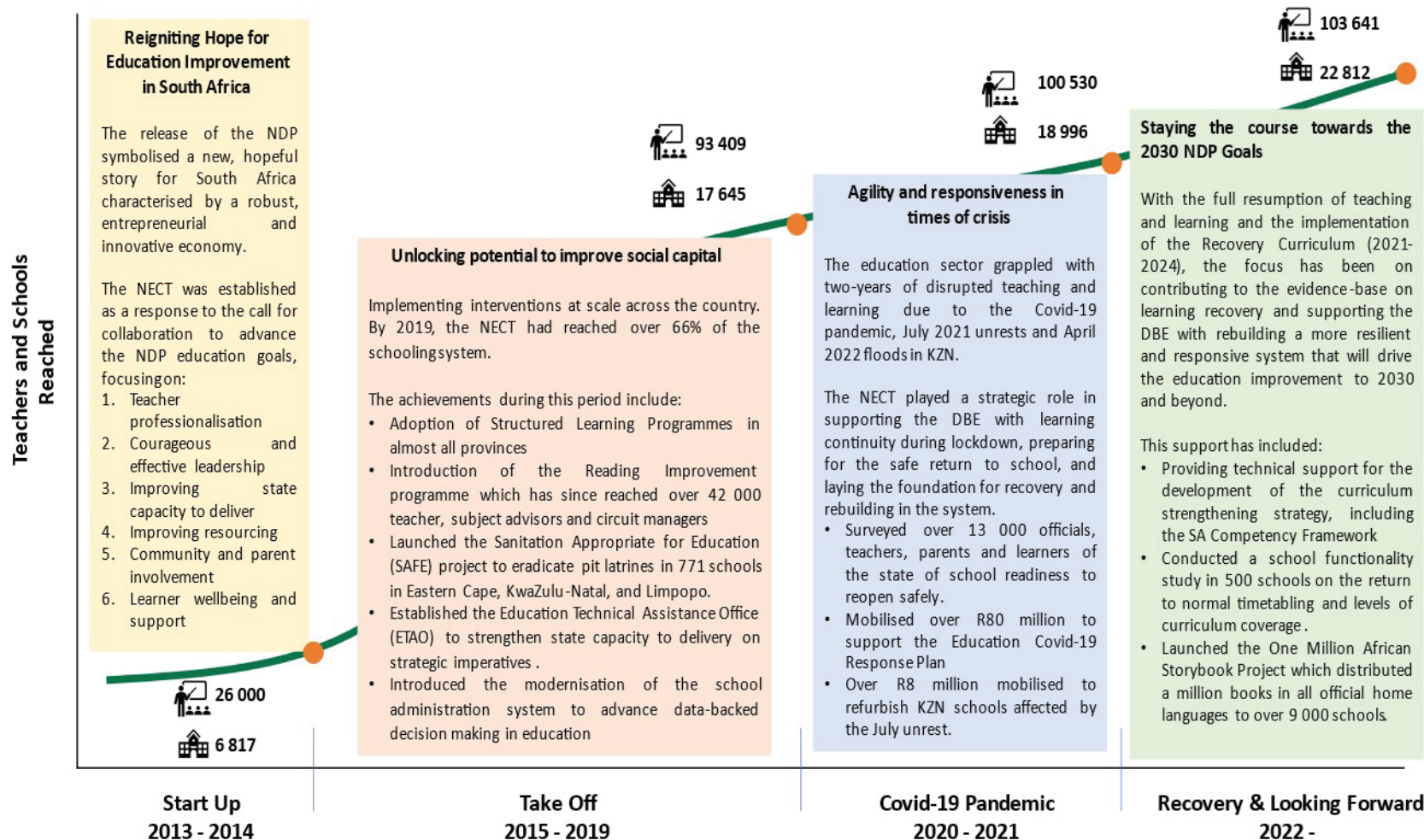
Ms. Dederen K.O. occupied various positions in the Department of Education. She was appointed as Chief Education Specialist (CES) in the Directorate responsible for ABET, ECD and Projects Funding Directorate. She was later promoted to the position of Acting Senior Manager/ Director in the aforementioned directorate. The year 2003, saw her rise to the position of the Chief Director, Curriculum Development and Support which she occupied until 2007. In 2007 she was then promoted to be Deputy Director General: Curriculum Development and Support.

After realizing her capacity to put systems, structures, and processes in place, she was assigned the responsibility of putting functional and efficient systems in the Branch Institutional Governance, District Coordination and Support. In 2020, given her experience in the sector, she was then appointed to pioneer and lead the Department of Education as an acting SG.



# Fact Sheet 2013 - 2023

## HOPE, AGILITY & RESILIENCE: 10 YEARS OF COLLABORATIVE & SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION





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+ NDP =



