



destea

department of
economic, small business development,
tourism and environmental affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

2019 REPORT: 4TH ANNUAL FREE STATE RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM CONVENED

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1. Background

One of the strategic objectives of the 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) is to promote collaboration and partnership. In line with this strategic objective, the Economic Research Directorate had planned to “Convene Provincial Research Colloquium in collaboration with Provincial Treasury” in the second quarter of 2019. A colloquium can be defined as an academic conference or meeting which usually occur over several days where people engage on a particular subject.¹ The initial objectives of the Provincial Colloquium was to share its internal and external research papers produced by Provincial Treasury. The Free State Provincial Treasury invited their MEC for Finance, Director General of the Province, Head of Treasury, officials from provincial government departments and selected municipalities. The objective of the annual Research Colloquium is to involve stakeholders from both private and public sector, Higher Education Institutions and Non-government Organizations (NGOs) in sharing their recent publications. This would provide key stakeholders a platform to debate and provide recommendations on topical issues, on an annual basis to the Provincial Government. This led to the successful hosting of the Free State Research Colloquia in 2016, 2017 and 2018.² The Provincial Research Colloquium is guided by the pillars and drivers of the Free State’s Vision 2030 as listed in table 1 below.

Table: 1 Pillars and Drivers for Free State’s Vision 2030

Pillar 1: Inclusive economic growth and sustainable job creation	Pillar 2: Education, innovation and skills development	Pillar 3: Improved quality of life	Pillar 4: Sustainable rural development	Pillar 5: Build Social Cohesion	Pillar 6: Good governance
Driver 1: Diversify and expand agricultural development and food security	Driver 6: Ensure an appropriate skills base for growth and development	Driver 7: Curb crime and streamline criminal justice performance	Driver 13: Mainstream rural development into growth and development planning	Driver 14: Maximise arts, culture, sports and recreation opportunities and prospects for all communities	Driver 15: Foster good governance to create a conducive climate for growth and development
Driver 2: Minimise the impact of the declining mining sector and ensure that existing mining potential is harnessed		Driver 8: Expand and maintain basic and road infrastructure			
Driver 3: Expand and diversify manufacturing opportunities		Driver 9: Facilitate sustainable human settlements			
Driver 4: Capitalise on transport and distribution opportunities		Driver 10: Provide and improve adequate health care for citizens			
Driver 5: Harness and increase tourism potential and opportunities		Driver 11: Ensure social development and social security services for all citizens			
		Driver 12: Integrate environmental concerns into growth and development planning			

¹ Colloquium. (<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/colloquium>)

² Moses, I.J. 2017. Free State Research Colloquium Concept document.

2. Planning for the Fourth Annual Free State Research Colloquium

The Economic Research Directorate (ERD) from the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) invited the Provincial Treasury's Economic Analysis Directorate to a bilateral meeting on the 17th April 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to engage the Act. Director: Economic Analysis, Mr. P Chomane to commence with the planning phase of the 2019 Provincial Research Colloquium. It was in this engagement that, the officials from Treasury indicated that the planning of the Colloquium had not started as they were awaiting confirmation from the Office of the Head of Department (HOD): Treasury. Accordingly the first planning meeting of the Organising Committee for the 2019 Provincial Research Colloquium was convened on the 25th July 2019 by Mr. P Chomane. Table 2 below provides a list of the core members of the Organising Committee;

Table 2: Core Members of the Free State Provincial Organising Committee

Name & Surname	Institution
Ms B. M Kruger	DESTEA
Mr A. Jansen	DESTEA
Adv. J Mosia	DESTEA
Mr Chaka	OTP
Mr T Tsatsane	OTP
Mr S Seabata	OTP
Mr G Modise	CUT
Mr J Matiisa	OTP
Mr P Chomane	TREASURY
Mr M Mosala	TREASURY
Ms T Sepenyane	TREASURY
Mr T Mkhuzangane	TREASURY
Mr G Modise	TREASURY
Mr G Morogwanyde	TREASURY
Mr B Goitsemodimo	TREASURY
Mr N Tlasi	TREASURY
Mr M Mathunda	TREASURY
Mr T Moloabi	TREASURY
Mr T Petersen	TREASURY
Mr L Koulepe	TREASURY
Prof. A Ngowi	CUT
Ms S Joubert	CUT
Mr K Mabilo	CUT
Mr S Navelakhe	CUT
Ms J Snyman	CUT
Mr A Marais	CUT
Ms M Burger	CUT

Subsequent meetings of the Organising Committee were on held as follows:

- 29 July 2019
- 13 September 2019
- 16 September 2019
- 17 September 2019

2.1 Decisions and outcomes of the Organising Committee Meetings

The following is the summary of the recommendations of the Organising Committee which were subsequently approved by the office of the MEC and HOD: Treasury:

Theme: *Good Governance practices with special focus on ICT, Service Delivery and Youth Empowerment with the following sub-themes:*

- *Good Governance*
- *Inclusive Economic Development*
- *Fourth Industrial revolution*
- *Education and skills development*

Venue: Central University of Technology (CUT) as it successfully hosted the 2018.

Date: 18th -19th September 2019 as approved by the Treasury MEC.

2.2 The Role of DESTEA

Agreed that the Chief Director: Strategic Planning and Research, Rev. Sani DESTEA to present an overview of the draft Free State Provincial Economic Development Approach: A partnership for creating a conducive economic environment.

Mr A Jansen to provide Treasury with the mailing list of the Provincial Research Advisory Committee (PRAC) and liaise with the Media officials at DESTEA to ensure that branding would be provided as well as writing materials for the Colloquium.

Ms B.M Kruger to request Prof. L Lues to be a keynote speaker on Good Governance at the 4th Annual Provincial Research Colloquium. She also worked with Treasury Department to assist with profiles of the Presenters and other outstanding matters.

2.3. Accepted Papers for 2019 Provincial Research Colloquium

The Editorial Committee and the Organising Committee met to consider the abstracts and full papers for the Provincial Colloquium. The following papers were accepted under the sub-themes:

2.3.1 Good Governance

2.3.1.1 The spirit of Ubuntu: The King IV report as servant leader: Kate Marais (UFS)

2.3.1.2 Collaborative cost management framework for public projects in South African-
Monyane G

2.3.1.3 The influence of human resource development on public health services delivery in
Mangaung, Tsoane M & Lues L.

2.3.1.4 First Things First: Steps to improve service delivery – Masithela, N

2.3.1.5 Media Diversity and development: A case for Government Communications as loadstar of democratic governance, Mvambi M.

2.3.2 Inclusive economy

2.3.2.1 A study on moving from a resource intensive to knowledge intensive economy with focus on SMART manufacturing – Kuraiakose, R.B

2.3.2.2 Hair salon industry: A contributor to Free State economy – Amoakoh, E.A & Kruger, B.M

2.3.2.3 The evaluation of the impact and competitiveness of the comprehensive agricultural support programme funded smallholder enterprises in Mangaung MM in the Free State Province – Cezula S

2.3.3 Fourth Industrial Revolution

2.3.3.1 Development and Qualification of customised Titanium Medical Implants produced through additive manufacturing – du Preez et. al.

2.3.3.2 Does uncertainty predict cryptocurrency returns? A copula-based approach – Dr. Koumba, U.R.

2.3.4 Education and skills development

2.3.4.1. Uptake of knowledge, technology and practices for improving water productivity in rain-fed cropping system – Tesfuhuney et.al.

2.3.4.2. Perspective implications on approach for skills transfer of the emerging farmers: Pedagogic praxis principle – Teele, T.

2.3.4.3. Intelligent electronic system design: Imagination, creation, innovation – Lesako, N.

2.4. Keynote Speakers and Facilitators

After obtaining approval from the Office of the HOD and MEC, the following keynote speakers, political principals, facilitators and programme directors were invited of which they all confirmed. The only international guest that confirmed his attendance was Rwandan High Commissioner, Hon. V Karega.

3. Fourth Annual Research Colloquium

The Fourth Annual Provincial Research Colloquium took place from the 18th -19th September 2019 at CUT as planned. In line with Provincial Treasury's commitment to involve other partners, the following stakeholders came on board for 2019 Research Colloquium namely;

CUT, Office of the Premier, DESTEA, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), National School of Government (NSG), PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Vodacom.

3.1. Government Leaders Present at the Colloquium

- 3.1.1 MEC. G Brown (MEC: Finance)
- 3.1.2 MEC W Bulwane (Act. Premier)
- 3.1.3 MEC Tate (MEC: Education)
- 3.1.4 MMC L Titi (Act. Executive Mayor: Mangaung)

3.2 List of Guest/Keynote Speakers

- 3.2.1 Hon. V Karega (Lessons from Rwandan)
- 3.2.2 Dr S Kanu (Fourth Industrial Revolution)
- 3.2.3 Ms S Ngcobo (Gender inclusive economic development and vulnerable groups)
- 3.2.4 Prof. L Lues (Good Governance)
- 3.2.5 Mr B. Mphahlele (Education and skills development)

3.3 List of Facilitators

- 3.3.1 Dr. P Pitso (Good governance)
- 3.3.2 Adv. J Mosia (Inclusive economy)
- 3.3.3 Prof. A Mokadi (Fourth Industrial Revolution)
- 3.3.4 Dr. E Amoakoh (Education and skills development)

3.4 List of Programme Directors

- 3.4.1 HOD G Mahlatsi (Programme Director Day 1)
- 3.4.2 Prof. A Mokadi (Programme Director Day 2)

4. Provincial Research Colloquium Partners

The following partners were part of the Organizing Committee for the Fourth Annual Provincial Research Colloquium;

- Department of the Premier
- Department of Economic and Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA)
- Central University of Technology (CUT)
- University of the Free State (UFS)
- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

- Vodacom
- National School of Government (NSG)

DESTEA played a pivotal role in the Organising Committee. The officials not only provided strategic direction to the committee but also assisted in sub-committees. The officials were involved in the Communications and Media and Abstract Panel sub-committees and provided a laptop for the scribes.

5. Recommendations/ Conclusion

The Free State Provincial Research Colloquium Organising Committee agreed that the accepted papers of 4th Annual Research Colloquium would be published on the Free State Research Portal. Additionally, all previous papers' recommendations would be consolidated by the Organising Committee and be presented to the HOD and MEC for Treasury by 30th September 2019. It is recommended that the Economic Research Directorate at DESTEA should budget at least R100 000 for the 2019/20 financial year in order to contribute towards the 5th Annual Provincial Research Colloquium. It is recommended that the Free State Legislature should be one of the partners to be brought on board. Lastly, in an effort to encourage Master and PhD students to participate, a competition for Best Masters and PhD papers could be a good incentive. Provincial Treasury should consider strengthening its partnership with the University of the Free State; the Rector's office should play a vital part in order to direct different departments to be actively involved in the Free State Research Colloquium.