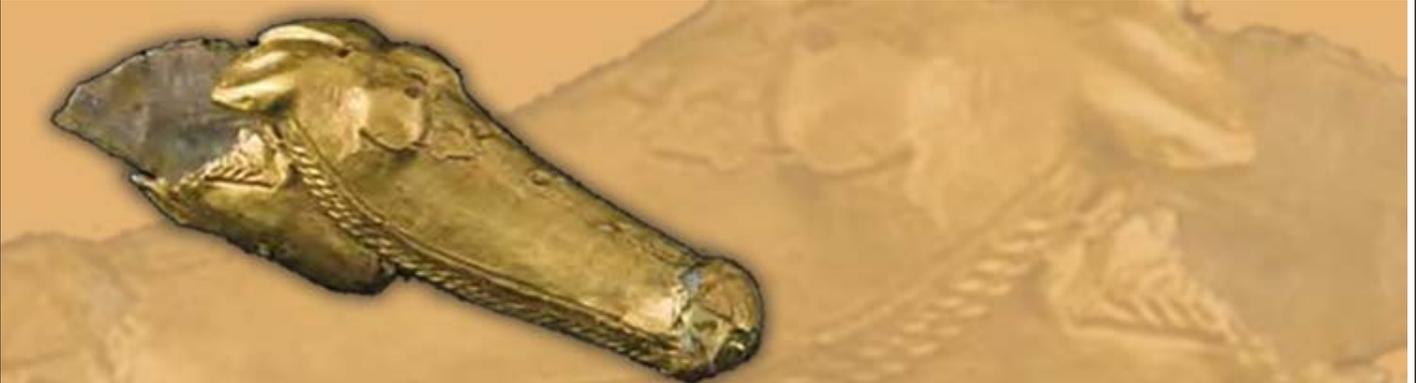




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About MISTRA's Monthly Briefing

MISTRA's Monthly Briefing is a newsletter from the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. It aims to inform MISTRA's partners about the Institute's research, strategic reflections, published papers, and other news relating to the network of people and organisations committed to MISTRA's strategic engagement with the issues facing South Africa. The briefing is issued monthly.

In issue **Number#12** we report on a series of roundtables - convened in partnership between MISTRA and the Department of Public Management at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) - with representatives of the State of Delaware (USA), and Delaware University.

We also have great pleasure in announcing two upcoming strategic reflections. The first, convened in partnership with the University of Johannesburg, is a roundtable with **Dr Greg Olsen**, an American entrepreneur, engineer and scientist, who will speak on the topic: *"Do the opportunities offered by space exploration justify the investment?"* Dr Olsen will be joined by respondents **Professor Tshilidzi Marwala**, Dean of Engineering at the University of Johannesburg, and **Dr Adrian Tiplady**, Manager of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) South Africa site bid, at the discussion to be held at the University of Johannesburg on Friday 15th March 2013.

And MISTRA is proud to announce the second Annual Lecture to be given by **Prof Mahmood Mamdani**, the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government at Columbia University, New York. Prof Mamdani will speak on the topic: *"Beyond Nuremberg: The Historical Significance of the Post-Apartheid Transition in South Africa"*.

We also provide the full text of *"A Lula Moment For South Africa: Searching For 'Sugarman'?"* presented by **Joel Netshitenzhe**, MISTRA's Executive Director at a seminar entitled Comparing Brazil and South Africa: A Labour Perspective at the Chris Hani Institute in February 2013.

We share a range of media articles written by MISTRA staff including *"Is the future coconut?"* by **Yacoob Abba Omar**, MISTRA's newly appointed Director of Operations, and two articles by **Dr Mcebisi Ndletyana**, Head of the Faculty of Political Economy: *"Is Ramphela capable of leading?"* and *"The potholes of faulty land reform"*. And an article entitled *"South Africa's fuel cell plan risks failure without support"* by **Radhika Perrot**, a researcher in the Faculty of Knowledge Economy.

And we're happy to announce the appointment of **Dr Thembeke Mufamadi** as a researcher in the Faculty of Humanity. As well as the appointment of **Yacoob Abba Omar** as Director of Operations.

And sadly, in this issue, we pay tribute to the late **Mr Thabang Makubire**, a nuclear physicist and knowledgeable historian, who was a member of the MISTRA research project on the Use and Displacement of Strategic Minerals (PGMs).

We hope you find our Monthly Briefings informative and invite you to visit our website, where you will find more information on our research, key papers, media on MISTRA, as well as an [Expression of Interest Form](#) if you are interested in participating in any of the Institute's research projects.

To subscribe to MISTRA's Monthly Briefing, please complete the [subscribe](#) form. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click on [unsubscribe](#) at the top of the newsletter.

MISTRA STRATEGIC REFLECTIONS

MISTRA/TUT Roundtables with representatives of the State of Delaware (USA), and Delaware University



The Mapungubwe Institute in partnership with The Department of Public Management at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) recently convened a series of roundtable discussions between TUT, MISTRA, and representatives of the State of Delaware (USA), and Delaware University.

The Delaware delegation, comprising academics and business leaders, was led by **Senator Chris Coons**. The delegation included, among others: the Honourable **Jeff Bullock** (Secretary of the State of Delaware), **Mr John Pastor** (Director of International Trade for the State of Delaware), **Prof Dan Rich** (Professor of Public Policy at the School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware and a former provost of the University of Delaware), and **Professor Maria Aristigueta** (Charles P Messick Professor of Public Administration and Director of the School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware).

Below: Joel Netshitenzhe, Prof Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo, Prof Dan Rich, and Senator Chris Coons



The roundtable discussions and other meetings with the University of Delaware delegation co-hosted by MISTRA and TUT form part of an initiative to establish a 'Consortium Partnership', which will include other national, continental and international stakeholders. The roundtables at TUT, included discussions on the following topics:

- Leveraging South Africa's market brand in advancing economic development
- The state of education in South Africa
- The changing global economy of higher education: Meeting the challenges for

- private and public universities
- Establishing viable think tanks in a multi-polar global economy
 - Knowledge generation and exchange through higher education institutions and think tanks

The South African speakers included among others: **Professor David Mello** (Head of the Department of Public Administration at TUT), **Dr Shadrack Moephuli** (CEO of the Agricultural Research Centre), **Mr Joel Netshitenzhe** (Executive Director of MISTRA), **Dr Renosi Mokate** (Adviser to the National Treasury), **Dr Tanya Abrahamse** (CEO of the South African National Biodiversity Institute and a member of the MISTRA Board of Governors), **Prof Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo** (Chairperson of the MISTRA Board of Governors) and **Dr Leonard Martin** (Head of Faculty of Humanities, MISTRA) and **Graeme Bloch** (Senior Researcher, MISTRA).



Professor Maria Aristigueta and Mosidi Mathabegoane of MISTRA

MISTRA Roundtable with Dr Greg Olsen

“Do the opportunities offered by space exploration justify the investment?”





MISTRA, in partnership with University of Johannesburg (UJ), will host Dr Greg Olsen at a Roundtable to be held at UJ on Friday 15 March 2013.

Dr Olsen is an American entrepreneur, engineer and scientist who, in October 2005, became the third private citizen to make a self-funded trip to the International Space Station.

The Roundtable will also mark the launch of MISTRA's youth network (MISTRAY). MISTRAY, was established to meet the increasing interest of South African youth – in development, research, public service, the academy, and business – in the work being undertaken by the Institute. MISTRAY will provide a platform for discussion on issues confronting, and of interest, to South African youth.

MISTRA was founded with a stated commitment to engaging the youth on issues of strategic significance to South Africa's long-term development and to developing a new generation of researchers for South Africa and the continent.

The roundtable with Dr Olsen is the first of a series of MISTRAY fora to engage the country's youth in issues of significance, and will focus on the theme of 'Space Science and Africa'. Dr Olsen will be joined by respondents Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, Dean of Engineering at the University of Johannesburg, and Dr Adrian Tiplady, Manager of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) South Africa site bid.

Date: Friday 15 March 20

Venue: University of Johannesburg

Time: 09h00

** Seats are limited and RSVP is essential*

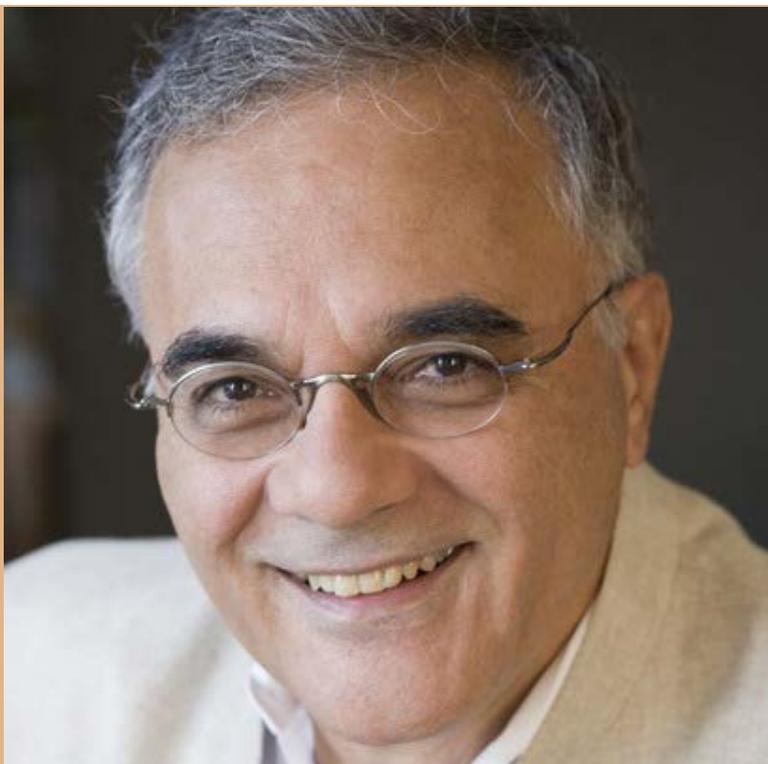
[For more info and to attend \(seats are limited and RSVP is essential\) click here.](#)

MISTRA Annual Lecture 2013

Beyond Nuremberg: The Historical Significance of the Post-Apartheid Transition in South Africa by Prof Mahmood Mamdani

MISTRA's Annual Lectures are intended to address key national and global challenges straddling issues of nation-formation, economic growth, social equity, science and technology and South Africa's positioning in a globalised world.

MISTRA's 2013 Annual Lecture will be presented by Professor Mahmood Mamdani on the topic: "Beyond Nuremberg: The Historical Significance of the Post-Apartheid Transition in South Africa".



Date: 18 March 2013

Time: 18h30

Venue: Wits Science Stadium, West Campus

Seating is limited and RSVP is essential. To attend the MISTRA Annual Lecture please email **Esther Nkosi** on **Esther@masake.co.za** or call: **011 656 3641**

[To read more click here](#)

A LULA MOMENT FOR SOUTH AFRICA: SEARCHING FOR 'SUGARMAN'?

Paper presented at a seminar, entitled Comparing Brazil and South Africa: A Labour Perspective convened on 7 February 2013 at the Chris Hani Institute in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung



Pursuit of South Africa's 'Lula Moment' is akin to Searching for Sugarman, argues **Joel Netshitenzhe**:

Like with the subject of the documentary, American musician Rodriguez, we have to ask whether the Lula Moment is still alive in Brazil; and whether the notion itself still enchants and excites!

Brazil's unique positive achievements in addressing inequality – quite counter-intuitive in the context current global experience – should not be underplayed. However, it is critical that in interrogating its applicability to South African conditions, we should look at the totality of that narrative.

Virtually all South Africans agree that the country's ideal should be to achieve not only high economic growth, but also social equity. Like with Brazil during President Lula's second term (2006 – 2010), we seek to do this in a global context of 'trickle-up' economics, with growing inequality virtually everywhere. For instance, according to Brian Groom¹, pre-tax income of the top 1% in the United States of America was 8% of National Income in 1974; and this had grown to 18% by 2008. The package of a FTSE 100 chief executive was about 47 times that of an average employee in 1998; and it had grown to 120 times by 2010.

** Paper presented at a seminar, entitled Comparing Brazil and South Africa: A Labour Perspective convened on 7 February 2013 at the Chris Hani Institute in*

MISTRA IN THE NEWS

Is the future coconut? By Yacoob Abba Omar



LAST year, as Dr Mamphela Ramphele's hectoring of the government was growing more and more shrill, an ANC comrade commented to me: "I wish she, Tutu and these other coconuts would just shut up and appreciate what the government was trying to achieve."

This throwaway remark, expressed in an irritated mood, came flooding back while I listened as she explained what she hoped to achieve through Agang.

"Coconut " also hit me when I saw the leader of the opposition, Ms Lindiwe Mazibuko, take to the podium to savage President Zuma after his state of the nation address.

At a recent school prize-giving ceremony, I puffed up with pride at the number of African

kids who were performing so well. Chatting to them later, listening to their northern suburbs accent punctuated with indigenous South African expressions, these future leaders of business and civil society, I thought to myself: perhaps the future is coconut?

At the same time I recalled the many generations of wonderful leadership the ANC has been blessed with: products of Christian missionary schools, or the best campuses in the world. I thought to the very western, liberal and Christian philosophy, which guided the ANC's strategy and tactics and thought: we once were the coconuts.

[To read full article click here](#)

Originally published in *The New Age* on 22 February 2013

Is Ramphela capable of leading?

Agang's entry into active politics reflects an emerging cultural fissure within black politics, writes **Mcebisi Ndletyana**

Sunday Debate THE SUNDAY Independent 17
FEBRUARY 24 2013

Is Ramphela capable of leading?

Karima Brown
The academic's new platform is a political party premised on a number of false 'firsts'

Mcebisi Ndletyana
Agang's entry into active politics reflects an emerging cultural fissure within black politics

ONECAN can be forgiven for being euphoric about one's entry into politics. One can also be forgiven for being naive about the realities of what is required to fight an election campaign which necessitates a party with legs and a machine with the ability to outpace its rivals in terms of resources.

She began with the words of Madiba in the final sitting of the first democratic Parliament on March 20, 1996 in which he called for active citizenship in Cape Town last April, she displayed a similar wit but refused to be affected by some writing and speaking.

UST as the proceedings got under way, we held our breath. We were wondering, anxiously, how the two invited guests would react on meeting each other on the podium.

The governing party had a problem, for instance, with local councillors who related to the suburbs as soon as they got their first salary. They hardly visited their wards thereafter. It is not clear whether the invitation

Just as the proceedings got under way, we held our breath. We were wondering, anxiously, how the two invited guests would react on meeting each other on the podium.

The occasion was the opening of the Steve Biko Centre in Ginsberg on November 1. The cause of our anxiety was Barney Pityana, a dear friend and comrade of Steve Biko's, and President Jacob Zuma. Pityana, whom Biko adored as the best among them, had come to talk about the meaning of Biko's life.

In recognition of Biko's stature, Zuma, whose government had also donated handsomely towards establishing the centre, had come to confer official sanction on the momentous event.

Ordinarily, the two men wouldn't have met. Pityana disapproves of Zuma as president (see his plea for Zuma's resignation, Page 13), while Zuma probably dismisses him contemptuously as "a clever black, that walks around with a briefcase full of books and cannot answer a question without opening a book".

So, as Zuma got closer to the podium, we became even more apprehensive on realising that Pityana, who was seated closest to the staircase, would be the first he meets as he steps on to the podium.

To read the full debate between **Karima Brown** and **Mcebisi Ndletyana** originally published in *The Sunday Independent* on 24 February 2013 [click here](#)

South Africa's fuel cell plan risks failure without support

An ambitious strategy to create fuel cell products for export will need incentives and cross-government backing to bear fruit, says **Radhika Perrot**.

South Africa's Department of Science & Technology (DST) has been laboriously pushing for the development of hydrogen fuel-cell technology through an ambitious research and development (R&D) strategy since 2005. Fuel cells can convert the energy produced by a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen into electric power.

The strategy is ambitious because it aims to enable the export of high-value products into growing international hydrogen fuel-cell markets when there is currently almost no domestic industry or market.

The goal of dipping a toe in the waters of a fledgling and uncertain hydrogen fuel-cell technology baffled a great many skeptics. The technology is not yet commercially viable, and the prospect of hydrogen fuel cells becoming a technology of the future is still in doubt.



[To read full article click here](#)

Originally published on SciDev on 1 February 2013

The potholes of faulty land reform

South Africa, like its northern neighbor, will have to confront the consequences of a slippery redistribution programme, writes **Mcebisi Ndletyana**

As in Zimbabwe, white farmers and businesses have absolved themselves of the responsibility of providing social relief. Typical of any former colony, post-apartheid South Africa had to grapple with inequality quite soon after inauguration. The challenge was especially acute in South Africa, as in other settler colonies, because of its racial manifestation.

The potholes of faulty land reform

TYPICAL of any former colony, post-apartheid South Africa had to grapple with inequality quite as any other nation. The challenge was especially acute in South Africa, as in other underdeveloped, because of its racial manifestation. The mechanism by which the new liberators were to dismantle the edifice of inequality, however, was not of their own choosing. It was rather foisted upon them by considerations of the moment, to enable the rise of a new dawn – freedom.

But post-colonial history tells us that, with time, the progenitor of freedom turns into a nemesis of the very freedom it spawned. Barring any change of course, liberated South Africa is on a deadly course to be contaminated by the very seed that germinated it.

Racialised inequality is the enemy of racialised democracy. The condition is of course not of our own creation. It is an inheritance from our past. It is not only an unacknowledged inheritance, but also one that we have deepened further. It is just as we were creating the new society in order to be free, black folk had to accept the perpetuation of inequality.

The anti-apartheid forces were in no position to dictate the terms of the settlement. The apartheid government would not let go of political power unless guaranteed that private property and wealth would not be redistributed. This compromise, a precondition to freedom, was then given constitutional status.

Instead of social justice, South Africa's black population settled for reconciliation. Reconciliation secured franchise and shone the promise of upward mobility. Social justice was not guaranteed, but guaranteed to be opened up. No longer would black people be barred from joining a trade of their choice, a position of employment, for which they were qualified, or denied redress in a place of their choice.

According to the constitution, however, dependent on acquiring skills and resources. And, because

South Africa, like its northern neighbour, will have to confront the consequences of a slippery redistribution programme, writes
Mcebisi Ndletyana



UNREFORMED: Farmworkers labour outside Johannesburg in this file picture. Land redistribution is taking place at a snail's pace, says the author. As in Zimbabwe, white farmers and businesses have absolved themselves of the responsibility of providing social relief.

PICTURE: REUTERS

“

INSTEAD OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, BLACK PEOPLE SETTLED FOR RECONCILIATION

pre-1992 Uganda, Mahmood Mamour tells us, Asians became what settlers were in a similar way: a privileged minority.

A victim of the apartheid mindset, and currently a professor at Columbia University, Mamour says Asians were not only a privileged minority but also alienated themselves from the anti-colonial nationalist struggle. They were the "settlers", and as a result, Mamour writes, "as the nationalist movement grew, among its targets were Indian traders".

Twenty years later, reflecting back on the tragedy of his own country and people, and as if addressing post-apartheid South Africa, Mamour concluded: "Demands

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[To read more click here](#)

* Originally published in the Sunday Independent on February 11 2013

MISTRA PEOPLE

Thembeke Mufamadi - Researcher: Humanity

Thembeke Mufamadi holds Ph.D in History from the University of South Africa and an Honours Degree in African Studies and a Masters Degree in History, from the University of Cape Town. She's worked as a researcher at the Institute for Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University and at the Truth and Reconciliation and a senior researcher for the Democracy and Governance Unit at the Human Sciences Research Council.

Her research and academic experience and interests range from land reforms, human rights violations, biographies, shifting political identities, pre-colonial history, global liberation struggle history and church history. Her publications include Raymond Mhlaba's Personal Memoirs: Reminiscing from Rwanda and Uganda, published in 2001 under the auspices of the HSRC.



She joined MISTRA in January 2013 as a researcher in the faculty of Humanity.

Mr Yacoob Abba Omar: Director Operations.

Mr Yacoob Abba Omar has joined MISTRA as the Institute's Director: Operations. Mr Abba Omar, who replaces Mr Barry Gilder, is the former South African Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, a post he held from 2008 until last year. Before that, he was the Ambassador to Oman from 2003 until his posting to the UAE.

Before his diplomatic appointments, Mr Abba Omar has held several corporate and public sector positions:

- Director of Public Affairs at Meropa Communications,
- Chief Facilitator of the Presidency's Scenarios,
- General Manager of Corporate Communications at Armscor,
- Deputy Chief Executive of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS),
- Served the African National Congress in various capacities.



Mr Abba Omar serves on several not-for-profit bodies, with his most recent appointment being to that of the International Advisory Board of the IIMP, Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. He is currently reading for a PhD on 'Sovereignty and National Identity' at Wits University and holds an M.Phil. in South African Political Economy from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

The Board of Governors and Council of Advisors of the Mapungubwe Institute are delighted to announce Mr Abba Omar's appointment, and believe he will contribute considerably to MISTRA's intellectual life as much as he will to its operational efficiency.

Paying tribute to the first three years of MISTRA, Mr Abba Omar said he is very pleased to be part of an institute, which is giving a fresh and novel impetus to intellectual life in South Africa.

Mr Abba Omar assumed his duties on 1st February 2013

In Memorium: Thabang Makubire By Wilson Manganyi

It was inspiring to have been afforded an opportunity to work with Mr Thabang Makubire, a trained nuclear physicist and a knowledgeable

historian, on the MISTRA research project on the Use and Displacement of Strategic Minerals (PGMs). Mr Makubire humbly shared his skills and know-how with MISTRA's PGM project team, and did so with passion, because he loved sharing the knowledge he had acquired. His ability and willingness to share information made him a natural leader to the project team.

Mr Makubire was also an Inaugural MISTRA Fellow, chosen both because of the recognition of his work on uranium (a strategic energy mineral in the country), and for his understanding of the dynamics of the communities that live in the platinum belt. His insights as a trained scientist proved vital to MISTRA's understanding of the "triple helix" relational challenges facing all the actors affected by mining: the mining houses, communities that live in proximity to mines, and the government.



MISTRA and the PGM project team, which he led, are shocked and saddened by his sudden passing. Not only does he leave a void amongst us as colleagues, but our country has lost an astute scientist. In a few months the cumulative strategic insights Mr Makubire provided to the PGM project will crystallise in a final research report.

In this report the footprints of Mr Makubire's intellect and strategic insights are obvious. This is the legacy he leaves. MISTRA's next project will focus on energy, an area Mr Makubire was engaged in professionally at the time of his passing.

Africa has lost a truly great son, scientist, and oral historian. MISTRA has lost a great colleague and intellectual leader. May your soul find peace as your contribution to making our country and continent a better place is greatly appreciated. Like a lodestar, your legacy will continue to shine and to guide.

