



## Roundtable Discussions

### The Green Voter's Guide, 7 October 2016

The final edition of the Green Voter's Guide Roundtable series was held in collaboration with the Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Environmental Monitoring Group, looking at the prioritisation of environmental matters in local government. In an effort to extend our reach, the event was held at the Denis Hurley Centre in the Durban CBD, with Mr Stephen Law (Executive Director, Environmental Monitoring Group); Mr Desmond D'Sa (Co-ordinator, South Durban Community Environmental Alliance); and Dr Selva Mudaly (President, South African Institute of Environmental Health) as the dynamic speakers for the event. This Roundtable Discussion focussed on environmental health and spatial planning issues in relation to municipalities, enabling the participants to share their experiences of engaging with municipal officers and ward councillors. A remarkable end to an enlightening series of events that will be followed by a briefing paper.



Standing: Fr Matsepene Morare (Researcher, CPLO) and Ms Palesa Ngwenya (Researcher, CPLO).  
Seated: L-R: Dr Selva Mudaly, Mr Desmond D'Sa and Mr Stephen Law.



Standing: L-R: Mr Sonwabo Gqeqge and Adv Mike Pothier (Research Co-ordinator)  
Seated: L- R: Ms Nontando Ngamlana and Ms Roegchanda Pascoe



After the presentations, audience members gathered into groups and discussed their own experiences and reported back to the rest afterwards.

### Public Participation in Local Government, 17 October 2016

The aim of this Roundtable was to discuss the ever-increasing gap between formalised (invited) space in public participation and informal (uninvited) non-legislative public participation in South Africa. The three main speakers, Ms Roegchanda Pascoe (Manenberg Community Forum); Ms Nontando Ngamlana (Afesis-Corplan); and Mr Sonwabo Gqeqge (SALGA) engaged with the topic by looking at how we can bridge the gap between the invited and uninvited or invented spaces. The discussion was robust, honest and informative. Participants heard from Mr Gqeqge how the legislative environment allowed communities to take ownership of their municipalities, while Ms Ngamlana spoke about the middle ground between invited spaces and invented spaces – the so-called network spaces where the aim is shared and integrated planning, integrated implementation and integrated learning takes place. Ms Pascoe shared her frustrations in aiding her community to access the invited spaces and local government officials.

### Segregated Spaces, 2 November 2016

On a day of quite a bit of drama in our politics, CPLO held a Roundtable in Johannesburg. It was previously supposed to be at Trinity House, Braamfontein, but due to a Fees-Must-Fall protest at that time, it was moved to the Cathedral in Berea. Speaking at the Roundtable were the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Andries Nel, and Professor of Sociology at UCT, Owen Crankshaw. The Deputy Minister has done work on the Government's Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), which was developed to "manage the scale and growth of South African cities and towns". Professor Crankshaw has done a lot of work on spatial development and segregation/integration of urban spaces, and in this case focused on Gauteng and the very interesting changes that have taken place there, pointing out that many people's perception that South Africa has not changed was not strictly true.

One thing is certain, South Africa has come a long way in dealing with many of the issues of segregation in and of public spaces, but it is also quite clear the country still has a very long way to go. The following day, there was a Radio Veritas interview on the Roundtable issue, which covered some of the ethical and moral issues around our segregated spaces.



L-R: Fr Peter-John Pearson (Director, CPLD), Mr Andries Nel, and Prof Owen Crankshaw

### Addiction, 17 November 2016

Fr Stephen Tully from the Denis Hurley Centre and Mr Ashley Potts of the Cape Town Drug Centre spoke at this Roundtable. Both speakers pointed out that we all have the capacity to develop an addiction. However, while some addictions, such as running or knitting, are harmless, others such as alcohol, drugs and gambling will negatively affect the addict, the family and the community. This is deeply concerning as more and more people are becoming dependent on drugs, and the age at which such dependence begins is getting lower. Positive results of interventions aimed at helping addicts are not assured. It is important to address the issue as a medical rather than a criminal/moral one. There is a need for proactive social policy, supportive structures and family involvement in the treatment process. Organizations offering services to those addicted to substances must offer accredited programmes and be properly registered. Early intervention services, developing the capacity of families to deal with a family member who is an addict, and sustained support services, are key. Those who feel connected to family, friends and the community are less likely to develop harmful addictive behaviours. The majority of addicts fall into the 18-30 age group and it is this group who are responsible for raising the next generation. In this Year of Mercy, the healing power of compassion was emphasised.



L-R: Fr Stephen Tully, Ms Lois Law (Researcher, CPLD), Mr Ashley Potts, and Fr Peter-John Pearson

### Mining Wars: The People vs The Leaders, 17 November 2016

A Roundtable Discussion was held in Mthatha, Eastern Cape. It was another in the series looking at the relationship between ordinary people and communities, their leaders and the traditional leaders in particular, and questions of land and land use, with mining as an example of the point of contention, especially when the community is at variance with its leadership, and even the state. At this particular Roundtable, the focus was mainly on the dysfunctional relationship between traditional leaders and many of the people and communities that live and work on traditional lands. The challenges in this area are often compounded by the people's limited literacy, leadership that is not working well with people, and in some cases, leadership that is working against the interests of the communities and the people. The biggest need from ordinary people at this particular Roundtable was for greater empowerment when it comes to dealing with legalities and technicalities around farming and state programmes and projects that they need to access, and especially the issues around land rights, which seems to come up all the time. However, as Bishop Sipuka said at the discussion, the question of land and land use should not be separated from the reality of people's relationship with the environment and the need for conscientisation and awareness about a healthy and ethical relationship with the land and the environment.



Fr Matsepane Morare SJ with guests who attended the Roundtable in Mthatha

### Public Employment Programmes: Are They Working? 5 December 2016

The two guest speakers were Ms Hamedea Deedat, Acting Executive Director, NALEDI; and Mr Rudi Dicks, Outcomes Facilitator, Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation. The dialogue focused on government employment programmes, more specifically the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the Community Works Programme (CWP), and whether or not they are effective as employment schemes. While government argues that EPWP and CWP have been meaningful in providing work opportunities, labour unions differ, stating that these programmes are not as successful as government would suggest. Although Hamedea and Rudi had differing views on the success of EPWP and CWP, they did agree that they are a means of creating non-permanent informal workplace experience.



Participants seen engaging during the Seminar in the CPLD boardroom

## Other Events & Visitors

### Wabash Pastoral Leadership Programme, 5 October 2016

A group of pastors from the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Programme in Indiana, USA, visited CPLO. The pastors learned about the CPLO's history and work, and afterwards engaged in a lively Q&A with the team.



The Wabash Pastoral Leadership Programme group with CPLO Staff



Adv Mike Pothier engages with one of the visiting pastors

### Lunch Meeting with Dr Makhosi Khoza, 28 October 2016

In collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), a luncheon was hosted with African National Congress (ANC) Member of Parliament, Dr Makhosi Khoza. Dr Khoza recently served as the Chairperson of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Appointment of the New Public Protector, and is also a member of the Standing Committee on Finance. The objective of this luncheon was to give members of civil society, the religious sector and the diplomatic corps an opportunity to engage with a political representative on issues that relate to the functioning of Parliament, her role within the institution, and the country's democracy in general. Dr Khoza spoke on an array of issues, Fees Must Fall, decolonisation, inclusivity and reconciliation, but her concern was mostly with the lack of credible and ethical leadership in South Africa, which she perceived as the source of most of our current crises. She praised civil society for holding government accountable and for encouraging transparency; civil society was critical to the functioning and strengthening of our fledgling democracy.



Adv Mike Pothier and Dr Makhosi Khoza



The audience listens as Dr Khoza makes her presentation

### Public Seminar: The Future of Democracy in Africa, 1 December 2016

In conjunction with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation, CPLO hosted a public seminar looking at likely scenarios for the consolidation of democracy on the African continent. The meeting was attended by 61 people, including the Chairperson of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Prof Ursula Männle, who was visiting from Munich. The main speaker was Dr Jakkie Cilliers, Head of African Futures and Innovation at ISS, and the respondent was Prof Robert Mattes, Director of the Democracy in Africa Research Unit at the University of Cape Town.

Dr Cilliers argued that Africa has made steady progress in democratisation. According to one measure, the number of countries on the continent that could be classified as 'free' or 'partly free' has grown from 17 in 1988 to 34 in 2015. The number of elections also showed an increase over time, although it was still the case that elections do not necessarily translate into democracy, especially given the number of regimes that manage to manipulate elections in their favour.

Prof Mattes, while not disagreeing with Dr Cilliers' findings, noted the need for analysts to avoid being either "Chicken Little" or "Polyanna". In other words, there was no need to fear that the sky was about to fall on our heads in Africa, but neither should we fall into unwarranted and naïve optimism, believing that, left to its own devices, democracy in Africa would simply continue to make progress.

The conclusion of the presentations was that "democracy advances human well-being and plays an important role in sustaining growth and stability. Its future in Africa appears positive despite efforts by governing elites to frustrate its substantive progress."



L-R: Dr Jakkie Cilliers, Prof Robert Mattes, Adv Mike Pothier



Prof Ursula Männle, Chairperson of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, welcomes the guests

### Pax Christi, 7th & 8th December 2016

Fr Peter-John Pearson attended a conference on "Advocacy for Peace in Africa: What Lessons do we need to Learn?" Fr Peter-John spoke on the distinctly Catholic aspects of the advocacy carried out by bodies such as CPLO and took part in a panel discussion on factors that may make such advocacy more difficult in future.



Fr Peter-John with the rest of the attendees of the conference.

## Distributed Publications

### Briefing Papers:

- 415 Mining Wars: The Leaders vs The People
- 416 2016 Local Government Elections: An Examination of Youth Participation
- 417 Teenage Pregnancy: Children giving birth to Children
- 418 Regulating Religion
- 419 The Municipal Elections 100 Days On
- 420 Participation in Local Government

### Submissions Made:

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|---------------------------------|------------|
| Migration and Human Trafficking | 03/10/2016 |
| Liquor Amendment Bill           | 17/11/2016 |

### Family Digest:

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| The Homeless (Digest 12) | 14/11/2016 |
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### Refugees Digest:

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| Refugees, Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Displaced persons (10) | 09/11/2016 |
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All publications are available on CPLO's website

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