



Early Childhood Development and Children with Disability

19 April 2017

L-R: Ms Tineke Ganz-Malan, Ms Marise Wattel, Ms Vanessa Japtha, Mr Kevin Roussel, Ms Lois Law (CPLO Researcher), and Adv Mike Pothier (CPLO Research Co-ordinator and moderator for the Roundtable)

This Roundtable was addressed by Ms Tineke Ganz-Malan and Ms Marise Wattel of the Down Syndrome Association, Mr Kevin Roussel of Catholic Welfare and Development and Ms Vanessa Japtha of Inclusive Education. Children with disabilities are one of the most marginalized and excluded groups in society. Early Childhood Development plays an essential role in the well-being of these 'differently abled' children and helps them achieve their full potential. Early intervention services play a critical role in long-term outcomes. The importance of capacitating parents was also highlighted.

After the presentations by the speakers, the audience split up into groups and reported back before entering into a Q&A





L-R: Mr Joseph Dube (Head, Justice and Peace Commission), Mr Kabelo Selema (National Programme Manager, Justice and Peace Commission), and Dr Carin Runciman in Johannesburg.

Community Protests: a means to make local government listen?

9 May 2017

This Roundtable was held in the Johannesburg Archdiocese in collaboration with the Justice and Peace Commission and was addressed by Dr Carin Runciman, a senior lecturer at the University of Johannesburg and co-author of the research papers, *South African Police Service (SAPS) Data on Crowd Incidents and Community Protests 2004-2013: Some Research Findings*. Referring to her research paper, Dr Runciman argued that categorising community protest as simply 'service delivery' protests detracts from the complex reasons why communities take to the streets. Other important issues are also raised such as crime, unemployment and corruption. Often the protests were more about the quality of service delivery than the failure to deliver the services. She interacted with the crowd of about 30 community members who shared their stories about why they often take to the streets to be heard. *This Roundtable was also held in Cape Town on 27 July 2017. See article below.*

Community Protests: Cape Town

27 July 2017

Speakers of this Roundtable were Dr Carin Runciman, Senior Researcher at the University of Johannesburg's Centre for Change, and Mr Seana Nkhahle, Executive Manager at the South African Local Government Association. Dr Runciman unpacked the research she and her colleagues at the Centre for Change have been doing on the nature of political protests, focussing particularly on the frequency; the underlying causes; who are protesting; and what the political, social and economic consequences of protest are. Mr Nkhahle spoke about the SALGA's own research and engagements they have conducted to understand so-called service delivery protests. What both speakers pointed out was that not all protests are service delivery related; the frequency is hugely overstated by the media and the causes are multi-layered and complex.



L-R: Mr Seana Nkhahle, Dr Carin Runciman, and Fr Peter-John Pearson (CPLO Director) in Cape Town



A Q&A followed the presentations made by the panelists



State Capture and the Criminal Justice Sector

19 May 2017

The second CPLO/Hanns Seidel Foundation co-hosted Roundtable for 2017 featured Mr Gareth Newham, head of the Crime and Justice Programme at the Institute of Security Studies; Dr Nicola de Jager, senior lecturer in Political Science at the University of Stellenbosch; and Mr Zakhele Mbhele MP, the Democratic Alliance's shadow minister for police.

Mr Newham pointed out that most of the heads of the criminal justice agencies, as well as their senior leadership, are directly appointed by the country's President. This constitutional provision was not problematic when someone like Nelson Mandela was President, but that situation had changed. It was clear that there was now considerable and undue political interference in these appointments, and in the dismissal of some senior officers who had been trying to fight against such interference.

Dr de Jager placed the question of state capture in the justice sector within the wider context of corruption and low quality of governance. South Africa has a serious normative problem in its governance: politically powerful people have begun to use the state for private purposes, rather than for the benefit of the country as a whole.

Mr Mbhele noted that the policy of cadre deployment, while to a certain extent understandable, had resulted in a situation where 'connections trump competence'; political loyalty, rather than ability to do the job, was the driving force behind appointments and promotions. Mr Mbhele agreed that the President's powers of appointment needed to be curtailed, but in the long-term the only way that political office-bearers would be more responsive to public concerns was if there was stronger political competition.

The meeting ended with a round of comment and discussion from the floor. It was clear that there are no easy solutions for these problems, but there was nevertheless hope for an improvement through a combination of court interventions, public protest, and electoral change.



L-R: Mr Gareth Newham, Dr Nicola de Jager, Fr Peter-John Pearson, and Mr Zakhele Mbhele



Fr Desmond Lambrechts, Director for Public Advocacy & Parliamentary Liaison of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, engages the speakers on their presentations



Mr Newman responds to a question from the floor



The Sustainable Development of the South African Ocean Economy

31 May 2017



Ms Liz McDaid, Eco-Justice Lead of the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute, presents a question to the panel

The CPLO ended the month of May by hosting a Roundtable on the *South African ocean economy*. The speakers were Mr Kishan Sankar from the Aquaculture and Economic Development Office in the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries); Associate Professor Moenieba Isaacs from the Institute for Poverty, Land, and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS); and Mr Ruben Saul representing the Doringbaai Development Trust. The speakers shared their wide range of knowledge and experiences in relation to government's Operation Phakisa programme. This espouses to optimise the economic potential of South Africa's Oceans by focusing on six priority potential growth areas – Marine Transport and Manufacturing; Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration; Aquaculture; Marine Protection Services and Ocean Governance; Small Harbours Development; as well as Coastal and Marine Tourism. The discussion explored diverse thoughts for sustainable growth of the ocean economy through aquaculture in order to maximise socio-economic benefits, especially for different fishing communities, while ensuring adequate ocean environmental protection.



Standing, L-R: Fr Matsepene Morare SJ (Researcher, CPLO) and Ms Palesa Ngwenya (Researcher, CPLO). Seated, L-R: Mr Ruben Saul, Mr Kishan Sankar, and Prof Moenieba Isaacs



Women and Land: Always working the land but never owning it. Why?

29 June 2017

L-R: Dr Donna Hornby, Fr Matsepane Morare SJ (Land and Human Settlements Researcher, CPLO), Ms Nonqaba Mehlomakulu, and Dr Suzall Timm

The CPLO hosted a timely and topical Roundtable on the question of land and the challenges women face in relation to ownership. There were four speakers: Ms Carmen Louw (Co-Director of Women on Farms Project and the Programme Coordinator of Land and Housing); Ms Nonqaba Mehlomakulu (Legal Advisor for the Land Claims Commission); Dr Donna Hornby (A Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Association for Rural Advancement); and Dr Suzall Timm (Trust for Community Outreach and Education). They raised a number of challenging and sometimes depressing facts and statistics around the situation of women and land.



Ms Carmen Louw
(Co-Director of Women
on Farms Project)

What kept coming through was the reality and legacy of the disempowerment of women in economic and legal spaces, and how those forces and conditions keep impacting on women's ability to access land and other economic opportunities. The lack of land itself also feeds the state of disempowerment and dependence on both males and the state.

Though much of the discussion focused on individual ownership of land for all women, especially in rural spaces, it was pointed out that this exclusion also takes place in bigger spaces of commercial agriculture. Even though white women were and are part of the white farm owning minority, even there white males dominate and control those farming spaces. What was encouraging about the Roundtable was the realisation that though the problem is big, there is a great recognition of it and also a realisation that even in families, what benefits men is not necessarily what benefits women, and that the question of land is both a racial and a gender issue.

Meeting with Archbishop Antje Jackelan

18 May 2017

Fr Peter-John was part of a small group that convened to give the Head of the Lutheran Church worldwide, Archbishop Antje Jackelan, an insight into the politics of South Africa on her first visit to the region. It was an interesting morning and in addition to the input Fr Peter-John gave, Archbishop Antje gave an excellent insight into building social cohesion. Her focus was on Europe but it struck many similarities.



Land Reform and Administration in Namibia

24 June 2017

Fr Matsepene Morare SJ, CPLO South Africa's Land and Human Settlements Researcher, and Ms Tonia Wyngaard, the Events Administrator, attended the very first Roundtable organised by the Namibian Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office. The issues raised were similar to those affecting land in South Africa: the complaint that the discourse about land reform often leaves out urban land issues; that government policies have not changed the ownership patterns for the majority of people; that some are corrupting the land reform process by benefiting unduly; that informal settlements are mushrooming all over the towns due to urban migration; that resettled small farmers are struggling to survive; whether land reform is serving

Ms Tonia Wyngaard and Fr Matsepene Morare (right) together with Archbishop Liborius N. Nashenda OMI, members of the Namibian CPLO and delegates of the roundtable

the agenda of poverty alleviation or not; and of-course, the history and politics of land.

The level of engagement was quite good with presentations from two scholars, a land activist, and a shack dwellers activist. Present were Members of Parliament, academics, quite a few church people, and the Archbishop of Windhoek, Liborius N. Nashenda OMI. Namibia is planning a second land conference in September to deal with issues from the first land conference held after independence. Thus the roundtable was held at an appropriate time providing space for engagement around land issues ahead of the conference.



Meeting with the UN Mission to South Sudan

28 June 2017

Fr Peter-John met with six members of the UN Mission to South Sudan. Three were international members of the Mission and three were local South Sudanese. The group were interested in the role of the Church in the latter part of the struggle, how the Church began to conceptualise a 'post-apartheid political environment', how it foresaw its participation in it, and most importantly how CPLO contributes to that mission of participation. They are on a fact-finding mission to see how post-conflict societies engage political structures, and where civil society sees its key points of leverage.



Fr Peter-John with members of the UN Mission delegation

Salesian Life Choices Panel Discussion

30 June 2017

Fr Peter-John participated in a panel discussion at Salesian Life Choices for about 130 young adults who have been beneficiaries of mentoring, up-skilling and work preparedness program. They are encouraged, as they make their way through life, to give back to the program in many different ways including participating in building social capital and developing their social, and political agency. The Premier of the Western Cape, Ms Helen Zille, was also part of the proceedings. Fr Peter-John spoke on citizenship, participation, and political responsibility. The Premier gave a powerful input and developed several helpful lines of thought.



Fr Peter-John Pearson and Ms Helen Zille



Distributed Publications

Briefing Papers:

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- Environment Digest - Energy

Responses:

- The Centre Holds
- The Molefe Saga
- National Child Protection Week
- World Refugee Day

Submissions:

- Integrated Energy Plan
- Draft Proposals on Wealth Taxes for South Africa
- The Regulation of Agricultural Land Holdings Bill
- Older Persons Amendment Bill

