

Electoral Commission

Symposium on Political Funding in South Africa

Programme

18 & 19 June 2025

Radisson Blu Hotel, Umhlanga, Durban

#PoliticalFundingSA



SYMPOSIUM DAY 1

Wednesday, 18 June 2025

08:00 – 09:00 *Arrival and tea*

SUB-THEME 1: OPENING

SESSION 1 Opening, Welcome Address and Setting the Scene

Session Facilitator: Mr Matsobane Nkoko

Session Purpose: *This will serve as the opening session of the symposium. Delegates, participants, partners and key stakeholders will be welcomed to the event. Purpose and expected outcomes will be outlined during this session.*

09:00 – 09:30 **Opening and Welcome Address:** Commissioner Mosotho Moepya, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of South Africa *(20 minutes)*

Setting the scene: Outlining purpose of the symposium and expected outcomes:

Mr Sy Mamabolo, Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Commission of South Africa *(10 minutes)*

SUB-THEME 2: UNDERSTANDING SOUTH AFRICA’S POLITICAL FUNDING REGIME

SESSION 2 Presentation: Political Funding Act and the Four Years of Implementation in South Africa: Successes, Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Session Facilitator: Mr Matsobane Nkoko

Session Purpose: *This session will share information on the work of the Electoral Commission of South Africa in implementing the Political Funding Act No 6 of 2018. Successes, challenges and lessons learnt during the four-year period of implementation (2021 – 2024) will be shared.*

09:30 – 10:00 **Four years of Political Funding Act in South Africa: Successes, challenges and lessons learnt:** Mr George Mahlangu, Deputy CEO: Political Funding, Electoral Commission of South Africa *(30 minutes)*

10:00 – 10:30 Discussion, Questions and Answers *(30 minutes)*

10:30 – 10:50 **Tea Break**

SESSION 3

Presentation: Findings of a Research Study on Regulating Political Finance in South Africa Perspectives on the Political Funding Act and its Implementation

Session Facilitator: Mr Matsobane Nkoko

Session Purpose: *This session will share the results of a research study conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) on behalf of the Electoral Commission on Regulating Political Finance in South Africa. The study was carried out to gather perspectives of stakeholders and members of the general public on the Act and its implementation since promulgation.*

- 10:50 – 11:00** **Introduction of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Research Report and Handover:** Professor Sarah Mosoetsa, Chief Executive Officer, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
- 11:00 – 11:35** **Research Study on Regulating Political Finance in South Africa: Perspectives on the Political Funding Act and its Implementation (Part 1):** Dr Benjamin Roberts, Research Director, and Dr Ngqapheli Mchunu, Research Specialist, DCES, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
- 11:35 – 12:10** **Research Study on Regulating Political Finance in South Africa: Perspectives on the Political Funding Act and its Implementation (Part 2):** Dr Ntombizodumo Mkwana and Adv. Gary Pienaar, Senior Research Specialists, DCES, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
- 12:10 – 13:00** Discussion, Questions and Answers
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch**

SUB-THEME 3: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON POLITICAL FUNDING AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

SESSION 4

Presentation: Political Financing in different jurisdictions: A Global Perspective

Session Facilitator: Ms Ntombifuthi Masinga

Session Purpose: *Speakers will share global practices on the management and regulation of political funding and finance. The sessions will engage with presentations by a variety of speakers representing local and international policymakers, legal and policy experts, political commentators and scientists who would, among others, present empirical evidence on how different countries regulate political financing and campaign expenditures, highlighting best practices, challenges, and emerging trends worldwide.*

- 14:00 – 14:30 Regulating Private and Public Funding of Politics: A Balanced Perspective:**
Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, Former Minister of Constitutional Development in SA (1996-99; Environmental Affairs and Tourism (1999-2004); Chairperson of the Constitution Hill Trust and Chairperson of WWF South Africa *(30 minutes)*
- 14:30 – 15:00 Combating Corruption in Political Finance – Global Trends, Challenges, and Solutions:** Dr Yukihiro Hamada, Programme Manager, Money in Politics, International IDEA *(30 minutes)*
- 15:00 – 15:30 Discussion, Questions and Answers *(30 minutes)***
- 15:30 – 15:45 Tea Break**

SESSION 5 Presentation: Political Financing in different jurisdictions: Country Case Studies

Session Facilitator: Ms Ntombifuthi Masinga

Session Purpose: *This session will examine political financing models in three distinct jurisdictions, highlighting their regulatory approaches, challenges, and impact on democratic integrity. The chosen case studies illustrate diverse approaches to political financing.*

- 15:45 – 16:15 Political Financing in North America: The Case of Mexico:** Dr Miguel Ángel Lara Otaola, Member of the International Council, Electoral Integrity Project *(30 minutes)*
- 16:15 – 16:45 Campaign Financing in Tanzania and Uganda:** Mr Moses Khisa, Associate Professor of Political Science and Africana Studies, North Carolina State University, USA. *(30 minutes)*
- 16:45 – 17:15 The Cost of Running for Politics in Senegal:** Dr Samba Dialimpa Badji, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Oslo Metropolitan (OsloMet) University, Norway *(30 minutes)* **[PRESENTATION VIA VIDEO LINK](#)**
- 17:15 – 17:45 Discussion, Questions and Answers *(30 minutes)***
- 17:45 End Of Day One**

SYMPOSIUM DAY 2

Thursday, 19 June 2025

08:00 – 09:00 *Arrival and tea*

MINISTER'S ADDRESS

SESSION 6 Keynote Address by Minister of Finance, Republic of South Africa

Session Facilitator: Mr Michael Hendrickse

09:00 – 09:40 **Welcoming and Introduction of the Minister:** Mr Mosotho Moepya, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of South Africa (*10 minutes*)

Keynote Address by Minister of Finance, Republic of South Africa:

Mr Enoch Godongwana, Minister of Finance, Republic of South Africa (*30 minutes*)

SUB-THEME 4: REASSESSING THE PURPOSE, ROLE AND MANDATE OF POLITICAL FUNDING IN STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

SESSION 7

Session Facilitator: Mr Michael Hendrickse

Session Purpose: *This session will critically examine the foundations of political funding from multiple perspectives and assess its impact on democratic governance. It will explore how different political funding models (i.e. public, private, and hybrid) shape electoral integrity, political competition, and governance transparency. Additionally, the discussion will address key challenges such as undue influence, corruption, lack of transparency, and disparities in political access resulting from various funding mechanisms. Speakers will propose reforms for more sustainable and accountable political financing, including the role and integrity of institutions responsible for overseeing political funding.*

09:40 – 10:10 **Strengthening Democratic Governance Through Robust, Transparent, and Equitable Political Funding:** Professor Dirk Kotzé, Department of Political Studies, University of South Africa (UNISA) (*30 minutes*)

10:10 – 10:40 **Financing Politics in the SADC Region:** Professor Khabele Matlosa, Visiting Professor, University of Johannesburg (*30 minutes*)

10:40 – 11:00 Discussion, Questions and Answers (*20 minutes*)

11:00 – 11:20 **Tea Break**

SESSION 8

Presentation: Transparency in Political Funding: Assessing the Capacity and Commitment of Key Stakeholders in Regulating Political Funding

Session Facilitator: Dr Tumelontle Thiba

Session Purpose: *This session aims to explore the commitment to transparency in political funding regulation. It will examine the extent of political will to comply with party finance policies and assess how this commitment impacts the effective implementation of these regulations. While various national policy frameworks seek to enforce compliance, enhance transparency and restore trust by regulating the flow of money in politics, challenges persist. The willingness of political parties to adhere to these regulations and the institutional capacity to enforce them remain significant obstacles. The session will conclude by exploring strategies to sustain the political will necessary for enforcing regulatory policies, while fostering greater transparency and public trust in the political system.*

11:20 – 11:50 **Dr Heather Thuynsma**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Sciences,
University of Pretoria, South Africa (30 minutes)

11:50 – 12:20 **Mr Jon Vrushi**, Thematic Lead on Political Integrity, Transparency International
PRESENTATION VIA VIDEO LINK

12:20 – 12:50 **Mr Frederico Links**, The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), Namibia

12:50 – 13:20 Discussion, Questions and Answers (30 minutes)

13:20 – 14:30 **Lunch**

SUB-THEME 5: TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

SESSION 9 Presentation: Presentations on reasons for and against private and business political funding by various business and individual stakeholders/funders

Session Facilitator: Dr Tumelontle Thiba

Session Purpose: *This session aims to critically examine the role of public and private funding in political party financing and assess the willingness of political parties to embrace transparency. Political financing is a fundamental aspect of democratic governance, yet it remains vulnerable to corruption, undue influence, and lack of accountability. The session will explore the challenges, opportunities, and best practices in ensuring financial transparency in political funding.*

This session will provide a platform for business and individual stakeholders to present their perspectives on the role of private and corporate funding in politics. It will explore the motivations, benefits, risks, and ethical considerations surrounding private political financing, offering a balanced discussion on its impact on democracy, governance, and transparency.

14:30 – 15:00 **Analysis of Key Sources of Political Funding and Identifying Funding Patterns:**

Dr Rekgotsofetse Chikane, Lecturer, WITS School of Governance (30 minutes)

[PRESENTATION VIA VIDEO LINK](#)

15:00 – 15:30 **Political Financing around the World: A Historical Overview and Financing**

Models: Dr Daniel Masumba Walyemera, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Department of Criminal and Procedural Law, University of South Africa (UNISA) (30 Minutes)

15:30 – 16:00 Discussion, Questions and Answers (40 minutes)

16:00 – 16:30 **Summary and Way Forward:** Commissioner Janet Love, Vice-Chairperson, Electoral Commission of South Africa

16:30 **Closure and Departure**

Speakers and Facilitators



Day 1, Session 1

Commissioner Mosotho Moepya

*Chairperson
Electoral Commission
of SA*



Day 2, Session 9

Commissioner Janet Love

*Vice-Chairperson
Electoral Commission
of SA*



Day 1, Session 1

Mr Sy Mamabolo

*Chief Electoral Officer
Electoral Commission
of SA*



Day 2, Session 6

Mr Enoch Godongwana

*Minister of Finance,
Republic of South
Africa*



Day 1, Session 2

Mr George Mahlangu

*DCEO: Political
Funding
Electoral Commission
of SA*



Day 1, Session 1

Mr Matsobane Nkoko

*Manager:
Political Funding
Electoral Commission
of SA*



Day 1, Session 3

Professor Sarah Mosoetsa

*Chief Executive
Officer
Human Sciences
Research Council*



Day 1, Session 3

Dr Benjamin Roberts

*Research Director:
DCES
Human Sciences
Research Council*



Day 1, Session 3

Dr Ngqapheli Mchunu

*Research Specialist:
DCES, Human
Sciences Research
Council*



Day 1, Session 3

Dr Ntombizodumo Mkwana

*Senior Research
Specialist: DCES,
Human Sciences
Research Council*



Day 1, Session 3

Adv. Gary Pienaar

*Senior Research
Specialist: DCES,
Human Sciences
Research Council*



Day 1, Session 4

Ms Ntombifuthi Masinga

*PEO: KwaZulu-Natal
Province
Electoral Commission
of SA*



Day 1, Session 4

Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa

*Former Minister
of Constitutional
Development in SA*



Day 1, Session 4

Dr Yukihiko Hamada

*Programme Manager,
Money in Politics,
International IDEA*



Day 1, Session 5

Dr Miguel Ángel Lara Otaola

*Member of the
International Council,
Electoral Integrity
Project*

Speakers and Facilitators



Day 1, Session 5

Mr Moses Khisa
Associate Professor
of Political Science
and Africana Studies,
North Carolina State
University, USA



Day 1, Session 5

**Dr Samba
Dialimpa Badji**
Department of
Journalism and
Media Studies,
Oslo Metropolitan
(OsloMet) University,
Norway



Day 2, Session 1

**Mr Michael
Hendrickse**
PEO: Western Cape,
Electoral
Commission of SA



Day 2, Session 7

**Professor Dirk
Kotzé**
Department of
Political Studies,
University of
South Africa (UNISA)



Day 2, Session 7

**Professor
Khabele
Matlosa**
Visiting Professor,
University of
Johannesburg



Day 2, Session 8

**Dr Tumelontle
Thiba**
PEO: North West
Province
Electoral Commission
of SA



Day 2, Session 8

**Dr Heather
Thuynsma**
Senior Lecturer:
Dept of Political
Sciences, University
of Pretoria



Day 2, Session 8

Mr Jon Vrush
Thematic Lead on
Political Integrity,
Transparency
International



Day 2, Session 8

**Mr Frederico
Links**
The Institute for
Public Policy
Research (IPPR),
Namibia



Day 2, Session 9

**Dr
Rekgotsofetse
Chikane**
Lecturer, WITS
School of
Governance



Day 2, Session 9

**Dr Daniel
Masumba
Walyemera**
Department of
Criminal and
Procedural Law,
University of SA
(UNISA)

For More Info

scan or visit elections.org.za/pfs2025/



Find the programme, speaker profiles, and the full
Research Report on Political Funding in South Africa.
Materials updated throughout the event.

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SOUTH AFRICA

ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Election House
Riverside Office Park
1303 Heuwel Avenue
Centurion, 0157
Private Bag x112
Centurion, 0046
South Africa

Contact centre: 0800 11 8000

Tel: 012 622 5700

Email: info@elections.org.za

Website: www.elections.org.za

 **WhatsApp** “Hi” to 08600 88 000

@IECSouth Africa

