



# PARI

PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*shaping change*

[WWW.PARI.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.PARI.ORG.ZA)



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



UNIVERSITY  
JOHANNESBURG



## OUR PEOPLE

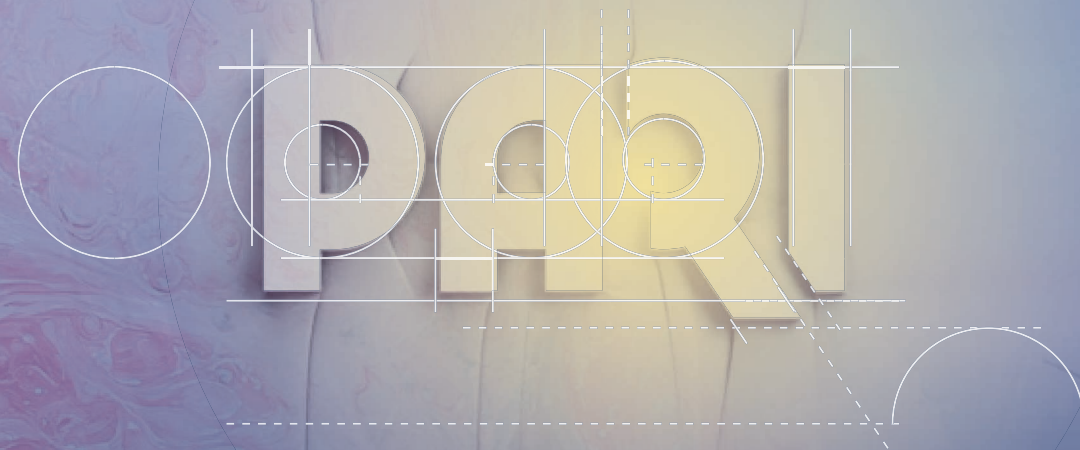


EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

“PARI’s wealth of research, insights and relationships positions it as a critical player in shaping the next phase of South Africa’s democratic governance and development.”

DR SITHEMBILE MBETE





PARI is an African research institute affiliated to the University of Johannesburg and Wits University, providing new and original social science research, advocacy and implementation support for South Africa, the global South and beyond.

# *shaping change*

We do research into the constraints to effective governance, underlining the importance of improved institutional design and performance, towards building effective and democratic state institutions, for more equitable policies to reduce poverty and inequality.

To do this, we collaborate with civil society organisations, think tanks, state institutions and academic institutions, to:

- Produce new and original research into public institutions, state formation, state-society relations and public policy;
- Realise advocacy campaigns to achieve state reform, focusing on the various programme areas, strategic collaborations and cooperation with the state;
- Maintain an academic profile through university affiliations and teaching programmes, to:
  - ▶ foster a conducive intellectual environment within the organisation, and
  - ▶ contribute to the study fields of state governance and state-society relations
- Shape public opinion in relevant interest groups through targeted communications;
- Maintain a repository of research accessible to the public.

Our work is currently focused in the following programmes:

- LAND GOVERNANCE
- STATE REFORM
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- JUST TRANSITION
- COMPACT – Municipal planning, participation and accountability
- ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

PARI is a Johannesburg-based organisation founded in May, 2010.





# LAND GOVERNANCE



**GAYNOR PARADZA**  
PROGRAMME LEAD

The Land Governance programme works to support the realisation of tenure security by most South Africa's marginalised people in rural and urban areas. These include victims of apartheid dispossession and discrimination, women, farm workers, labour tenants and people who hold off-register land rights in the country. The programme also supports decentralised government to unlock land in ways that support just transition in the country. The programme deploys diverse strategies which include supporting legal and institutional arrangements, efforts by civil society and community-based organisations, policy engagement, lobbying policy makers, generating empirical evidence to inform policy making and advocacy work, capacity development and contributing to thought leadership through scientific debates, research and publications.

*PARI signs an MOU with the Special Master for Labour Tenants (Land Claims Court)/Pretoria*

*Farmer prepares his land for planting/Venda*

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**REPORT** Towards an Integrated Land Administration System



**REPORT** Land Use and Management in Lephalale Local Municipality



**POLICY BRIEF** Why indigenous land tenure security is a condition for indigenous community engagement



**REPORT** Engcobo: The Confluence of the State, Local Municipality and Traditional Authority in Land Governance



**REPORT** Land Governance in Ekurhuleni Municipality



**WORKING PAPER** Reflections on the Role of Traditional Authorities in Land Governance in 21st Century South Africa



**SPECIAL ISSUE** Current research and opinion on land governance for societal development in and on the Global South



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# STATE REFORM



**SARAH MENY-GIBERT**  
PROGRAMME LEAD

What Now Since the State  
Capture Commission?  
15 November 2025/  
Johannesburg

PARI's State Reform programme aims to reduce the influence of corruption on the public administration – towards a stronger democracy and enhanced state capacity. The programme supports civil service reform, especially in the area of public procurement, appointment reform and related personnel practices, and it brings an institutional lens to anti-corruption analysis. The programme advocates for reforms through research and its dissemination, submissions on legislation, participation in government task teams and working with civil society partners to build momentum for change. We also contribute to scholarly and wider public discussion on topics such as state capture, public procurement and development, anti-corruption and politics, state capacity and more.



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**WORKSHOP** What Now Since the State Capture Commission?



**POLICY BRIEF** 'Stabilising' the political-administrative interface in local government: where to from here?



**CSWG** A Collective Civil Society Response to the Zondo Commission and the State Capture Report



**WATCH** Pillay: It's difficult to prosecute state capture cases



**OP ED** Procurement Bill Carries Serious Risks For SA, But It Can Be Fixed



**REPORT** Transitions: The role of the DMRE in SA's just energy transition



**REPORT** AfDG State Capacity Dialogue Series



Public submission to Parliament on the Public Service Commission Bill 2023



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# LOCAL GOVERNMENT



**JUGAL MAHABIR**  
PROGRAMME LEAD

Capable and effective local government is central to the South African government's developmental agenda. The primary aim of this programme is to investigate the factors that undermine this capability and effectiveness. The programme focuses on the study of the reality of administration and politics in municipalities and in their intergovernmental relations, on the factors that shape this reality and on the systems and mechanisms in place to support this reality.

We adopt a variety of approaches to the study of local government, with a strong focus on qualitative methods to obtain insights from the point of view of those located inside local government. The aim of our research is twofold: firstly, to make a contribution to literature on local governance, administration and democracy, and secondly, to make a meaningful impact on the outcomes of local government.

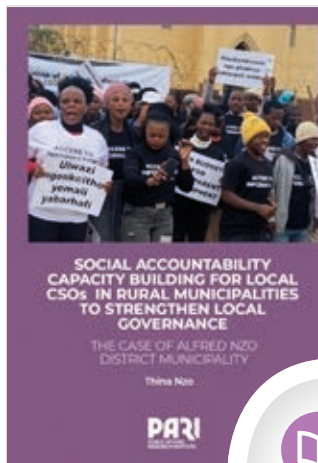
Research under this programme tackles:

- Urban governance
- Municipal finance
- Coalition governance

Research into green hydrogen development/Namakwa



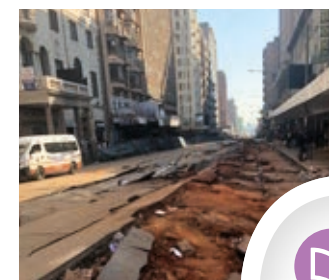
**REPORT** The Case of Alfred Nzo District Municipality



**WATCH** The Impact of Loadshedding on Municipal Services and Finances



**OP ED** Explosion of a decaying city: Defects of Joburg's poor urban management revealed



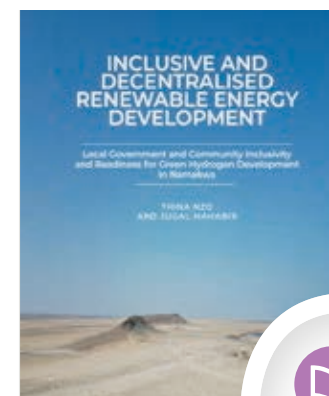
**WEBINAR** Urban-Rural Renewable Energy Transition in Germany and South Africa



**POLICY BRIEF** An Assessment of Local Government Revenues during Limited Economic Growth and a Constrained National Fiscus



**REPORT** Inclusive and Decentralised Renewable Energy Development : Local government community inclusivity and readiness for green hydrogen development in Namakwa District Municipality







# JUST TRANSITION



**TRACY LEDGER**  
PROGRAMME LEAD

Our programme's overarching goal is to contribute to a successful climate transition in South Africa; a transition that will contribute to decarbonisation and climate resilience, while prioritising social justice, equity and poverty reduction. We undertake innovative empirical research that contributes directly to national and sub-national policy on rapid decarbonisation of the power sector, equitable access to energy, water and food, and climate resilience of economy and society. The Just Transition Programme is a member of the International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks (INETTT).



Man pushes wheelbarrow of containers filled with drinking water/Pinetown

Water South Africa/Johannesburg

PARI hosts the International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks

What exactly makes a **transition truly just**? We need to interrogate this definition to build a **collective vision** of our aim. Without a **shared understanding**, there is little to effectively guide policymaking and resource allocation.

— Dr  
Pub  
Ins



**LISTEN** | Municipal Accounts: Relief for struggling households as the City of Ekurhuleni implements a 70% debt write-off



**PODCAST** | What went wrong with free basic electricity?



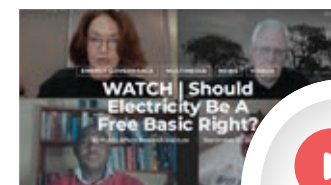
**POLICY BRIEF** | Rapid electricity supply diversification in municipalities is the key to economic recovery, municipal financial sustainability and a permanent end to load shedding



**ANALYSIS** | Johannesburg's electricity tariff trap for the poor



**WATCH** | Should Electricity Be A Free Basic Right?



**WATCH** | Renewable energy will fix our economy now



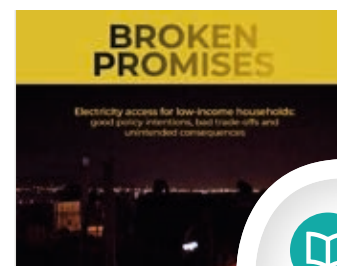
**BOOK** Hungry for Electricity: Now available in two languages



**REPORT** | The Role of the State in a Successful Just Transition: Defining the transition effective state



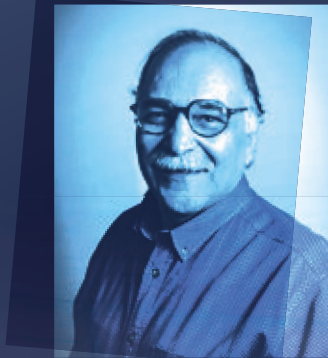
Broken Promises | New research from the EnergySociety programme





# COMPACT

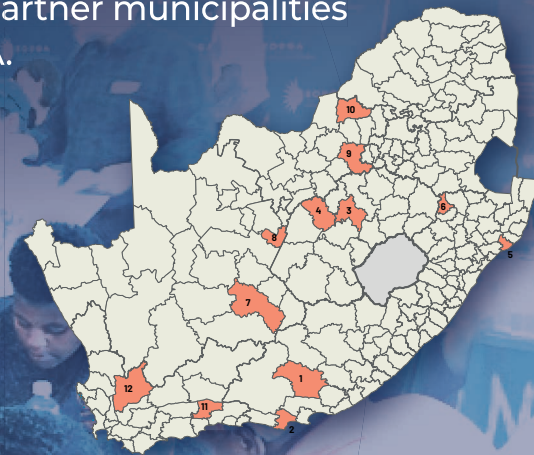
## MUNICIPAL PLANNING, PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY



**GIRISH DAYA**  
PROGRAMME LEAD

Compact is a co-funded European Union programme aimed at enhancing local government planning and accountability through public participation. The term “COM” stands for community, and “PACT” refers to the various stakeholder relationships impacting municipalities. The programme is led by the Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI) in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and Integrity Action (IA). There are 12 partner municipalities across six provinces in SA.

Action Research/Kouga Local Municipality



### FACTSHEET

#### What is COMPACT?

- It is a co-funded European Union (EU) programme.
- It is a co-funded European Union (EU) programme.
- It is a co-funded European Union (EU) programme.

#### Municipalities

Province	Municipality	Local Government
Free State	Phuthaditjhaba	LM
Free State	Phuthaditjhaba	LM
Free State	Phuthaditjhaba	LM
Free State	Phuthaditjhaba	LM
Free State	Phuthaditjhaba	LM
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Free State	Phuthaditjhaba	LM

#### COMPACT PROGRAMME DESIGN

1. INCEPTION
2. ACTION RESEARCH
3. PROTOTYPING
4. IMPLEMENTATION
5. MONITORING & EVALUATION

### FACTSHEET

#### Citizen Based Monitoring

**Citizen Based Monitoring** is a proven social accountability approach tried in 20+ countries to date. Through it, selected ward committee members in partner municipalities in South Africa are trained to monitor local public services, report monitoring data via an on-line tech tool, and collaboratively work with local government to find solutions on identified areas of concern.

**Any citizen with the right level of commitment can become a citizen monitor.**

#### THE CITIZEN MONITOR JOURNEY

1. Ward committee members are selected on criteria to ensure good balance and diversity.
2. They undergo intensive training which equips them with the skills and knowledge needed to become citizen monitors. They receive a training certificate.
3. They are matched to a public infrastructure project close to them and introduced to relevant stakeholders.
4. Citizen monitors visit the project regularly and monitor its progress using a tech tool. They also talk to community members to get their feedback.
5. Problems are identified, citizen monitors facilitate resolution by bringing together relevant authorities.
6. Data gathered by citizen monitors are uploaded on a public website, giving everyone a chance to see project progress, user satisfaction, and authority responsiveness.

**Citizen Based Monitoring** is being piloted in 12 municipalities across South Africa. 30 citizen monitors were trained to monitor public services and report on their progress.

### FACTSHEET

#### Citizen Engagement Workshops

As COMPACT's primary objective is to enhance public participation, citizen engagement workshops were held in each of the 12 COMPACT partner municipalities. These interactive workshops formed part of Phase 2 of the action research (see Factsheet 2) and participants included representatives from civil society organisations (CSOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), community leaders and ward committee members.

#### Purpose of the workshops

1. Gain insight from community representatives on planning and public participation within their municipalities.
2. Strengthen the findings and recommendations of the COMPACT reports to improve public participation.
3. Consider the role of community representatives in the development of the COMPACT tool.

#### Attendance

In total, 202 participants attended the workshops. On average 16.7 were women and 20% were youth (18 years and under). 37% of the participants were group members.

#### Findings

The findings from both phases of the action research have been incorporated into the 12 individual municipal reports, as well as a consolidated technical findings report. To establish a comprehensive baseline for the COMPACT project and the partner municipalities. Tools for enhancing planning and participation are being developed on the basis of the findings.

### FACTSHEET

#### action research

**COMPACT** formally introduced its programme of action to its 12 partner municipalities across South Africa during October and November 2022.

At each visit, action research was conducted where individual and focus group interviews were held with 333 interviewees: Mayors, Speakers, Municipal Managers, ward and PFI councillors, senior managers, officials and ward committee members.

#### Preliminary research findings

1. The COMPACT project's action research initiative was most welcomed by municipalities and communities who were well equipped to engage in the process of planning and its subsequent monitoring.
2. Ward committees are an important interface between the municipality and communities and where well constituted, they can play a role in monitoring and reporting on service delivery.
3. Participation in the GP cycle is a complex exercise in some municipalities and in some cases, it is not clear if the GP cycle is a genuine exercise in process and substance.
4. Lack of implementation of projects creates fatigue, anger and distrust in communities which affects the GP process.
5. Departments are working in silos and there is tension between officials and participants over service delivery.
6. GP ward practice exists across partner municipalities in terms of public participation meetings, ward committees, meetings, the use of technology for participation and the institutionalisation of ward committee action sheets.
7. There needs to be more work done in bringing the youth into participation processes.

### FACTSHEET

#### COMPACT Stakeholder Engagement

**COMPACT** launched its Stakeholder Engagement on 14 September 2022 at Garden Court, Cape Town, South Africa. The event was held in partnership with the participating municipalities and 12 stakeholders to jointly reflect on the preliminary findings of Phase 1 of the COMPACT Action Research, with a particular focus on the implications of the recommendations per stakeholder.

#### The Session Format:

1. Panel discussion on stakeholder accountability.
2. Sharing of lessons and insights per speaker.
3. Discussion on research and participation systems, processes, and tools from other initiatives.
4. The session was moderated by a panel of experts in the field of stakeholder engagement.
5. A facilitated question and answer session.
6. Establishment of the COMPACT Reference Committee.

#### Summary of the Findings from the Engagement

1. Stakeholders encourage identifying traditional and digital means.
2. Stakeholders encourage identifying traditional and digital means.
3. Stakeholders encourage identifying traditional and digital means.

### REPORT

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING IN SOUTH AFRICA: A Consolidated Technical Findings Report on Action Research at 12 Local Municipalities

November 2024

PARTNERS



Co-funded by  
the European Union





# ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME



FEDERICA DUCA  
PROGRAMME LEAD

Through engagement with research from PARI's programmes and collaboration with research centres globally, we aim to contribute to the study of the state and state-society relations in public administration, state governance, and the sociology of the state. The Academic Engagement programme fosters sustained relationships with academic institutions aligned with PARI's research and objectives, focusing on the emancipatory study of the state and public administration.

We work to create an academic framework for PARI's work, develop new curricula, and nurture new scholars in the field. Our collaborations include co-supervision, teaching modules, guest lectures, joint seminars, and potential joint fundraising. We collaborate with the University of Johannesburg (UJ), Witwatersrand (Wits), and Cape Town (UCT).

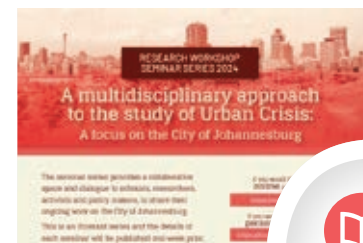
Gated Communities Workshop/Origins Centre, Wits University

Urban Crisis Seminar Series/Wits Anthropology Museum

**BOOK** State-Society Relations Around the World through the Lens of the Covid-19 Pandemic



Urban Crisis **SEMINAR SERIES** 2024



**SEMINAR SERIES** Researching State-Society Relations in Southern Africa



**NEW BOOK** State-Society Relations around the World through the Lens of the Covid-19 Pandemic: Rapid Test



**PODCAST** This Is OIS



**PODCAST** Democracy and the Poor



**OP-ED** Gauteng's response to homelessness is a temporary solution to a structural problem



**SEMINAR** Water Crisis in Johannesburg
















SOME ORGANISATIONS WE HAVE COLLABORATED WITH

	SWOP Society, Work and Politics Institute		News24
	GCRO Gauteng City Region Observatory		Department of Rural development and Land Reform
	IFAS French Institute of South Africa		South Africa Local Government Association
	Inett International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks		Nodes of Excellence in land governance in Southern Africa
	Integrity Action		Global Land Tool Network
	CASAC Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution		IIED International Institute for Environment and Development
	AfDG Association of former Directors-General		Columbia Centre on Sustainable Development
	PSAM Public Service Accountability Monitor		Legal Resources Centre
	AKF Ahmed Kathrada Foundation		University of Venda
	amaBhungane		University of Cape Town
	Corruption Watch		The Public Service Commission
	Equal Education		The Ethics Institute (TEI)
	Equal education law centre		OUTA
	#UniteBehind		

	Defend our Democracy
	GIZ
	National School of Government
	Participedia
	Planact
	Heinrich Böll Stiftung
	Action 4 Accountability
	HSRC
	TAN

**CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORMS**  
Civil Society Working Group on State Capture, the Budget Justice Coalition, experts and activists in procurement reform, and the Open Government Partnership.

FUNDERS THAT CURRENTLY MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

	Africa Climate Foundation
	Agora Energiewende
	Constitutionalism Fund
	Elma South Africa Foundation
	European Union
	Ford Foundation
	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
	Lewis Foundation
	Millennium Trust
	Open Society Foundations (OSF South Africa)
	Raith Foundation
	Social Justice Initiative (SJI)
	Yellowwoods

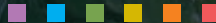




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