



From left to right: Statistician-General, Pali Lehohla; Minister in the Presidency, Trevor Manuel; Rector of Stellenbosch University Prof Russel Botman; Director of CRUISE, Professor Manie Geyer

Photo: Mbongiseni Mndebele

Partnering towards a common vision

Building partnerships with consumers of statistics should be top of the list of priorities for statisticians reports, **Aneen Jordaan**.

Planning Minister Trevor Manuel yesterday urged statisticians to forge a closer relationship with consumers of statistics.

Mr Manuel was speaking at the 1st ISibalo Symposium on Evidence Based Decision Making being held in Stellenbosch until tomorrow.

"In many respects, this symposium addresses some of the production needs. But it does not, in my view, answer the consumption requirements," said Mr Manuel.

To deal with this, Mr Manuel said, the public service has to use evidence as it develops policy.

If policymakers are not encouraged to use the available datasets that should record both progress and obstacles thereto, we will simply not meet the lofty ideals articulated in our Constitution.

"Sometimes, it is a consequence of decision-makers acting as though they do not need statistics, because they have the answers, even before the question is put. Sometimes, this may well be a consequence of ignorance – the people who are expected to have access to information, simply do not!"

Meanwhile the University of Stellenbosch Rector Prof Russel Botman said the future of a knowledge economy needed to be driven by evidence. He said the new Maties academic programme, CRUISE, was a prodigy of hope for a common envisioned future.

Innovation and inclusivity were central to that envisioned future, said Prof Botman.

The public service was central in leading society to a practice of evidence-based decision making.

"Let us not outsource or tender out our thinking. We want a civil service that can engage intellectually with the problems of our time," said Lehohla.

In a packed auditorium, Manuel said the National Planning Commission was mindful that a series of implementation plans must be defined for the National Development Plan.

"This is what makes the case for detailed statistical work to ensure that the policy measures will be evidence-based," said Manuel.

Minister Manuel said the Constitution makes extensive commitments to the people of South Africa.

Improving the quality of life for all citizens is one of these commitments. "It is statisticians who must provide a measure to answer whether the commitments such as "improving the quality of life of all citizens" is actually being met," said Minister Manuel.

According to the Minister this enormous responsibility requires:

- Official statistics be collected fearlessly and that they be of unimpeachable quality;
- The agency to present the statistics in a form that can be easily understood by analysts, and
- It demands that the statistical community engages with policy makers on whether the evidence is adequate for policy corrections.

These parts make up evidence-based policy making.

Stats SA, as the national statistical agency, has to be accountable for supplying sufficient statistics for analysis and policy making, said Minister Manuel.

He added that Stats SA had a responsibility to present these statistics in a manner that

was understandable to those who use it. It is important not only that statistical results are read, but also understood.

In the eyes of the Minister, Stats



Let us not outsource or tender out our thinking. We want a civil service that can engage intellectually with the problems of our time - Pali Lehohla.

SA has taken major strides in making national statistics not only accessible but understandable. "I am particularly proud of the format that Stats SA now makes datasets available online and through a basic

application for tablets," said the Minister. He further stated he is not aware of a statistical agency in the world that releases even a fraction of information in such a user-friendly manner. Stats SA's Apple application, currently has information available on:

- Census 2011 results
- My Ward, My Councillor, (post Census product on small area data)
- Quarterly Gross Domestic Product releases;
- Quarterly Labour Force Survey releases;
- Mortality and Causes of Death reports;
- Construction Industry reports and
- Monthly Economic Indicators

As the Minister responsible for planning, Manuel could not leave the National Development Plan and the Planning Commission untouched. "The 25 individuals from outside of government, each having established expertise and skills, were appointed by the President and asked to take an 'independent, critical and long-term view' of where the country is heading", stated the Minister. During evidence collection to assess where we are as a country the commission could not ask departments to produce evidence for their analysis and thus had to rely on statistics. Narratives from

the statistics were used to make sense to the reader. Based on constitutional commitments the National Planning Commission formulated two central objectives, namely, eliminating poverty and reducing inequality

and identified nine challenges:

- Too few South Africans are employed;
- The quality of education for the majority of black South Africans is sub-standard;
- Poorly located and inadequate infrastructure limits social inclusion;
- Our growth path is too resource intensive and thus unsustainable;
- Spatial challenges continue to marginalise the poor;
- The ailing public health system confronts a massive disease burden;
- The performance of the public service is uneven;
- Corruption undermines state legitimacy and service delivery; and South Africa remains a divided society.

After a period of consultation, four further challenges were added, namely:

- The lack of safety in communities;
- Caring for the vulnerable in society;
- Reversing the neglect of rural South Africa;
- Developing a standard approach to South Africa in Africa and the world.

"These 13 challenges were turned around into detailed opportunities, and the National Development Plan is essentially the synthesis of detailed opportunities – linked and targeted from these 13 policy domains," stated the Minister. To track progress and obstacles to development policy-makers need to be encouraged to use the available information. "To deal with this, there needs to be a public service and a set of public officials who will use the evidence," said the Minister. This is needed to meet the ideals and commitments of the Constitution.

The Minister closed by stating, "I hope that in its endeavours beyond this symposium, it will feel confident to say to detractors as Senator David Moynihan did, "You are entitled to your own opinion, but not to your own facts."

Changing face of SA cities

The structure of South Africa's cities has changed since the end of apartheid, reports **Vienie Botha**

Detroit is the most segregated city in the United States of America, but it is still less segregated than both Johannesburg and Cape Town, heard conference delegates at the 1st ISIBalo Symposium.

Since the abolishment of the Group Areas Act in June 1991, the racial make up of residential areas in South Africa has changed, but segregation levels remain high.

Statistics South Africa's Kevin Parry, MPhil graduate at the Centre for Regional and Urban Innovation and Statistical Exploration (CRUISE) looked at how residential segregation patterns changed in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Parry was looking for subject matter that would show the changing residential landscape in a new South Africa. He came across segregation indices and

investigated the change in racial make-up of Johannesburg and Cape Town on a small area level.

During the apartheid era, cities and townships were designed in such a way that there were physical barriers between the areas, separating the segregated areas.

"I focussed on my home town of Vereeniging. We lived only 6km from Sebokeng but I never set foot in the township itself; I never had any school mates or friends who lived in Sebokeng; and I heard only very little of what was happening in Sebokeng, mainly because of this physical segregation," Parry added.

The majority of townships are still segregated, dominated by only a single race group. This is because people living in these townships do not have the economic means to relocate.

The index is calculated using Theil's entropy index of segregation. One looks at racial diversity on a small area level and



Kevin Parry: 'We lived only 6km from Sebokeng but I never set foot in the township' Photograph: Mbongiseni Mndebele

compares to the city in which it is located. If the value of the index is closer to one, it indicates a less uniform racial distribution while a number closer to zero indicates a more evenly distributed racial presence.

In his comparison Parry found that Cape Town has a segregation index of 0.66 and Johannesburg a segregation index of 0.59. Interestingly enough, the most segregated city in the US is Detroit. It has segregation index of 0.48

Over the period ranging from 1991 to 1996, Parry found that Cape Town has shown the bigger improvement in terms of reduction of segregation of the two cities. But the city is still more segregated than Johannesburg. Cape town is integrating faster than Johannesburg.

He also found that integration happened at a faster rate from 1991 to 1996 compared to the period from the five-year period from 1996 to 2001.

Scientific research gets a boost

Headed by Dr Hlabi Morudu, an executive manager for Research and Policy Analysis, the unit was tasked with coordinating scientific research, as research structures were located in various divisions and "do not provide a broader avenue for the development of research in the organisation as a whole," said Morudu.

Beyond coordination, the unit seeks to promote the general advancement of scientific research in the organisation.

The Research Coordination and Support unit consists of five basic components: a coordination committee; advisory committee; editorial committee; the Stats SA training institute; and forums such as the Friday seminar, which takes place at Stats SA every week and enables further inputs from experts.

Depending on the research, the committees will consist of executive managers from research divisions; "resource" executive managers who may contribute strategies or logistics, and "others" by invitation. Where necessary, a specialist advisor may be appointed.

The procedure from research proposal to publication has thus been boosted – potential authors now have a more structured support base across the organisation, says Morudu.

Appropriate advisors are appointed to steer the research in the right direction and vigorous peer review is facilitated.

Publication takes place once editors' (Deputy Directors-General) suggestions have been incorporated and once the editor-in-chief (Statistician-General) has endorsed the paper. The editor-in-chief will also decide to which publication the paper will be submitted, as it may be published within Stats SA or externally.

"The new structures are intended to enhance Stats SA's image as a scientific institution that is a leader in the creation of knowledge from statistical data," says Morudu.

"They are intended to greatly increase the number of quality research papers produced by Stats SA for knowledge contribution within the organisation, and for the promotion of evidence-based policy formulation among government organs.

The structures are intended to encourage all Stats SA employees to actively and capably participate

Tracking urbanisation trends

CRUISE director Prof Manie Geyer shares worldwide migration trends, writes **Cheryl Taylor**

New methodologies in the study of the movement of people are resulting in a better understanding of what drives this phenomenon, said CRUISE Director Prof Manie Geyer at the 1st ISIBalo Symposium on evidence-based decision-making yesterday.

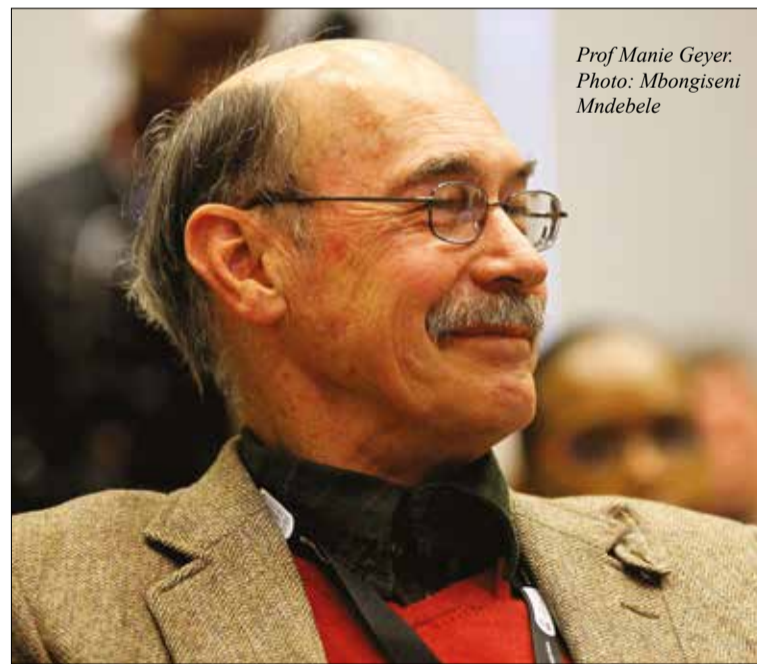
Beyond the traditional definition of migration, Centre for Regional and Urban Innovation and Statistical Exploration (CRUISE) director added that urban patterns were resilient and this was an international trend.

Geyer, whose presentation was on Spatial Demographic Trends in Urban Space – International Comparisons, said his research showed city populations make locational choices in which cost is important.

Market-driven urbanisation is also a powerful force that has resulted in rapid urbanisation of populations.

According to Geyer, the mobility "paradigm" accentuates:

- The meaningfulness of movement
- How mobilities are grounded (foundation), embodied (concretised), embedded (social identity)
- Cultural forms and practices of mobility
- Interpretation of space (Lefebvre) - the importance of "place"
- Defining patterns of urban living
- Cultural clustering (co-ethnic levels vs share of strangers)



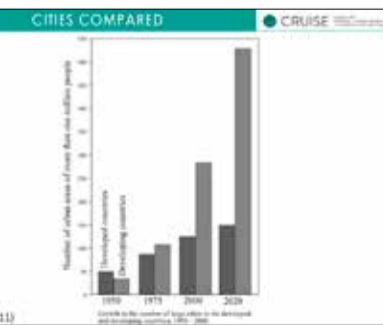
Prof Manie Geyer. Photo: Mbongiseni Mndebele

- High- vs low-context cultures
 - Willingness to travel (travel time / dwelling rent) vs willingness to accept (identification factors)
 - De- and re-territorialisation of space – domino-effect (Frey, 2002)
 - Rights - to appropriate urban space; to participate in its production; and to participate in decisions about it
- Both local and international patterns of urbanisation showed cultural clustering. This presents a challenge for city planners as

integration is difficult to achieve, according to Geyer's research.

Factors that influence the movement of people include, population migration, economic activities, innovation and population stress.

A comparison over time showed that since the 1970s urbanisation has accelerated in developing nations. In 1970 urban areas with a population of more than one million were located predominantly in developed world countries. In 2000 the number of cities with



more than 1 million people was about 300 in the developing world compared to less than 150 in the developed world. Projections for 2020 show this gap will increase in the future as drivers of migration have an impact on populations, particularly in the developing world.

Geyer concluded that urban developments should be cost-effective. Apart from living space, people also need contact with green spaces. International trends also need to be factored into urban planning, said Geyer.



Photo: Mbongiseni Mdebele

From strength to strength

By Mbongiseni Mdebele

Statistician-General Pali Lehohla has urged academia, policy-makers, civil servants, and the private sector to work together in advancing the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP).

Lehohla said the country needed a new cadre of statisticians who understood the planning needs of the state.

He said intellectuals in the public sector needed to do the right thing rather than “ender out” their thinking, adding that the biggest criticism around the civil service was that most of the things were outsourced.

“The National Development Plan says a lot on what needs to be done. It comments about civil servants who tender out their thinking. When Minister Trevor Manuel launched the National Development Plan and the president appointed the commissioners, he said this is about the cross-section of society. The Reconstruction and Development Programme obviously was an ANC programme and very progressive,” said

Lehohla.

Commenting on the CRUISE Programme, Lehohla said the legacy of apartheid had created unbearable conditions. The CRUISE programme, said Lehohla, would enable

Countdown to 100 years of statistical practice

statisticians to be aware of their planning needs and translate them into something that can be presented.

The CRUISE programme had been meant to start as early as 2001 at the University of North West’s Potchefstroom. However, there

were problems at the university around that time. When Stellenbosch University got wind of the CRUISE programme, said Lehohla, they were able to start immediately.

“This programme [CRUISE] says to us that we must seize the moment as intellectuals in the state and government to do the right things,” said Lehohla.

“CRUISE had demonstrated what can be done if we focus our minds. Indeed, we are working with other institutions of higher learning to make sure that the academia and policymakers are brought on board.

July 2014 marks 100 years of statistical practice in South Africa and Lehohla said plans for the centenary were already underway.

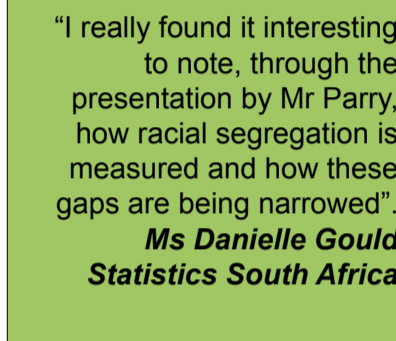
“We have started a series of activities ahead of the centenary. The building blocks will be moving towards the countdown to 100 years of statistical practice. So expect a programme of action that is very aggressive from Stats SA, starting now – now that the marching orders are very clear,” concluded Lehohla.

Comments on the conference

Shirazaan Taylor finds out how the delegates experienced the first session of the conference



“I’m impressed by the quality of the research presented, especially the one around racial segregation”.
Prof Ivan Turok
Human Science Research Council



“I really found it interesting to note, through the presentation by Mr Parry, how racial segregation is measured and how these gaps are being narrowed”.
Ms Danielle Gould
Statistics South Africa



“This symposium is good to stimulate dialogue around development in the country. I found the first session useful and I am looking forward to the other sessions, especially the ones where Census 2011 data will be presented”.
Dr Moses Sithole
Human Science Research Council



“I enjoyed the presentation on diversity and segregation and I am looking forward to attending the breakaway sessions on quality data and learning about capacity building initiatives”.
Ms Bridgette Diutlwileng
Senior Researcher,
Parliament



“I’m really excited about the overall programme as it is covers a number of topics that are very relevant to my work”.
Mr Sahlukene Masombuka,
Department of Labour



“The first session, although interesting was quite high level, so I’m looking forward to some of the other sessions covering discussions on lower level data more relevant to local government”.
Ms Belinda Swartland
IDP Manager,
Theewaterskloof Municipality



The ISIbane newsletter team

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Programme: Day 2

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2013					
08h00 - 09h00	Registration & Tea				
09h00 - 10h30	Breakaway 7:		Breakaway 8:		
	DWA Infrastructure Functionality: the challenge of tomorrow (Mr D Behrmann: Dept of Water Affairs)		How Human Settlement Directorate uses Stats SA data (Mr T Mitchel: City of Cape Town)		
	Factors predicting mental well-being among the South African working age population (Dr T Mabela: Stats SA)		Data quality considerations and gaps in the context of outcomes monitoring and evaluation (Dr Hermi Borraine Presidency)		
	Geographical distribution of cancer in South Africa 2009 (Mr C Nattey: National Institute for Occupational Health)		The Lewis dual sector Model applied to the Labour sending areas and the platinum mining areas of South Africa. (Mr T Naidoo: Fame Consulting)		
	Ulwazi Ngabantwana (Dr R September: Dept of Women, Children & People with Disabilities)		The performance of SA cities, 2001-2011 (Dr J Borel-Saladin: HSRC)		
	Venue Auditorium 1	Chairperson: Mr M Mnyaka	Venue Auditorium 2	Chairperson: Dr H Morudu	
10h30 - 11h00	Morning Tea Break				
11h00 - 12h00	Health Report Release				
	Use of Health facilities and levels of selected health conditions in South Africa, Findings from the General Household Survey 2011.				
	Venue: Auditorium 2		Chair: Dr M Tuoane-Nkhasi		
12h00 - 13h00	Breakaway 9:		Breakaway 10		
	Census 2011 (Prof J May: UWC)		The Relevance of Statistics-Who decides? Explaining the Relevance of Statistics of the Construction Industry in South Africa. (Dr M Mafafo, Department of Public Works)		
	Building Capacity through partnerships with stakeholders. (Dr M Nthangeni, Stats SA)		Measuring the Census Undercount. (Mr R Maluleke: Stats SA)		
	The role of Stats SA's communication division in Census dissemination. (Mr T Oosterwyk)		Transformation of human settlements in SA: a quantitative approach (Dr D du Plessis: CRUISE)		
	Venue: Auditorium 1	Chairperson: Mr D Kleinsmith	Venue: Auditorium 2	Chairperson: Mr K Parry	
13h00 - 14h00	Lunch				
14h00 - 15h00	Breakaway 11:		Breakaway 12:		Workshop 3 SAS Visual Analytics
	Findings from the 2011 SA Census on persons who are not employed, not in education and training (Ms L Ramose: Dept of Higher Education & Training)		How the Western Cape Government uses Statistics South Africa's products to inform policy and discussion making. (Mr R Daniels, Office of the Premier, Western Cape)		The use of SAS Visual Analytics to consolidate all South African datasets to assist the National Development Plan
	Maths4stats: Legacy Program (Prof D North: UKZN)		An overview of Urban Growth Best Practices. (Ms A Horne CRUISE)		(Mr Kroshlen Moodley.SAS Institute).
	Anticipated demographic and economic impacts of the new university in Kimberley (Mr D Kleinsmith: Stats SA)		Data services for Stats SA users (Ms L Woolfrey: DataFirst, UCT)		(Ms A Venter, SAS Institute)
	Venue: Auditorium 1	Chairperson: Dr I Schmidt	Venue: Auditorium 2	Chairperson: Ms N Shabalala	Venue: Stias Manor Chairperson: Dr T Mabela
15h00 - 15h30	Tea Break				
15h30 - 16h30	Breakaway 13:		Breakaway 14:		Workshop 4 Supercross
	Understanding our people, a journey through census 2011: City of JoBurg, City of Cape Town & eThekweni Metro (M Seepe: Stats SA)		City of Cape Town: use of Stats SA data to inform decision making and planning (Ms C Wright: City of Cape Town)		The role of Supercross in Stats SA datasets.
	Understanding our people, a journey through census 2011: City of JoBurg, City of Cape Town & eThekweni Metro (G Teo: Stats SA)		A comparative analysis of the urban systems of SADC member states (Mr M Mnyaka: Stats SA)		(Mr K Chatindiara, Stats SA)
	Understanding our people, a journey through census 2011: City of JoBurg, City of Cape Town & eThekweni Metro (K Dinoko & E Gaogopolwe: Stats SA)		General Household Survey: focus on schooling 2011 (Mr J Libago: Dept of Basic Education)		(Mr I Netshivhungululu, Stats SA)
	Venue: Auditorium 1	Chairperson: Ms S Laldaparsad	Venue: Auditorium 2	Chairperson: Ms N Chobokoane	Venue: Stias Manor Chairperson: Dr M Nthangeni
16h30	Close				