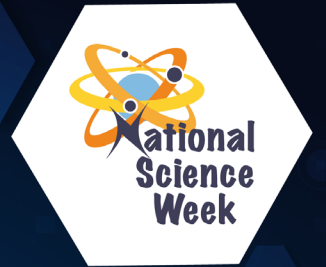


# National Science Week

# A perspective on how scholars perceive attitudes to science in policymaking in South Africa



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## A PERSPECTIVE ON HOW SCHOLARS PERCEIVE ATTITUDES TO SCIENCE IN POLICYMAKING IN SOUTH AFRICA



# Dr Palesa Sekhejane

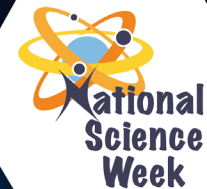
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**Dr Palesa Sekhejane** holds an MTech and a DTech in health sciences from the University of Johannesburg. She is a medical technologist who specialised in biophotonics, which is the application of light-based (laser) medicine to a biological system, in a simulated diabetic model for example, as well as photodynamic therapy for cancer treatment. Dr Sekhejane is a Strategic Partnerships Director at the HSRC. Her current research interests are in bioeconomy policy, biosciences, biomedical innovation and technology. She is the co-founder and the co-chairperson of the UJ-led maiden international conference on Food Security and Safety. She was recently nominated through a competitive process to participate at the BRICS Young Scientist's Forum in Brazil (2019), as one of the bioeconomy scientists. She champions and addresses the obstacles faced by women in developing countries..



## A PERSPECTIVE ON HOW SCHOLARS PERCEIVE ATTITUDES TO SCIENCE IN POLICYMAKING IN SOUTH AFRICA



# Prof Sampson Mamphweli

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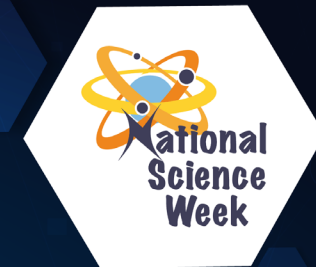
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**Professor Ntshengedzeni Sampson Mamphweli** holds a master's degree from the University of Venda and a PhD from the University of Fort Hare. He also possesses a number of certificates in Renewable Energy and a Mini-MBA certificate in Green Energy from the Green Power Academy in Britain. He has published more than 48 research articles in peer-reviewed journals including three book chapters. In addition, he has published 28 articles in refereed conference proceedings. He has also presented more than 30 research articles in national and international conferences including 12 invited presentations and keynote addresses. Prof Mamphweli has supervised and co-supervised 25 Masters and PhD students to completion. He began his career at the South African National Parks before moving to the University of Cape Town where he worked as a research technician. He subsequently joined the University of Fort Hare as an Eskom Research Fellow in 2005, conducting his PhD simultaneously. He moved up the academic ranks at the University of Fort Hare, from researcher, to senior researcher, and became an associate professor.

His primary area of specialisation is biomass gasification and biogas digesters. During his tenure at the University of Fort Hare, he raised significant funding and implemented a considerable number of renewable energy projects in the Eastern Cape. He also managed a number of renewable energy projects on behalf of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. He is a recipient of the prestigious University of Fort Hare Vice Chancellor's Emerging Researcher medal for the year 2012. Prof Mamphweli joined Stellenbosch University in July 2017 as Director for the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES), a position he has held until present day. He became a full Professor in Process Engineering, and delivered his inaugural address on the 26th April 2018. Prof Mamphweli is a member of the South African Institute of Physics. In addition he is a member of a number of committees that deal with renewable energy issues at national government level. He was co-director of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) until 2019."



## A PERSPECTIVE ON HOW SCHOLARS PERCEIVE ATTITUDES TO SCIENCE IN POLICYMAKING IN SOUTH AFRICA



# Prof Keolebogile Motaung

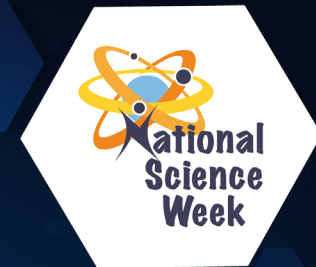
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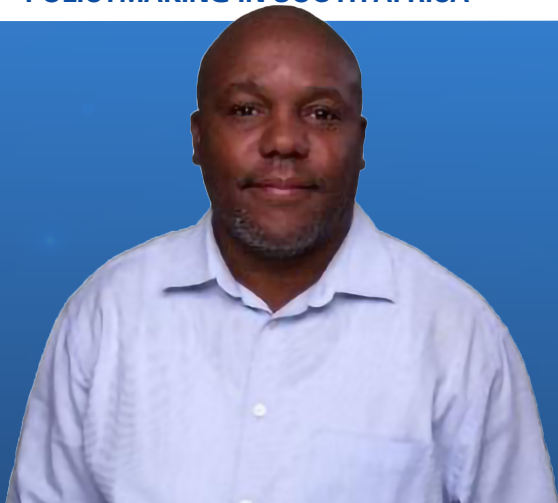
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**Professor Keolebogile Motaung** is a Full Professor, Biomedical Scientist and Director: Technology Transfer & Innovation at the Durban University of Technology with more than 23 years' experience in Higher Education. She is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Global Health Biotech (Pty) Ltd. As a Professor, research scientist and entrepreneur, she trains her postgraduate students not just on how to do research, and become a scientist, but also on how to become entrepreneurs. By becoming entrepreneurs, they can create jobs for themselves after completing their studies at a time, when jobs are scarce, and unemployment is high. Based on her own scientific exploration into the use of medicinal plants in tissue engineering of bone and cartilage, she founded a company called Global Health Biotech (PTY) Ltd in 2016. She is an award winner and has received a number of accolades from far and wide because she has thrown the gauntlet in bridging the gap between science and entrepreneurship.



## A PERSPECTIVE ON HOW SCHOLARS PERCEIVE ATTITUDES TO SCIENCE IN POLICYMAKING IN SOUTH AFRICA



### Dr Joel Botai

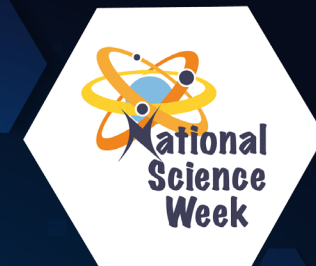
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**Dr Joel Botai** is a chief scientist at the South African Weather Service leading a team of scientists doing research and developing weather and climate products and services in support of strategic sectors of the economy including water resources, agriculture, health, energy and socio-economic research applications. Dr. Botai was awarded PhD (Meteorology) by University of Pretoria, MSc (Astrophysics) by Rhodes University, MSc (Space Eng.) by Chalmers University, (Sweden) and BSc (Hons) by Moi University (Kenya). Dr. Botai is also currently an extra-ordinary lecturer at the University of Pretoria, an Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Agricultural Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal and also in the Disaster Risk Centre of the University of Limpopo as well as an Adjunct Prof, Department of Information Technology, Central University of Technology, Free State. His current research interests include data science, advanced numerical and computational techniques as well the development of early warning systems with climate sensitive sector applications.



## A PERSPECTIVE ON HOW SCHOLARS PERCEIVE ATTITUDES TO SCIENCE IN POLICYMAKING IN SOUTH AFRICA



# Prof Sylvester Mpandeli

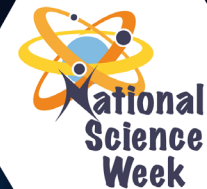
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**Professor Sylvester Mpandeli** is an Executive Manager at the Water Research Commission of South Africa and Adjunct Professor at Faculty of Science, Engineering and Agriculture at the University of Venda. He is managing the Key Strategic Area (KSA) that deals with Water Utilisation in Agriculture. His research interest is on climate change adaptation, agricultural water management, food security and water-energy-food (WEF) nexus. Prof Mpandeli has published more than 140 journal articles, book, book chapters, peer-reviewed conference proceedings, technical reports, policy briefing notes, and popular articles. He is a Chairperson of the Water JPI Advisory Board of the European Commission. He is a former Chairperson of the African Regional Working Group (AFRWG) of the International Commission of Irrigation and Drainage (ICID).



## A PERSPECTIVE ON HOW SCHOLARS PERCEIVE ATTITUDES TO SCIENCE IN POLICYMAKING IN SOUTH AFRICA



### Dr Michael Gastrow

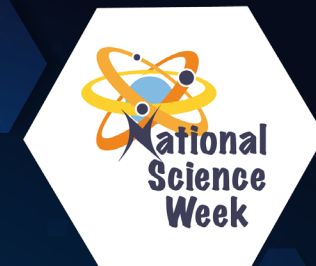
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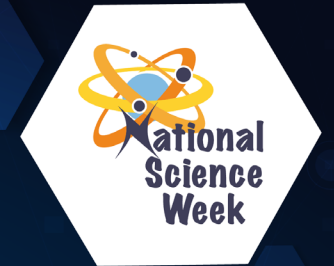
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**Dr Michael Gastrow** is the Acting Director of the Science in Society unit within the Impact Centre of the Human Sciences Research Council, and a Professor of Practice at the DST/NRF/Newton Fund Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the 4th Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development at the University of Johannesburg. From 2007-2020 he was a research specialist in the HSRC's education and skills development research programme. His research focus is on skills development, innovation systems, the public understanding of science, and science communication. He is passionate about the role of science in society, particularly in the ways it can foster constructive public discourse and inclusive human development.





# Indigenous Knowledge Systems



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## INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS



# Adv. Dr Pfarelo Matshidze

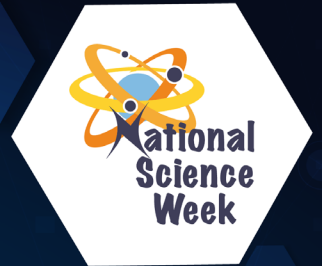
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**Adv. Dr Pfarelo Matshidze** is a senior lecturer in the Department of IKS and Heritage Studies at the University of Venda. Her research areas cover the following areas: Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Indigenous Law. Her current responsibilities are teaching and learning, research and community engagements with special focus on ensuring that indigenous knowledge systems is integrated in the University curriculum so that it can contribute in the emancipation of the African voice. Adv. Dr. Matshidze supervises postgraduate students. She have done extensive research and have worked closely with traditional leaders, traditional healers and other Indigenous Knowledge practitioners.



## INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS



# Prof MPTshisikhawe

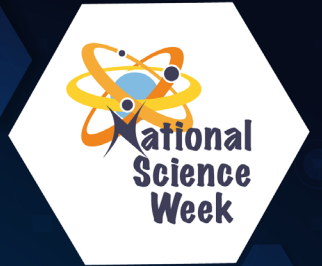
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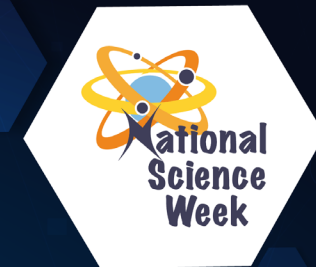
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**Milingoni Peter Tshisikhawe** is an Associate Professor of Botany at the University of Venda. He completed his junior degrees to Master of Science in Botany at the University of Venda. He graduated his PhD in Plant Science at the University of Pretoria and his Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education with Rhodes University. He is an Ecologist whose research interest is centred around indigenous plant use and the sustainability thereof. He is a researcher who has graduated several postgraduate students including PhDs and published extensively in accredited peer-reviewed journals of science.



# Renewable Energy



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## RENEWABLE ENERGY



# Dr David Tinarwo

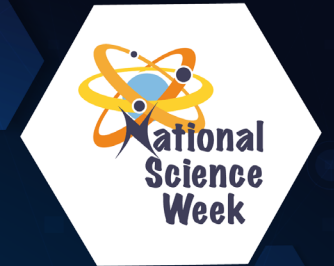
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**Dr David Tinarwo** holds a PhD. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Kassel in German. He is a senior lecturer in the Department of Physics at the University of Venda he is also a researcher in Renewable Energy technologies. His research interests include wind, solar concentrating technology for electricity generation and majorly bioenergy from animal, food and plant wastes with thrust on renewable energy for sustainable rural development.



## RENEWABLE ENERGY



# Dr Eric Maluta

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**Dr Eric Maluta** holds a PhD. in Physics, Renewable Energy from the University of Bath in United Kingdom, an MSc. in Renewable Energy at University of Venda, a B.Sc. Hons. (Physics), from the University of North. He is currently the Head of the Department of Physics and Coordinator of Vuwani Science Resource Centre. His research areas are in Renewable Energy PV technologies, renewable energy material modelling, climate change and atmospheric parameters measurements. He is championing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) awareness at the university of Venda through the science centre.

