

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ACRONYMS

A&IAC	Academic and International Advisory Committee
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFS	Annual Financial Statements
AGSA	Auditor-General of South Africa
ANDC	Annual National Doctoral Conference
APP	African Pathways Programme
APP	Annual Performance Plan
ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
BTT	BRICS Think Tanks
BTTC	BRICS Think Tank Council
CASS	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CS	Company Secretary
CMA	Centre for Mediation in Africa
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
CPUT	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
DC-CUS	Decentred Critical University Studies
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
DUT	Durban University of Technology
FINCO	Finance Committee
FY	Financial Year
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HESTIIL	Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Institutional Landscape
HR	Human Resources
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
HSS	Humanities and Social Sciences
ICSSR	Indian Council of Social Science Research
IGD	Institute for Global Dialogue
ISCIA	Identities and Social Cohesion in Africa
MA	Master's of Arts
MISTRA	Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection

MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIHSS	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
NMP	National Mentorship Programme
NMU	Nelson Mandela University
NRF	National Research Foundation
NSF	National Skills Fund
OERs	Open Educational Resources
PAA	Public Audit Act
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
REIPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers
RU	Rhodes University
SA	South Africa
SABTT	South African BRICS Think Tank
SAHUDA	South African Humanities Deans' Association
SAIIA	South African Institute of International Affairs
SARChi	South African Research Chairs Initiative
SASEP	Southern African Society for Environmental Philosophy
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSAUF	Staffing South Africa's Universities Framework
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SU	Stellenbosch University
TUT	Tshwane University of Technology
UCT	University of Cape Town
UFS	University of the Free State
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
UL	University of Limpopo
Unisa	University of South Africa
UNIVEN	University of Venda
UniZulu	University of Zululand
UP	University of Pretoria
UWC	University of the Western Cape
Wits	University of the Witwatersrand

CONTENTS



4

SECTION A

GENERAL INFORMATION

5

A statutory body

5

NIHSS mandate

5

Vision and mission

6

Core academic programmes

6

Shared guiding principles

7

Internal values

8

Organisational structure

8

Operating context

9

NIHSS strategic objectives

11

Message from the CEO

14

Message from the Board Chairperson

16

SECTION B

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE

17

Strategic objectives and performance 2025/26

20

Strategic programme interventions

70

SECTION C

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION

72

Staff training and development

72

Occupational health and safety

72

HR oversight statistics

74

Equity targets and employment equity status

76

SECTION D

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

77

NIHSS Board as Governing Body

77

Rumeration of the Board

78

Meetings of the Board

78

Board Committees

81

Risk management and assessment

83

SECTION E

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

87

SECTION F

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2025/26

88

Chief Financial Officer's report

90

Report of the Auditor-General

93

Annual Financial Statements

SECTION

A

GENERAL INFORMATION





The NIHSS was formed after an extensive investigation and consultative process in 2010 and 2011 revealed that the humanities and social sciences (HSS) in South Africa were in great need of revitalisation and renewal to reverse declines in university enrolments, graduation rates, research output and funding. This investigation culminated in the HSS Charter of 2011 which recommended, among other things, that a national institute be established to enhance and support the HSS in South Africa and beyond, and to advise the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation on HSS matters.

Now in its twelfth year, the NIHSS is a publicly funded organisation that works with higher education partners to fund, mentor and support over 600 PhD students and 60 postdoctoral research fellows, facilitate catalytic research within a post-apartheid and post-colonial frame, support international research collaborations and coordinate South Africa's academic contributions to the BRICS, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

A STATUTORY BODY

The Institute was formally established on 13 December 2013 in terms of Section 38C of the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997. Its mandate, governance, functions, name and structures were set out in the NIHSS regulations contained in Government Gazette No 37118 of 5 December 2013. Other legislation that influences the NIHSS is the Skills Development Act 97 of 1998.

Although publicly funded, the NIHSS is not legally governed by the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) 1 of 1999, as it is not listed within National Treasury's schedule of public entities. However, the Institute has chosen to adopt certain prescripts of the PFMA for the purposes of best practice.

The NIHSS has two sources of funding. Its operational budget and South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) activities are fully funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), while the National Skills Fund uses designated funds to support the Institute's academic programmes. These are the NIHSS Doctoral Schools and Scholarship Programme, Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs and Working Groups.

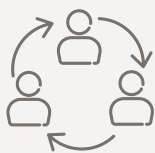


NIHSS MANDATE

The NIHSS's core mandate of funding and facilitating PhD programmes, catalytic research and international research collaborations was expanded in 2015 when it became the custodian of the SABTT, responsible for coordinating and managing South Africa's involvement in BRICS academic activities and fostering research collaborations between South Africa, other African countries and countries of the Global South.

VISION AND MISSION

The vision of the Institute is of a new HSS that is at the epicentre of scholarship, pedagogy, community practice and social responsibility in Africa. Complementing this vision is the NIHSS mission to redress existing deficits and to fund, coordinate and convene academic and research programmes, projects, collaborations and activities in the HSS disciplines within and through South African public universities.

**SHARED GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

When conceptualising, convening and implementing academic programmes and projects, the NIHSS adheres to five guiding principles:

**1****Cooperation and the establishment of communities of scholarship**

– The Institute works across organisational and disciplinary boundaries to establish communities of collaborating scholars.

2**Norms-driven internationalisation**

– The NIHSS is open to dialogue with its Northern counterparts but focuses specifically on strengthening Africa-wide South-South collaborations.

**3****Social responsibility and equity**

– The Institute is mindful that research and development funded with taxpayers' money should have value to society and respond to the socio-economic problems that face South Africa and its citizens today.

4**Functional differentiation as opposed to resource differentiation**

– Rather than preserving a higher education and research system based on differentiation through resource inequality, the NIHSS provides opportunities to eradicate resource inequality and encourages differentiation in priorities and visions to cater for diversity.

**5**

Transformative relevance – The NIHSS works unrelentingly to open up new areas of research, which in turn have a multiplier effect on future research projects and serious transformative implications for the curriculum in the humanities and social sciences.

**CORE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES**

The NIHSS creates value by enabling doctoral and postdoctoral scholarship, serving as a catalyst for change in research and facilitating international research collaborations:

1**Enabling PhD scholarship**

This entails building capacity and growing the number of doctoral and postdoctoral fellows (via scholarships) in the HSS through:

- the NIHSS National Mentorship Programme
- the African Pathways Programme
- Mobility Grants

2**Serving as a catalyst for change in research**

The Institute increases the scale and quality of HSS research outputs, fast-tracks research in new areas, strengthens previously neglected HSS disciplines and changes the way the HSS produce knowledge.

The vehicles for this are:

- Catalytic Research Projects
- Working Groups
- Professional Associations
- Humanities Hubs

3**International research collaborations**

The NIHSS forges collaborations on the continent and between developing economies, networking South African researchers with researchers in the Global South through the BRICS programme and other international collaborations.



TEAMWORK

- Placing the needs of our stakeholders above our individual needs.
- Achieving maximum value from shared resources, knowledge and expertise.
- Participating and contributing in a flexible, supportive manner.

RESPECT

- Demonstrating confidence in the abilities of others.
- Treating all colleagues and others the way we expect them to treat us.
- Not discriminating against others.

EXCELLENCE

- Setting high standards in whatever we do.
- Aiming to do the best in everything we do.
- Delivering quality work.

INTEGRITY

- Doing what we say we will do.
- Speaking the truth and being fair in how we judge others.
- Displaying openness and honesty.

UBUNTU (HUMANITY)

Building a working environment that is based on unity, kindness, equity, empathy and positive reciprocity.

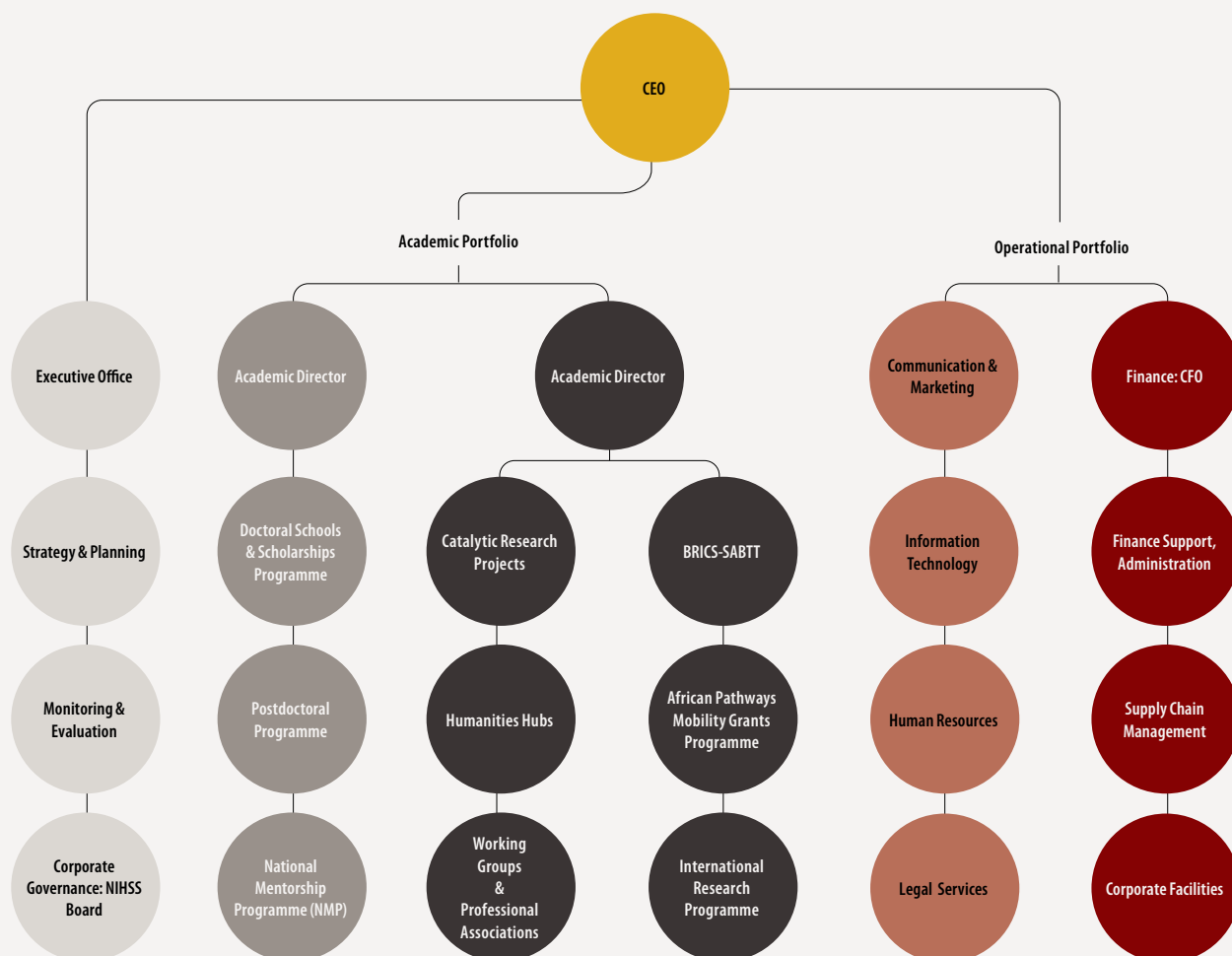
CREATIVITY

- Demonstrating a “can-do” attitude.
- Encouraging and recognising innovation and creativity.
- Continually seeking new or better ways of doing things.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Holding each other accountable regardless of hierarchy (rank).
- Being responsible for every task at hand.
- Respecting deadlines, timelines and workflow.
- Taking ownership of one's actions and consequences both good and bad.

INTERNAL VALUES



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Institute's structure consists of three units: the Academic Portfolio, Operational Portfolio and the Executive Office.

- 1 The Academic Portfolio** is the largest organisational unit and is responsible for the Institute's academic, research and international programmes.
- 2 The Operational Portfolio** provides administrative, financial, supply chain management, information technology, marketing and communication, human resources and legal services.
- 3 The Executive Office** is responsible for strategy and planning, monitoring and evaluation and corporate governance support to the NIHSS Board.

All three units report directly to the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute, who is accountable to the Board for the performance of the NIHSS.

OPERATING CONTEXT

Change and fluidity are inherent characteristics of the South African higher education sector, which in many respects mirrors and often amplifies the dynamics in the broader society, particularly its persisting inequalities, polarisation and politicisation, extreme resource constraints and escalating pressure for fundamental change.

This operating context calls for considerable agility to navigate and the NIHSS is fortunate to possess that, not only by virtue of being a lean, young organisation but because its very establishment in 2013 was rooted in an understanding of a society in transition and the commitment to being part of its transformation. As an organisation that is itself already transformed, from the composition of its workforce to the research it supports, the scholars it funds and the debates it stimulates, the Institute is not an entity on the outside looking in but one grounded in the realities of a country – and continent – striving for equity and social justice.

**5.**

Act as a dynamic broker between the worlds of knowledge and policy action on behalf of South Africa as the South African BRICS Think Tank.

1.

Advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities.

4.

Foster international research collaboration between South Africa and countries of the Global South.

2.

Dynamise the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Projects, Working Groups and Humanities Hubs.

3.

Uphold the integrity, reputation and importance of the Humanities and Social Sciences within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society at large.

NIHSS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



Mr Buti Manamela
Minister of Higher Education
and Training



Dr Nomusa Dube-Ncube
Deputy Minister of Higher
Education and Training



Dr Mimmy Martha Gondwe
Deputy Minister of Higher
Education and Training



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S NOTE

Inheritance is good; it serves as a base to build further and move from the present into the future. It is particularly good when it comes with a licence to craft a legacy that takes into account a changing environment. Such is a mandate that I have been given as I joined the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences in April of 2026, just after the completion of the financial year reported in the Annual Report. In essence, the mandate commands a new era of living up to the substance of the humanities and social sciences. These disciplines are much more than instrumentalism; they are about the holistic experience of life from the individual to national level. The HSS sector gives a nation the tools to define itself and to portray its values, ethics, manoeuvres, sense of zeal and pride, approach to care, as well as arts, achievements and prowess. In the twenty-first century where digitalisation is part of life, human ability and capability due for constant review, and a different regime of ethics required, the HSS has a lot to contribute. In this era the NIHSS is expected to nurture HSS tools that advance South Africa towards a competitive nation that seeks to solve its problems as identified in the country's strategic documents, including the Department of Higher Education and Training's annual performance plan – 2026/2027.

Before we get carried away about the future, let us declare that the renewal of the NIHSS has been bold and prestigious. Halfway through the 2025/26 financial year, and in partnership with DHET, the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) appointed a Board constituted by experienced professionals willing to guide the Institute's strategic and corporate performance. This marked a key milestone in restoring critical oversight and strategic direction, while enabling the start of executive recruitment. The Board then appointed me as Chief Executive Officer, a Chief Financial Officer and a Company Secretary. This renewal begins a transitional period within a constrained fiscal environment and a directive to execute a complex mission to devise new ways to contribute towards societal impact and sector excellence. However, the professionalism, adaptability, and resilience of the NIHSS team, together with the Institute's commitment to strengthening internal capacity and supporting continuous learning, will



Prof Pearl Sithole
Chief Executive Officer

see the NIHSS move from strength to renewed strength. The 2025/2026 inheritance is thus outlined in this report with that transition declared.

Strengthening HSS through postgraduate scholarship and research

The NIHSS team's sustained commitment ensured uninterrupted day-to-day operations and the successful execution of key strategic initiatives, including support for NIHSS doctoral candidates, research partners, and stakeholders, in line with the revised Annual Performance Plan (APP). The Scholarships Programme, a flagship expression of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences' mandate, not only fulfilled its mandate but also elevated it through measurable impact, strategic partnerships, and an unwavering commitment to transformation. In partnership with the South African Humanities Deans' Association the Institute leads African scholarship, nurturing future thinkers, researchers, and leaders to address current social challenges.

In this fiscal year, the cumulative graduation rate among scholarship recipients was 78% for doctoral recipients and 88% for master's recipients. These graduates represented a range of socially responsive disciplines, closely aligned with South Africa's developmental priorities and the Institute's strategic mission. The demographics of graduates across both programmes emphasised the Institute's commitment to advancing not only the number of beneficiaries and the quality and consistency of their throughput, but also to equity, diversity, and transformation in South Africa's academic landscape.



The high graduate throughput rate, enhanced research capacity, and student reflection in this fiscal year attest to the Institute's academic support, effective student selection processes, and sustained investment in student success. These outcomes are largely achieved through the National Mentorship Programme's workshops and events, led by resilient, dedicated mentors. I thank these mentors and their respective universities for implementing the Institute's structured, cohort-based, and inter-institutional approach, which provides nationwide academic and psychosocial support to our scholarship recipients, tailored to their individual academic journeys.

The 2025/26 NIHSS-acknowledged research outputs indicated a substantial increase in scholarly productivity, with diverse, innovative, and interdisciplinary contributions, a strong emphasis on high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarship, and underlined the growing influence of NIHSS-supported researchers across South Africa and the Global South. The Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Association, formed by NIHSS-funded scholars, speaks to the depth and reach of these graduates. This is reflected in the positions they hold within higher education, their engagement in public discourse, and the quantity and quality of their research publications, which we commend.

Dynamising research and innovation

Despite limited resources, the NIHSS effectively monitored the Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs, Working Group Projects, and Professional Associations, producing a substantial body of scholarly, creative, and public-facing research outputs. In doing so, the Institute enhanced research and teaching in the HSS and advanced social justice by upholding and promoting the values of diversity, equity, and inclusivity. These NIHSS-funded entities produced notable research outputs and strategic events that exceeded the NIHSS annual strategic objective targets for other key performance indicators, including the number of related conferences, workshops, colloquia, and similar academic events. These results in 2025/26 were largely due to effective project leadership and the marked interest of the HSS community.

Although no new Catalytic Research Projects were awarded, the NIHSS focused on monitoring existing projects. This approach fostered collaboration, inspired inquiry, and promoted interdisciplinary methods to tackle societal challenges. In 2025/26, research from these projects—highlighting the impact of the

Catalytic Research Projects in empowering scholars, researchers, and students—produced 15 books, 7 journal articles, 2 creative outputs, and 12 events. These outputs reflect a marked increase against the Institute's projected targets, with no adverse effects on the budget. The NIHSS's agility in optimising available resources to monitor the Catalytic Research Projects during the fiscal year resulted in sustained momentum and ensured continuity and readiness to scale once funding gaps are addressed.

The NIHSS Humanities Hubs include dedicated South African sites for preserving living heritage. These hubs aim to leverage research and community outreach to promote the HSS to the general public and local communities. In 2025/26, the NIHSS monitored three such sites that preserve and democratise access to South Africa's intellectual and liberation heritage: the Origins Centre, the National Liberation History Project, and "Continuing to Make Lemonade from Lemons" at the Jagger Library, University of Cape Town. The NIHSS Working Groups, however, are smaller groups of scholars funded to collaborate on interdisciplinary projects that foster dialogue, enhance research output, and promote integrity and excellence in the HSS. The NIHSS awarded 12 such grants in 2025/26, with a focus on academic publishing and interdisciplinary research.

“With renewed governance, committed leadership, and dedicated staff, the NIHSS is well positioned to strengthen scholarship and deliver lasting value for South Africa.”

The NIHSS's support for the HSS Professional Associations in Southern Africa continued in 2025/26, primarily contributing to the Institute's goals of upholding the integrity, reputation, and significance of the HSS through professionalisation and collaboration. The NIHSS supports the important work of the HSS Professional Association, including training and development, promoting scholarly networks, and facilitating collaboration

and dialogue within and across disciplines. In 2025/26, the NIHSS monitored two Institute-funded Professional Associations, the South African Society for Research in Music and the African Humanities Association. The former, for example, hosted a conference in 2025 that served as an interdisciplinary platform for rigorous academic discourse and creative practice across the HSS, showcasing not only music scholarship but also its relevance to broader socio-cultural dialogues.

The NIHSS research programmes yielded high-quality results in 2025/26, advancing transformative scholarship and elevating South Africa's global standing. Their diverse outputs, ranging from peer-reviewed journals to community heritage hubs and book



launches, demonstrate that these programmes are meeting the relevant Institute's strategic objectives.

Fostering South African-Global South research collaborations

The NIHSS is the custodian of the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT). In 2025/26, the BRICS programmes produced numerous research outputs and strategic events, despite being unable to launch and award the BRICS Collaborative Research, African Pathways, and BRICS Mobility Grants. These outputs included a BRICS Academic Review, seven op-eds, two policy briefs, eight journal articles, five working papers, five conference presentations, and nine events.

The NIHSS further supported and monitored the BRICS Cluster projects and the BRICS Research Institutes in 2025/26, thereby supporting their aim of developing initiatives that contribute to a better and safer world order through peaceful diplomacy and multilateralism. The NIHSS monitored four BRICS Cluster projects and BRICS Research Institutes during the fiscal year, with the latter strengthening the clusters. These included "Promoting Intra-BRICS cooperation for economic growth and development through lessons on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)" at the University of Limpopo; "Seeing the Sea: Promoting BRICS maritime cooperation for sustainable Development and security in Africa" at the University of Pretoria; "BRICS security system as an essence of fruitful cooperation" at the University of KwaZulu-Natal; and "BRICS Shaping Climate Governance and the Just Transition: Partnership between India and South Africa" at the South African Institute of International Affairs. The Institute expresses its grief and sympathy at the passing of Professor Maxi Schoeman, leader of the University of Pretoria Research Institute and a doyen of International Relations, whose cluster project exemplified the aims of the BRICS Research Institutes.

The BRICS programmes produced a substantial and diverse body of scholarly and research outputs in 2025/26, reflecting the depth and breadth of the Institute's intellectual contributions and its commitment to advancing evidence-based research within the academic community. In addition, the SABTT steering committee held eight meetings with the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation to update, inform, and align South African foreign policy with the SABTT's academic mandate.

The NIHSS once again supported the SABTT flagship events, including the SABTT Pre-Academic Forum 2025, the 17th BRICS Academic Forum, and the BTTC meetings. The latter's mandate is to provide policy and research support for its respective national governments and to host its flagship BRICS Academic Forum annually. The SABTT Pre-Academic Forum, hosted by the NIHSS, took place in May 2025 in Johannesburg to prepare the elected South African delegation for the 17th BRICS Academic Forum. These gatherings once more offered a comprehensive programme encompassing global cooperation, governance, reform of the multilateral architecture, and institutional development.

Deliberations at the BRICS Think Tanks Council and the Academic Forum focused on policy advice and practical impact, helping promote inclusive growth, sustainability, and cooperation among BRICS nations. Emphasising evidence-based policy and local contexts showcased a commitment to relevance. The SABTT

plays a vital role in the NIHSS's efforts to deepen multilateral academic cooperation.

Conclusion

The NIHSS is an Institute that fulfils its mandate to advance scholarship in collaboration with the higher education sector in South Africa and beyond. It strives to build and maintain an organisational culture that is responsive to national imperatives from the HSS perspective, promotes accountability, responsibility, and a commitment to high ethical standards. With a fully constituted Board and incoming executive leadership, I am committed to leading the Institute as it strengthens governance, enhances operational effectiveness, and advances the HSS in the forthcoming financial year.

Prof Pearl Sithole
Chief Executive Officer

“Our future will be defined not only by the knowledge we generate, but by the impact that knowledge has on society, policy, and future generations.”



Prof Mogomme Masoga
Board Chairperson

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

As Chairperson of the Board, it is an honour and privilege to present the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) Annual Report for the 2025/26 financial year. This report reflects a year of resilience, strength, continuity and renewal, demonstrating the Institute's unwavering commitment to fulfilling its legislative mandate despite a period of organisational transition. It is a testament to an institution that has remained focused on delivering public value while laying a strong foundation for its next phase of growth.

A significant milestone during the year under review was the appointment of a new Board, marking an important step in strengthening governance, restoring strategic oversight and positioning the Institute for long-term sustainability. I am deeply honoured to serve alongside a distinguished group of professionals committed to ethical leadership, sound governance and responsible stewardship. Together, we embrace the responsibility of preserving the Institute's legacy while guiding it towards greater impact, innovation and institutional excellence.

As a newly constituted Board, we recognise that the achievements reflected in this report are the result of the collective efforts of many individuals who have served the Institute and continued to advance its mandate throughout the reporting period. Throughout the 2025/26 financial year, the NIHSS operated within a constrained fiscal environment while navigating a

significant organisational transition. Despite these circumstances, the Institute remained focused on its core mandate of advancing scholarship, research and knowledge production within the Humanities and Social Sciences. The magnitude of the achievements outlined in this report reflects the resilience of an institute that continued to deliver meaningful outcomes for the sector while adapting to and embracing change.

Above all, the achievements documented in this report showcase the expertise, strength, dedication, and intellectual fellowship of the NIHSS employees. During a period characterised by leadership transition and operational complexity, staff remained steadfast in ensuring business continuity, maintaining institutional stability and delivering against the Institute's strategic priorities. On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere appreciation to every employee for their commitment, competence and diligence in fulfilling the Institute's mandate.

The Board is proud of and elated about the significant progress made across the Institute's strategic programmes during the reporting period. The Scholarship Programme continued to strengthen postgraduate education by supporting Master's and Doctoral candidates across South African universities; not only empowering them but also contributing meaningfully to their development as future scholars, researchers and thought leaders. The excellent graduation outcomes achieved during the reporting period reaffirm the importance of sustained investment in postgraduate education and research capacity development. Congratulations to all our Doctoral and Master's graduates of the 2025/26 academic year!

Equally commendable has been the noticeable impact of the Institute's research programmes, namely the catalytic research projects, Humanities hubs, working groups and professional associations. These programmes continue to generate knowledge that addresses contemporary societal challenges, strengthen interdisciplinary scholarship and contribute to the advancement of the Humanities and Social Sciences both nationally and internationally. They also demonstrate the importance of addressing systemic challenges by conducting research aimed at finding community-centric solutions. This highlights the enduring value of investing in research that is relevant, focused on current critical issues, socially responsive and capable of informing policy and public discourse.

In an increasingly complex and interconnected global environment, the vision of the NIHSS to place the Humanities and Social Sciences at the centre of scholarship, pedagogy,



community engagement and social responsibility, is more relevant than ever. The Board acknowledges with gratitude the continued support of the Department of Higher Education and Training, the South African Humanities Deans' Association, our university partners, mentors and the many researchers and stakeholders whose collaboration enables the Institute to fulfil its mandate. Their collective contribution and support remain fundamental to strengthening scholarship and advancing transformation across South Africa's higher education landscape.

The Institute's international role also continues to grow in significance and remains a source of pride. Through its custodianship of the South African BRICS Think Tank, the NIHSS has continued to facilitate meaningful academic cooperation and research collaboration between South Africa, the African continent and partners across the Global South. It is encouraging to see how the Institute has been coordinating and managing BRICS cluster projects, research institutes, and forums. These partnerships reinforce South Africa's contribution to global scholarship while ensuring that African perspectives continue to shape international dialogue on critical social, cultural, and developmental issues.

Good governance remains the cornerstone of the Board's responsibilities. During the reporting period, the Board focused on strengthening oversight, reviewing strategic priorities, enhancing governance systems, and supporting the establishment of a stable executive leadership team that will guide the Institute into its next phase of development. We are committed to upholding the principles of accountability, ethical leadership, transparency and sound financial management as the foundation of a well-governed public institution.

As part of this commitment, the Board has overseen the preparation of the Institute's annual financial statements and supported the external audit process, demonstrating a commitment to addressing all matters arising from it in a constructive and transparent manner. At the same time, we continue to strengthen governance systems, internal controls and risk management processes to ensure responsible stewardship of public resources and sustained organisational performance.

Looking ahead, the Board is confident that the NIHSS is well-positioned to build on its strong institutional foundations. As South Africa continues to navigate increasingly complex social, economic and technological challenges, the Humanities and Social Sciences will play an even more critical role in shaping evidence-based solutions grounded in rigorous research and informed public discourse. The Board is committed to ensuring that the Institute remains at the forefront of this important national endeavour.

Building on the achievements reflected in this report, we will work closely with the executive leadership team to strengthen institutional capacity, deepen strategic partnerships, enhance operational effectiveness and maximise the impact of every investment entrusted to the NIHSS. As we embark on this journey, the Institute enters this new chapter with confidence and purpose and a shared objective to ensure that the NIHSS continues to make a meaningful contribution to scholarship, innovation and social development in South Africa and beyond.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Minister Mr Buti Manamela and the Department of Higher Education, our stakeholders,

partners, researchers, mentors, scholarship recipients and, most importantly, the dedicated employees of the NIHSS. Your commitment, professionalism, and belief in the Institute's mission are integral to its success.

As Chairperson, I have every confidence in the future of the NIHSS. Supported by a capable Board, a committed executive leadership team, dedicated employees and valued stakeholders, the Institute is well-positioned to continue advancing scholarship, strengthening governance and creating meaningful societal impact. Together, we will build on the achievements of the past while embracing new opportunities to ensure that the NIHSS remains a respected national institute and a leading voice for the Humanities and Social Sciences in South Africa, across the African continent and throughout the Global South.

Prof Mogomme Masoga
Board Chairperson

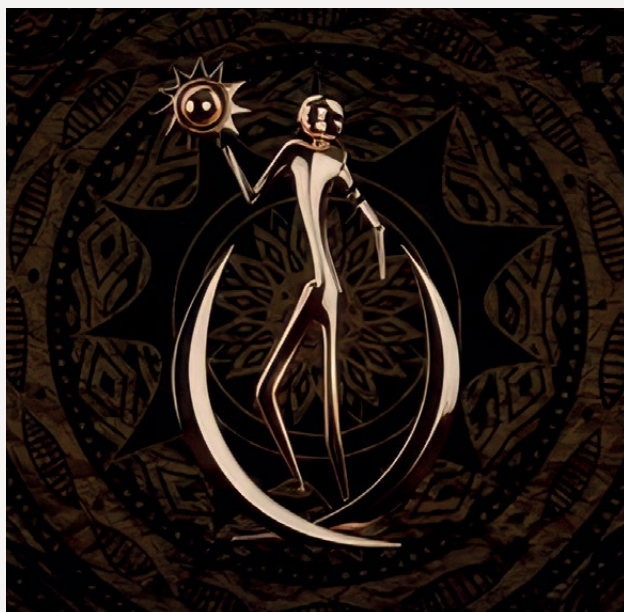
“With confidence, purpose and responsible stewardship, the NIHSS enters a new chapter committed to advancing scholarship, strengthening governance and serving the nation with distinction.”

SECTION

B

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AND ADMINISTRATION





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE 2025/26

The 2025/26 financial year marked the third year of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences' (NIHSS) Decadal Plan (2022–2032), a long-term strategic framework guiding the Institute's contribution to advancing scholarship, innovation, and impact in the humanities and social sciences. As the Institute continues to mature, its focus has been on consolidating strategic partnerships, enhancing the quality and relevance of its programmes, and strengthening the visibility and influence of HSS scholarship both locally and globally. This period has also been characterised by adaptive leadership, responsive programming, and sustained stakeholder engagement in pursuit of national development goals through the HSS lens.

Building on the momentum of previous years, the strategic objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) set for 2025/26 align closely with the overarching vision of the Decadal Plan. The year under review focused on expanding research capacity, supporting emerging scholars, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and deepening scholarly engagement across South Africa and the broader Global South.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Dynamise the fields of teaching and research in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Projects, Working Groups and Humanities Hub.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Uphold the integrity, reputation and importance of the Humanities and Social Sciences within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society at large.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Foster international research collaboration between South Africa and countries of the Global South.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

Act as a dynamic broker between the worlds of knowledge and policy action on behalf of South Africa as the South African BRICS Think Tank



2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

NIHSS SCHOLARSHIP GRADUATES

636 PhD students have graduated since the NIHSS opened its doors, including **34** who graduated during 2025/26.

A total of **83** doctoral candidates from previous cohorts were still busy with their studies.



A new Board and Executive Leadership team appointed

DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

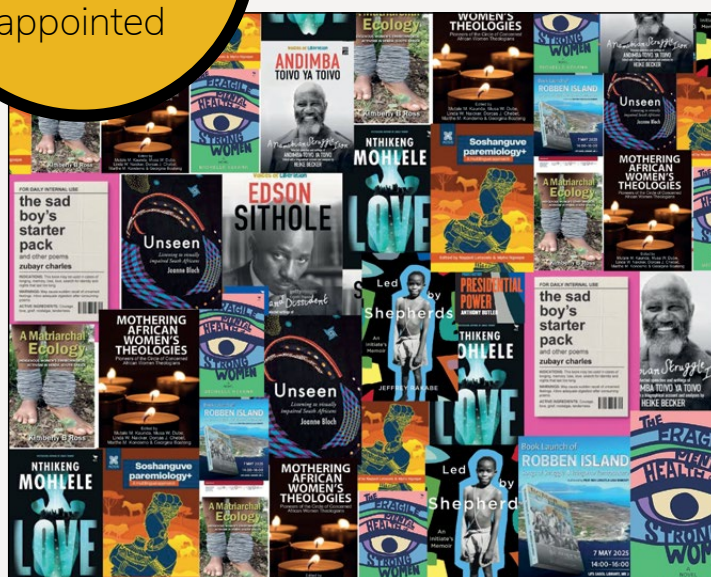
81 regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors through the NIHSS to enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS-funded students.

34 The number of SAHUDA-funded PhD graduates, with a cumulative throughput of **74%**.

79% of the NIHSS SAHUDA fellows who completed their studies were black and 68% were female.

10 mentors appointed during the year to support our Master's and PhD students outdid themselves by presenting **81** regional doctoral workshops – a major achievement considering the severe financial constraints that prevailed.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS GENERATED



31 Doctoral and postdoctoral fellows and alumni produced **33** research outputs and publications. Counting the **24** research outputs reported by leaders of the Catalytic Research Projects, Working groups, Humanities Hubs and Professional Associations, the grand total was an impressive **57** outputs.

In addition, a further **28** research outputs were produced by the PAP and IBGS project leaders.



RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED

12

Working Groups awarded



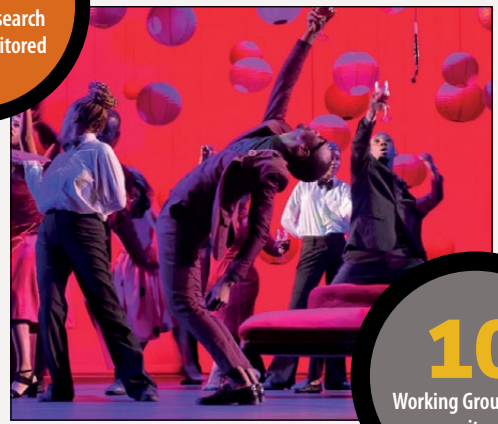
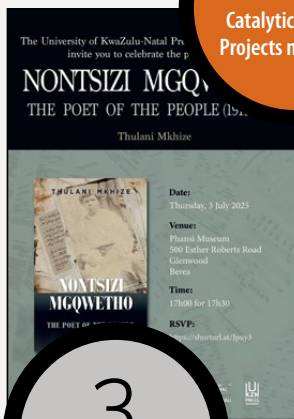
2

Professional Associations Projects monitored



6

Catalytic Research Projects monitored



3

Humanities Hubs were monitored



10

Working Groups were monitored



9

events held to expand Global South research and scholarship

RESEARCH

12

Conferences, workshops, colloquiums and similar events organised by NIHSS-funded project leaders and collaborators of Catalytic Research Projects, Working groups, Humanities Hubs and Professional Associations

ACADEMIC EVENTS SUPPORTED

4

BRICS cluster projects and BRICS research institutes were monitored.

8

SABTT Steering Committee meetings held.

7

SABTT forums held.

BRICS



STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Table 1: Summary of Progress as at 31 March 2026

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual FY Target 2025/26	Actual YTD 2025/26	Actual Q1 2025/26	Actual Q2 2025/26	Actual Q3 2025/26	Target Q4 2025/26	Actual Q4 2025/26	Actual Achievement %	Comment
1. Advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities	1.1	Number of NIHSS-funded South African doctoral students awarded	50	0	-	-	-	50	0	0%	Annual target not achieved due to limited financial resources for the implementation of the KPI.
	1.2	Number of NIHSS funded South African doctoral students monitored	83	83	-	83	-	83	83	100%	Annual target achieved
	1.3	Number of NIHSS-funded South African Master students awarded	50	0	-	-	-	50	0	0%	Annual target not achieved due to limited financial resources for the implementation of the KPI.
	1.4	Number of NIHSS-funded South African postdoctoral research fellowships awarded	50	0	-	-	-	50	0	0%	Annual target not achieved due to limited financial resources for the implementation of the KPI.
	1.5	Throughput rate on total funded SAHUDA PhDs by March 2026)	(55% cumulative) 46	(40% cumulative) 34	(8% cumulative) 7	(14% cumulative) 12	(11% cumulative) 9	(55% cumulative) 46	(7% cumulative) 6	40% of the 55% cumulative was achieved which resulted to 74%	Annual target not achieved due to low graduation rate.
	1.6	Number of Mentors appointed to support Doctoral Schools, and ultimately enhance the creativity, and technical capacities of NIHSS Master's and Doctoral students	10	10	4	6	-	-	-	100%	Annual target achieved
	1.7	Number of regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors through the NIHSS Doctoral schools to enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS-funded Master's and doctoral students	50	81	0	26	35	13	20	162%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 31 additional regional doctoral workshops because of interest expressed by the students during the financial year. There were no financial implications.
	1.8	Number of Research Outputs/Publications by doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, NIHSS Alumni and Emeritus Writing Fellows, contributing further to the HSS	15	33	1	15	4	15	13	220%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 18 research outputs/publications emanating from additional material produced by doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, NIHSS Alumni and Emeritus Writing Fellows, that was already funded, hence no adverse effects on the budget



Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual FY Target 2025/26	Actual YTD 2025/26	Actual Q1 2025/26	Actual Q2 2025/26	Actual Q3 2025/26	Target Q4 2025/26	Actual Q4 2025/26	Actual Achievement %	Comment
2. Dynamise the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Projects, Working Groups and Humanities Hubs	2.1	NIHSS Catalytic Research projects awarded	5	0	-	-	-	0	0	0%	Annual target not achieved due to limited financial resources for the implementation of the KPI.
	2.2	NIHSS Catalytic Research projects monitored	5 monitored	6	3	2	-	1	120%	120%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 1 against the 5 planned for the financial year, as a result of a project leader who was funded in the previous financial years and submitted a report in the current financial year. Monitoring has no financial implications.
	2.3	NIHSS Humanities Hubs monitored	5 monitored	3	-	1	1	2	1	60%	Annual target not achieved because there were only 3 active Hubs in the system against the 5 planned for the financial year.
	2.4	NIHSS Working groups awarded	15	12	1	1	2	-	8	80%	Annual target not achieved due to finalisation of the awarding process happening after the financial year end.
	2.5	NIHSS Working groups monitored	5	10	2	2	4	2	2	200%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 5 against the 5 planned for the financial year, as a result of project leaders who were funded in the previous financial years and submitted reports in the current financial year. Monitoring has no financial implications.
	2.6	Research outputs in the humanities and social sciences produced by the Catalytic and Humanities Hubs projects leaders and collaborators	20	24	3	11	5	10	5	120%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 4 research output/publication emanating from additional material produced by the Catalytic and Humanities Hubs projects leaders and collaborators, already funded by funds awarded, against the 20 planned for the financial year; hence no adverse effects on the budget.



STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Table 1: Summary of Progress as at 31 March 2026

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual FY Target 2025/26	Actual YTD 2025/26	Actual Q1 2025/26	Actual Q2 2025/26	Actual Q3 2025/26	Target Q4 2025/26	Actual Q4 2025/26	Actual Achievement %	Comment
	2.7	Number of conferences, workshops, colloquiums, and similar academic events organised by NIHSS-funded project leaders and collaborators	8	12	4	4	4	4	0	150%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 4 conferences, workshops, colloquiums, and similar academic events emanating from the interest expressed by the HSS community to host more events organised by NIHSS-funded projects leaders and collaborators already funded by funds awarded against the 8 planned for the financial year; hence no adverse effects on the budget.
3. Uphold the integrity, reputation and importance of the Humanities and Social Sciences within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society at large	3.1	Number of Professional Associations monitored	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	100%	Annual target achieved.
	3.2	Number of NIHSS Annual Awards Ceremony held to recognise individuals within the higher education's community contribution to HSS	1	0	-	-	-	1	0	0%	Annual target not achieved due to limited financial resources for the implementation of the KPI.
4. Foster international research collaboration between South Africa and countries of the Global South	4.1	Number of BRICS collaborative research projects awarded	5	0	-	0	-	-	-	0%	Annual target not achieved due to limited financial resources for the implementation of the KPI.
	4.2	Number of African Pathways and BRICS mobility grants awarded	15	0	-	0	-	-	-	0%	Annual target not achieved due to limited financial resources for the implementation of the KPI.
5. Act as a dynamic broker between the worlds of knowledge and policy action on behalf of South Africa as the South African BRICS Think Tank	5.1	Number of BRICS projects awarded	5	0	-	0	-	-	-	0%	Annual target not achieved due to limited financial resources for the implementation of the KPI.



Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual FY Target 2025/26	Actual YTD 2025/26	Actual Q1 2025/26	Actual Q2 2025/26	Actual Q3 2025/26	Target Q4 2025/26	Actual Q4 2025/26	Actual Achievement %	Comment
	5.2	Number of BRICS Institutes/Cluster projects and BRICS Research Institutes monitored	3	4	1	2	1	2	0	133%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 1 against the 3 planned for the financial year, as a result of a project leader who was funded in the previous financial year and submitted a report in the current financial year. Monitoring has no financial implications.
	5.3	Number of Research Outputs/Publications produced by the BRICS project leaders	10	28	9	9	6	5	4	280%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 18 research output/publication emanating from additional material produced by BRICS project leaders, already funded by funds awarded, against the 10 planned for the financial year; hence no adverse effects on the budget.
	5.4	Number of seminars, workshops, and conferences hosted/ co-hosted and funded	4	9	2	3	2	2	2	225%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 5 additional seminars, workshops, and conferences emanating from the interest expressed by the BRICS community to host more events, against the 4 planned for the financial year, without adverse effects on the budget.
	5.5	Number of SABTT steering committee meetings (NIHSS, DHET, DIRCO)	8	8	0	2	3	2	3	100%	Annual target achieved.
	5.6	Number of South African BRICS Think-Tank Forums (Pre-academic forum, Academic forum & BTTC)	3	7	5	-	1	2	1	233%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 4 additional meetings emanating from the matters arising from the Preacademic forum, Academic forum & BTTC against the 3 planned for the financial year, without adverse effects on the budget.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

1

ADVANCE POSTGRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP IN SOUTH
AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES





Front row: Prof Kammila Naidoo, Prof Mogomme Masoga, Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize, Prof Zethu Nkosi
Back row: Dr Raphaelaleni Matondzi, Prof Patrick Mwepu Prof Neil Roos, Prof Calvin Gwandure, Prof Mirna Nel, Prof Larazus Maleho, Prof Justice Makhanihke, Prof Johannes Smit, Prof Nthabiseng Motsemme, Prof Fatima Moolla, Prof Thabisani Ndlovu, Prof Allucia Shokane, Prof Reeler Shannon at the 2nd quarterly meeting held at the University of Johannesburg



ADVANCE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

One of the core mandates of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) is to advance postgraduate scholarship at South African universities, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. This mandate is realised through the awarding of doctoral scholarships to South African citizens and non-South African students from the African continent, as well as master's scholarships to South African students enrolled at public universities nationwide. The Scholarships Programme is implemented in partnership with the South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), reinforcing regional academic collaboration and contributing meaningfully to the development of a new generation of scholars.

This report presents concrete data and key insights that highlight the NIHSS's impact over the past year in cultivating a dynamic academic community committed to tackling complex social challenges.

Since its inception, the NIHSS has awarded over eight hundred and ten (810) doctoral scholarships, fifty (50) master's scholarships, and ninety-four (94) postdoctoral fellowships; primarily to Black and/or female scholars, in alignment with the Institute's commitment to transformation in the higher

education sector. As of the reporting period, the Institute has produced a cumulative total of six hundred and thirty-four (634) doctoral graduates. This represents a graduation rate of over 78% for doctoral scholarship recipients and 88% for master's recipients since the launch of the Master's Scholarship Programme in 2022, demonstrating significant progress in advancing equitable and inclusive postgraduate scholarship in South Africa. Of the six hundred and thirty-six (636) doctoral graduates to date, 75% are Black, and 50% are female. In the Master's Scholarship Programme, of forty-four (44) completions, 73% are Black, and 93% are female, which is reflective of the Institute's ongoing commitment to advancing equity, diversity, and transformation within South Africa's academic landscape.

Table 2: NIHSS Student Demographic Breakdown

Programme	Number Of Awarded	Number Of Completions
Doctoral	Black 75%	75%
	Women 50%	59%
Master's	Black 73%	70%
	Women 93%	91%

2025/2026 PERFORMANCE

The Scholarships Programme continues to demonstrate its transformative impact, not only through the number of beneficiaries supported over time, but more importantly through the quality and consistency of its graduate throughput.



From Left to right Mr Tebogo Molaoa, Ms Thandiwe Sechele, Ms Ignatia Madalane, Dr Priscilla Mensah, Ms Ayanda Zondi, Mr Papama Magqwashe, Mr Imtiaz Khan at the Nelson Mandela University Postgraduate Funding Fair

Table 3: NIHSS-SAHUDA Doctoral Programme 2025/26 Graduates and Completions

No.	Full Name	University	Race	Gender	Discipline
1.	Seriane Morapeli	University of Johannesburg	Black	Female	Strategic Communication
2.	Makhosonke Mntungwa	University of Zululand	Black	Male	Public Administration
3.	Thembeke Sdinane	Nelson Mandela University	Black	Female	Psychology
4.	Siphephelo Mdluli	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Black	Female	Development Studies
5.	Sinethemba Ngcobo	University of Zululand	Black	Female	Sociology
6.	Zuzeka Prudence Mkra	University of South Africa	Black	Female	Sociology
7.	Tshildizi Patrecia Mulaudzi	University of Venda	Black	Female	Gender Studies
8.	Tshepo Maake	University of Johannesburg	Black	Male	Sociology
9.	Meisie Rasakanya	University of Pretoria	Black	Female	Development Studies
10.	Sibusisiwe Nxongo	University of Johannesburg	Black	Female	History
11.	Wade Seale	University of Cape Town	Coloured	Male	Philosophy
12.	Evans Mohlatlole	North-West University	Black	Male	Social Work
13.	Sumaya Babamia	University of Cape Town	Indian	Female	Education
14.	Lihle Gumbi	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Black	Male	Public Policy
15.	Tatum Davis	University of the Western Cape	Coloured	Female	Literature



No.	Full Name	University	Race	Gender	Discipline
16.	Themba Madingiza	University of Johannesburg	Black	Male	African Languages
17.	Musiiwa Ivy Rambau	University of Venda	Black	Female	Psychology
18.	Luthando Ngazile Ngema	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Black	Female	Media Studies
19.	Aseza Soganga	University of Fort Hare	Black	Female	Social Work
20.	Mamogobo Rosinah Mamabolo	University of Limpopo	Black	Female	Communication Studies
21.	Thandisizwe Thando Ngcume	University of Fort Hare	Black	Male	Communication
22.	Sandiso Tyembile	University of Fort Hare	Black	Male	Communication
23.	Nomonde Ntsepo	University of the Witwatersrand	Coloured	Female	African Literature
24.	Robyn Humphreys	University of Cape Town	Coloured	Female	Biological Anthropology
25.	Sisonke Mawonga	Rhodes University	Black	Female	African Languages
26.	Thandokazi May	Rhodes University	Black	Female	Anthropology
27.	Fikile Masikane	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Female	Industrial Sociology
28.	Kanyiso Lungani Ntikanca	Rhodes University	Black	Male	Sociology
29.	Thabang Manyike	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Male	Political Studies
30.	Nathalia Lourenco	Rhodes University	White	Female	African Languages
31.	Puleng Kaziboni	University of the Free State	Black	Female	Sociology
32.	Zakiyya Laher	University of Pretoria	Indian	Female	Augmentative and Alternative Communication
33.	Muziwandile Sithole	University of Johannesburg	Black	Male	African Languages
34.	Obakeng Naledi Modise	University of Pretoria	Black	Female	Political Science

The current reporting period reflects a maturing programme that is successfully transitioning from high intake volumes to sustained completion outcomes. This shift underscores both effectiveness and long-term value.

Over the course of the year, a total of thirty-four (34) funded students reached critical academic milestones, representing a wide spread of South Africa's leading higher education institutions, including the University of Johannesburg, the University of Cape Town, Rhodes University, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and others. These graduates span a diverse yet socially responsive range of disciplines, including Sociology, Psychology, Communication, Development Studies, Social

Work, African Languages, and Public Administration. These are fields that are closely aligned with the country's developmental priorities and the organisation's strategic mission.

While the number of active students in the pipeline has decreased compared to previous years, this is not indicative of a decline but rather a strong testament to the programme's success. A significant proportion of beneficiaries have now completed their qualifications, thereby exiting the system as skilled graduates ready to contribute meaningfully to society and the economy. This high throughput rate reflects improved academic support, effective student selection processes, and sustained investment in student success.



Figure 1: Doctoral completion rates at participating universities in 2025/26



34

Doctoral students who completed their studies during the 2025/26 financial year.

The demographic profile of the graduates continues to reflect the programme's commitment to equity and inclusion. The majority of beneficiaries are Black South Africans, with strong representation of women across nearly all disciplines, further reinforcing the organisation's role in advancing both racial and gender transformation in higher education and the professional landscape.

The NIHSS continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of scholars. During the 2025/26 academic year, eighty-nine (89) doctoral candidates from existing scholarship cohorts remained actively engaged in their research journeys (including both South African and non-South African candidates), of whom thirty-three (34) completed their studies. The programme has a total of fifty-six (56) remaining doctoral candidates from the two above-mentioned programmes. Their progress represents a promising pipeline of future completions and reflects the Institute's sustained investment in high-level academic development.

Following closely are participants in the NIHSS Master's Scholarship Programme, which was launched in 2022 as a key strategic initiative to strengthen the national postgraduate pipeline. Designed to create a seamless pathway into advanced research and academic careers, the programme saw fourteen (14) master's students actively pursuing their studies this year. In addition to the nine (9) students who successfully completed their degrees, one (1) student reached a critical academic milestone by submitting their thesis for examination.

Although no new scholarships were awarded in the current financial year due to funding constraints, the Institute intensified its efforts to support existing scholarship holders. A key focus was the enhancement of academic success through the National Mentorship Programme, which continues to provide tailored support, guidance, and encouragement to students as they navigate the complexities of postgraduate study.

**TABLE 4: NIHSS-SAHUDA Master's Programme 2025/26 Graduates and Completions**

No.	Project No.	Full Name	University	Race	Gender	Discipline
1.	SMS22/1066	Tshegofatso Onkgopotse Modisane	University of Johannesburg	Black	Male	Politics
2.	SMS22/1079	Zizipho Tom	Nelson Mandela University	Black	Female	Sociology
3.	SMS22/1047	Babalwa Ganya	University of the Western Cape	Black	Female	Sociology
4.	SMS22/1085	Sinoxolo Mahlatsana	Durban University of Technology	Black	Female	Journalism
5.	SMS22/1018	Unam Mposi	University of Zululand	Black	Female	Information Science
6.	SMS22/1037	Lauren-Lee Isaacs	University of the Western Cape	Coloured	Female	English
7.	SMS22/1061	Refilwe Raphadu	University of Johannesburg	Black	Female	History
8.	SMS22/1062	Thulani Siziba	University of Johannesburg	Black	Male	Anthropology
9.	SMS22/1027	Agisanang Disemelo	Tshwane University of Technology	Black	Female	Communication

These ongoing efforts underscore the NIHSS's unwavering commitment to ensuring that talented and deserving students are not only funded but also empowered to succeed and make meaningful contributions to the humanities and social sciences in South Africa and beyond.

A NATIONAL FOOTPRINT OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Scholarships Programme stands as a flagship expression of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences' mandate. This mandate is not only being fulfilled but also elevated through measurable impact, strategic partnerships, and an unwavering commitment to transformation. Through its collaboration with the South African Humanities Deans' Association and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, the Institute has positioned itself at the forefront of continental scholarship, cultivating a new generation of thinkers, researchers, and leaders equipped to address the complex social challenges of our time.

The Scholarships Programme's impressive graduation rates, strong demographic transformation, and sustained academic pipeline are clear indicators of a system that is not only functioning but excelling. As the humanities and social sciences continue to shape the intellectual, cultural, and policy landscape of South Africa and the broader African continent, the NIHSS Scholarships Programme emerges as a critical engine of knowledge production, social progress, and inclusive development. As such it firmly establishes the Institute as a cornerstone of the nation's higher education ecosystem and a beacon of scholarly excellence.

NIHSS-SAHUDA MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Launched in 2022, the NIHSS Master's Scholarship Programme continues to strengthen South Africa's postgraduate pipeline, delivering measurable impact in the 2025/26 financial year. A total of nine (9) Master's candidates (out of fourteen (14) active) completed their studies, marking another milestone in the programme's contribution to academic development in the humanities and social sciences. This brought the total completions to forty-four (44) out of fifty (50) awarded Master's scholarships.

These achievements span six (6) public universities, underscoring the programme's national footprint and its ability to support excellence across diverse institutional contexts. The University of Johannesburg led with three (3) graduates, followed by the University of the Western Cape with two (2), which highlights strong engagement at key research-intensive institutions.

Importantly, the programme continues to advance transformation and equitable access. A graduate from the University of Zululand, a historically disadvantaged and rural-based institution, reflects the NIHSS's commitment to broadening participation and supporting talent across all regions of the country. Further completions were recorded at Nelson Mandela University, the Durban University of Technology, and the Tshwane University of Technology, demonstrating the programme's reach across South Africa's higher education landscape.



Dr Rosaline Sebolao, Prof Nhlanhla Maake, Ms Hlanzekile Mbokazi, Ms Ignatia Madalane, and Ms Ayanda Zondi engaged with NIHSS-funded postgraduate scholars during an institutional mentorship visit to Unisa, providing guidance and support to advance academic success.

The Master's completions spanned a wide range of research areas within the humanities and social sciences, including politics, sociology, journalism, information science, English, history, anthropology and communication.

Collectively, these NIHSS-SAHUDA graduates represent a new generation of scholars equipped to contribute to critical national conversations, drive research innovation, and shape the future of the humanities and social sciences. Their success affirms the NIHSS's ongoing role in cultivating a diverse, inclusive, and intellectually vibrant academic community.

NIHSS NATIONAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

The National Mentorship Programme (NMP) remains a central intervention for strengthening postgraduate capacity in the humanities and social sciences, and for contributing meaningfully to the broader higher education landscape. Through a structured, cohort-based and inter-institutional approach, the programme continues to provide sustained academic and psychosocial support to NIHSS-funded Master's and Doctoral candidates. During the 2025/26 financial year, a total of eighty-one (81) mentorship workshops and activities

Table 5: Examples of 2025/26 NIHSS National Mentorship Programme Workshop Topics

Region	Mentor	Topic	Date
Gauteng	Prof Malose Langa	Student Update and Progress Workshop	28 July 2025
Western Cape	Prof Floretta Boonzaier	Touch Base and Update Engagement	14 August 2025
Eastern Cape	Prof Kishore Raga	Listen, Encourage, and Acknowledge	22 September 2025
KwaZulu-Natal	Prof Velile Jiyane	Towards Completing your Studies in 2025: Data Collection/Field Work, Data Analysis, Research Consolidation Phase	25 October 2025
Unisa, Free State and North-West	Dr Rosaline Sebolao	Regional Mentor Response	22 November 2025
Inter-regional	Prof Nhlanhla Maake	Supporting and Charting Progress	01 December 2025
Inter-regional	Prof Fred Hendricks	Theoretical Framework	29 January 2026
Northern Corridor	Prof Mpsanyana Makgahlela	Draft Paper Review	26 February 2026
KwaZulu-Natal	Prof Johannes Smit	The Decolonising Use of Generative AI and AI Ethics for Peer-Reviewed Research for Publication	12-13 March 2026

**Table 6: 2025/26 NIHSS Mentors**

No.	Mentor	University	Region
1.	Prof Fred Hendricks	Roving Mentor	KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape
2.	Prof Nhlanhla Maake	Roving Mentor	Unisa, Free State, and North-West, Gauteng, Northern Corridor
3.	Prof Mpsanyana Makgahlela	University of Limpopo	Northern Corridor
4.	Prof Floretta Boonzaier	University of Cape Town	Western Cape
5.	Prof Kishore Raga	Nelson Mandela University	Eastern Cape
6.	Prof Ingrid Palmary	University of Johannesburg	Gauteng
7.	Dr Rosaline Sebolao	University of the Free State	Unisa, Free state, and North-West
8.	Prof Malose Langa	University of the Witwatersrand	Gauteng
9.	Prof Velile Jiyane	University of Zululand	KwaZulu-Natal
10.	Prof Johannes Smit	University of KwaZulu Natal	KwaZulu-Natal

were delivered across all regions, reflecting extensive national coverage and a coordinated effort to support students at different stages of their academic journeys. These engagements ranged from foundational research development and theoretical training to advanced writing, analysis, and thesis preparation, and also incorporated student-centred support mechanisms such as progress reviews and mental health interventions (see Table 5 for examples from across the regions and 2025/26). Collectively, the programme continues to contribute to improved research capacity, student retention, and postgraduate throughput.

NIHSS NATIONAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

A key highlight of the reporting period was the institutional mentorship visit to the University of South Africa (Unisa), which demonstrated the value of in-person mentorship engagements in strengthening collaboration between the NIHSS, academic institutions, and funded scholars. The engagement provided a platform for scholars to reflect on their academic progress, share challenges, and receive direct guidance from mentors and senior academics. Notably, several doctoral candidates reported significant milestones, including thesis submissions, reflecting the programme's impact on progression and completion. The visit enabled further alignment between the NIHSS and the university, while strengthening partnerships focused on enhancing academic support and student well-being.

2025/26 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

In the 2025/26 financial year, the NIHSS significantly advanced its mandate to strengthen the humanities and social sciences through research outputs. This marked a substantial increase in scholarly productivity and demonstrated the growing influence of the NIHSS-supported researchers across South Africa and the Global South. Below is the list of thirty-three (33) research outputs from 2025/26.

- 1. Bester, K.J and Arendse, D.E. (2025).** *Exploring the Securitisation of Drones in the South African Military. Drones in the African Battlespaces*, edited by Wayne Stephen Coetzee and Dries Putter. Southern Space Studies. Springer Nature Switzerland. Pp 81-90. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-87147-4>.
- 2. Arendse, D. E. (2025).** *Is supervision training necessary? Reflecting on supervision as a student and novice supervisor. South African Journal of Higher Education*, 39(2), 1-9. DOI: 10.20853/39-2-6750.
- 3. Christ, S., Kraaij, T., Geldenhuys, C.J. and De Klerk, H.M. 2025.** *Predicting Persistent Forest Fire Refugia Using Machine Learning Models with Topographic, Microclimate, and Surface Wind Variables*. ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information, 14(12), p.480.



4. **Chuma, K.G. 2025.** 'A tough nut to crack': inconsistent standards as roadblocks to data interoperability of health information systems in public hospitals in the Gauteng Province of South Africa. *Oxford Open Digital Health*, p. oqaf013.
5. **Cronje, M. 2025.** A qualitative exploration of factors associated with recidivism in South Africa. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 83(1), p.39.
6. **Dlamini, S. 2025.** Evaluating community police forums (CPFs) in South Africa: the role of civilian oversight as a crucial tool. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 11(1), p.2505126
7. **Gredley, S., Bozalek, V. and Shefer, T. 2025.** Destabilising Pedagogies Towards Intersectional Gender Justice. *Social and Health Sciences*, pp.29.
8. **Maake, T. B. 2026.** Navigating Cisheteronormativity in Military and Police Training: Experiences of Black Gay Male Soldiers and Police Officers in South Africa. *South African Review of Sociology*, pp.1–20. doi: 10.1080/21528586.2025.2612545.
9. **Majola, T.N. and Maharaj, P. 2025.** The Challenges Associated with the Child Support Grant Application Process: A Case of Young Mothers in a South African Township. *Journal of Social Service Research*, pp.1-11.
10. **Masola, N. 2025.** Dreams as a Diagnostic and Treatment Tool in Mental Health Care Practice by Traditional Healthcare Practitioners: An Afrocentric Perspective. *African Journal of Inter/ Multidisciplinary Studies*, 7(1), pp.1-12.
11. **Meyers, A.F., Smith, C. and Cekiso, M. 2025.** Blended learning instructional delivery: enhancing learning outcomes for first-year students in South Africa. *African Perspectives of Research in Teaching and Learning*, 9(2), pp.180-191.
12. **Meyer, T. and Wildschut, A. 2025.** Thirty Years into Democracy: Achieving Substantive Equality in the South African Legal Profession Through Addressing the Social Reproduction of Inequality. *Southern African Public Law*, 40(1).
13. **Mgibisa, M. 2025.** A Decolonial Reading of EFF as (Mis) Guided Black Rage. *The Thinker*, 103(2), pp.125-137.
14. **Mkra, Z.P. and Agboola, C. 2025.** Disability Disclosure by Students with Disabilities in an Open, Distance, and E-Learning (ODEL) Institution: Insights from Support Staff and Students. *Turkish Academic Research Review*, 10(2), pp.402–421.
15. **Mlambo, R. and Hlungwani, M.C. 2025.** The semantics of expressive interjections in Xitsonga. *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*, pp.1-15.
16. **Morwane, R.E., Dada, S. and Bornman, J. 2025.** Specialised Recruitment Agents in a Low- and Middle-Income Country: Intermediaries Between Employers and Persons with Disabilities Seeking Employment. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 63(3), pp.312-324.
17. **Morwane, R.E., Bornman, J. and Dada, S. 2025.** Barriers and facilitators experienced by individuals with complex communication needs in accessing employment. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, pp.1-13.
18. **Msiza, V. 2025.** Male Teachers' Perceptions of Gender Equality in the Foundation Phase. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 39(1), pp.118-127.
19. **Mtshweni, B.V. and Silinda, F.T. 2025.** Multidimensional perceptions of support and academic motivation: Predicting academic persistence among first-generation black university students. *Transformation in Higher Education*, 10, p.461.
20. **Mtshweni, B.V. 2025.** Friendship Support and Academic Motivation in First-Generation University Students: Academic Anxiety as a Moderator and Sense of Belonging as a Mediator. *Bulletin of Counselling and Psychotherapy*, 7(2).
21. **Ndanganeni, V. P. Tonsing, K. and Bornman, J. 2025.** Social validity assessment of instructional approaches for parents of children who require augmentative and alternative communication: a scoping review. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, pp.1–12. doi: 10.1080/07434618.2025.2531006.
22. **Netshivhambe, N. E. 2025.** Radio as Propaganda. *African Journalism Studies*, pp.1–18. doi: 10.1080/23743670.2025.2508724.



23. Notsi, L. and Ramatea, M.A. 2025. *Soil Eating as a Psychological Coping Strategy for Women in Rural African Patriarchal Contexts.* *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 22(6), p.876.

24. Parry, B. R., Komane, K., and Williams, T. 2026. *Negotiating gender role expectations: understanding the gendered experiences of women mediators in Africa.* *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 28(1), pp.144–164. doi: 10.1080/14616742.2025.2604687.

25. Ramothwala, T., Cekiso, M. and Mandende, I.P. 2025. *Translanguaging in Mathematics and Life Skills classrooms in the Foundation Phase schools in Mopani District: A case study of the Khelovedu dialect.* *South African Journal of Childhood Education*, 15(1), p.9.

26. Shabalala, N.P. 2026. *School stakeholders' conceptualisation and management of the environmental education curriculum in KwaZulu-Natal secondary schools.* *Discover Education*.

27. Shabalala, N.P. 2025. *Decolonising environmental education in Africa through the early integration of indigenous knowledge systems guided by Zibanjwa Zisemaphuphu.* *Discover Sustainability*, 6(1), p.892.

28. Shabalala, N.P. 2025. *Global citizenship education as a strategy for social justice and identity: achieving balance for meaningful social impact.* *Globalisation, Societies and Education*, pp.1-13.

29. Shoji, N. 2025. *Introducing African Philosophy of Disability.* *Arumayuka: Journal of Conversational Thinking*. <https://doi.org/10.4314/AJCT.V5I2.3>

30. Spyrelis, A., Loades, M.E., and Roomaney, R. 2025. *Feasibility, acceptability, and exploratory outcomes of a virtual cognitive behavioural therapy-based group intervention for persistent fatigue in endometriosis: The Managing Fatigue in Endometriosis (MEND) programme.* *British Journal of Health Psychology*, 30(3), p.e70014.

31. Steyn, B. and Antonites, A. 2025. *Cultivating Complexity: Thirteenth Century AD Crop Systems and Wild Plant Utilisation, South Africa.* *African Archaeological Review*, pp.1-23.

32. Thango, M. 2025. *Workplace Communication: the use of African languages by banks operating in the Free State Province, South Africa.* *Language Policy in Africa*, 1(1), pp.117–143.

33. Zuma, R.N. and Chikovore, E.S. 2025. *Exploring a Community's Perceptions Regarding Girl-Child Education: The Case of Zwelibomvu, Durban, South Africa.* *Gender Questions*, 13(1), pp.24-pages.

These (thirty-three) 33 NIHSS-acknowledged outputs comprise a diverse range of scholarly contributions and reflect a strong emphasis on high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarship while also supporting innovative and interdisciplinary forms of knowledge production.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

2

**DYNAMISE THE FIELDS OF
RESEARCH AND TEACHING
IN THE HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES IN SOUTH
AFRICA THROUGH A RANGE
OF CATALYTIC PROJECTS,
WORKING GROUPS AND
HUMANITIES HUBS**





Prof Neo Lekgotla Iaga Ramoupi speaking at the launch of Robben Island: Songs of Struggle – Izingoma Zomzabalazo

The NIHSS effectively utilised its limited allocated resources for Strategic Objective 2 in the 2025/26 financial year, once again achieving positive results in research outputs and academic events that contributed to the objective of dynamising the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences (HSS).

Within the limited funds, the NIHSS continued to monitor the Catalytic Research Projects, the Humanities Hubs, the Working Group Projects, and the Professional Associations. The quantity of research outputs produced, and the strategic events, note the impact of the NIHSS grants. Collectively, all these project leaders delivered fifteen (15) published books, seven (7) journal articles, two (2) creative outputs, and twelve (12) events.

Table 7: The number of NIHSS research outputs and events reported in 2025/26:

Research outputs	Quantity
Books published	15
Journal articles	7
Creative outputs	2
Events	12

Additionally, the NIHSS met its annual targets for several key performance indicators under Strategic Objective 2, while surpassing expectations in others. This was a result of project leaders funded in the previous financial years submitting

reports in the current financial year, achieving a 20% increase in monitoring of Catalytic Research projects and a 100% increase in monitoring of the Working Groups. Notably, due to the HSS community's interest, the NIHSS exceeded its targets by 50% for the number of conferences, workshops, colloquia, and similar academic events organised by NIHSS-funded project leaders and collaborators. All exceeded targets had no adverse effects on the budget.

The following report outlines how the NIHSS has effectively enhanced research and teaching in the HSS through its support for Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs, and Working Groups. The NIHSS has thereby advanced social justice by upholding and promoting the values of diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

NIHSS CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

The NIHSS Catalytic Research Programme aims to dynamise research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences (HSS) in South Africa. Through a diverse array of innovative and catalytic projects, the programme seeks to foster collaboration, inspire critical inquiry, and promote interdisciplinary approaches that address contemporary societal challenges. By providing support and resources, it aims to empower scholars, researchers, and students to explore new ideas and perspectives, ultimately enriching the academic landscape and contributing to the development of a more informed and engaged society.

**Table 8: NIHSS Catalytic Research Projects monitored in 2025/26**

No.	Project title	Project leader and University
1.	Creative Research Lab: Art, Activism and Solidarity	Dr Refiloe Lepere, University of Witwatersrand (previously Tshwane University of Technology)
2.	Too late yet still quite early? Investigating the experiences of “older” early career academics in South African higher education	Prof Mlamuli Hlatshwayo, University of Johannesburg
3.	Visibilising the hidden narrative of a liberation(s) hero, Revisiting the life of Nokukhanya Luthuli	Prof Puleng Segalo, University of South Africa
4.	Currencies, Colonial Economies, and the making of the South African State: Studying Economic History in South Africa	Dr Laura Phillips, University of Witwatersrand
5.	Encyclopaedia of African Feminism	Dr Dikeledi Mokoena, University of Johannesburg
6.	Development of a textbook in Sesotho for Sesotho teaching and learning in higher education	Prof Rethabile Possa, University of Cape Town

NIHSS Catalytic Research Projects awarded in 2025/26

Although the target to award new catalytic projects was not met due to constrained funding, the period was marked by a deliberate focus on monitoring the active catalytic projects outlined above. The NIHSS has demonstrated agility by optimising available resources and maintaining momentum. This has ensured continuity and readiness to scale once funding gaps are addressed.

NIHSS Catalytic Research Projects monitored in 2025/26

During the 2025/26 financial year, six (6) projects were monitored. Each project opens new frontiers in HSS scholarship and strengthens researcher networks across universities.

NIHSS CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECT:***Too late yet still quite early? Investigating the experiences of “older” early career academics in South African higher education*****Project leader: Prof Mlamuli Hlatshwayo**

Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies, University of Johannesburg

Too late yet still quite early? Investigating the experiences of “older” early career academics in South African higher education is a Catalytic Research Project led by Prof Mlamuli Hlatshwayo, who was based at the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies at the University of Johannesburg and has since moved to the North West University. At its core, this project poses a set of questions that address equity, institutional recognition, and structural exclusion in university systems and call for reform of the Staffing South Africa’s Universities Framework (SSAUF) to better reflect the realities of a changing academic workforce. This is due to current South African policies that

do not adequately address career breaks, later-life re-entry, or re-skilling. In effect, these policies sideline older early-career academics, such as those who enter or return to academia in their 40s and 50s, from meaningful participation in the academy. Prof Hlatshwayo cautions that “Without deliberate redress, we risk reinforcing the very inequalities we claim to transform.”

Prof Hlatshwayo embeds transformative academic leadership within the project’s practice by actively mentoring emerging scholars at all academic levels. Accordingly, the research team comprises a postdoctoral research fellow, Dr J. Munyaradzi; a PhD candidate, Mr N.V.G. Majosi; and a Master’s student, Ms K. Mtshobile. Collaboration on the research project offers the team opportunities to develop essential skills for future academic careers: engagement in academic publishing, conference participation, co-supervision and funding applications.

This NIHSS Catalytic Research Project is important because it underscores that transformation is not only about representation but also about changing systems, centring lived experience, and reclaiming dignity in academic labour, with precarity understood as a structural and ideological crisis. This crisis encompasses chronic job insecurity, a lack of benefits and protections, and the mental and emotional stress of living from one short-term contract to the next. Prof Hlatshwayo argues: “A truly decolonised and Africanised university must rethink how it hires, supports, and retains its knowledge workers, especially those who come from historically marginalised backgrounds and non-traditional career paths.”

Although based in South Africa, this research project has global implications, as postdoctoral candidates face precarious conditions worldwide, and academic insecurity is a shared global concern. Prof Hlatshwayo’s research approach reflects the NIHSS’s



Prof Mlamuli Hlatshwayo,
NIHSS grant recipient

commitment not only to fund research but also to nurture the next generation of scholars through intentional support. The research further demonstrates how the humanities and social sciences can serve as a vehicle for critical inquiry, institutional accountability, and social justice. Prof Hlatshwayo sums up as follows: “It reminds us that real change begins with listening, with asking difficult questions, and with supporting those whose voices are too often left out of the narrative.”

NIHSS CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECT:

Development of a textbook in Sesotho for Sesotho teaching and learning in higher education

Project leader: Prof Rethabile Possa

University of Cape Town

Prof Rethabile Possa of the University of Cape Town led the NIHSS Catalytic research project, *Development of a textbook in Sesotho for teaching and learning in higher education*. The research project has made significant strides in African language scholarship and intellectual sovereignty through its publication: *Boithuto, Ntlafatso, Poloko le Ntshetsopele ya Puo ya Sesotho: Malebela ka Ditsebi: Buka ya Pele*. This peer-reviewed textbook is among the first to be written in the Sesotho orthographies of South Africa and Lesotho, and it serves as a testament to Indigenous languages advancing scientific discourse and knowledge production.

It is evident that within the academy, there is a profound need for a pedagogical shift that prioritises linguistic justice and intellectual self-determination. Prof Possa elaborates: “Much of the existing material used to teach Sesotho at the university level is either outdated or translated from English. We needed a resource that speaks to our students in their own language, rooted in their worldview, not in colonial legacies.” As such, the project challenges the pervasive misconception that African languages lack the scientific or research terminology required for advanced academic pursuits, thereby paving the way for a truly decolonised curriculum in which students can engage with complex concepts in a language that is inherently their own.

Prof Possa ensured the impact of *Boithuto, Ntlafatso, Poloko le Ntshetsopele ya Puo ya Sesotho: Malebela ka Ditsebi: Buka ya Pele* across disciplines by assembling a diverse, dedicated interdisciplinary team from across the African continent and beyond. The collaborators included scholars from the University of Cape Town, the University of the Free State, the University of Eswatini, Rhodes University, the Central University of Technology, and the National University of Lesotho, with expertise in language, theology, health sciences, theatre, and history. In addition, this NIHSS Catalytic research project incorporated a capacity-building and mentorship model, providing rigorous writing workshops, peer-review processes, and comprehensive editorial support, thereby fostering a new generation of academics and numerous future research initiatives, some of which are already underway.



NIHSS-supported book publication by Rethabile Possa and Matumo Ramafikeng

**Boithuto, Ntlatfatso, Poloko le
Ntshetsopele ya Puo ya Sesotho:
Malebela ka Ditsebi**

Buka ya Pele

**Bahlophisi:**
Rethabile M. Possa
le
'Matumo C. Ramafikeng

By supporting visionary, high-impact research, the NIHSS has played a pivotal role in driving cultural and intellectual transformation, reinforcing its commitment to fostering inclusive and multilingual academic futures. Dr Elias Maletse's review of *Boithuto, Ntlatfatso, Poloko le Ntshetsopele ya Puo ya Sesotho: Malebela ka Ditsebi: Buka ya Pele* affirms the book's alignment with the NIHSS research objectives: "This work is catalytic, aiming to spark new conversations and insights into the role of Sesotho in contemporary scholarship and society. This book is an essential resource for scholars, educators, students, and anyone interested in Sesotho's continued growth and vitality."

NIHSS HUMANITIES HUBS

NIHSS Humanities Hubs are dedicated sites for preserving living heritages that are vital to the South African landscape. These hubs leverage research and community outreach to promote the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) within the general public and local communities.

Three (3) Humanities Hub projects were monitored this financial year, each preserving and democratising access to South Africa's intellectual and liberation heritage.

Table 9: NIHSS Humanities Hubs monitored in 2025/26

No.	Project title	Project leader, Institution
1.	NIHSS-Origins Centre Humanities Hub	Prof Amanda Esterhuysen, University of Witwatersrand–Origins Centre
2.	The National Liberation History Project	Mr Gcwelumusa Chrysostomus "Castro" Khwela, Freedom Park
3.	Continuing to Make Lemonade from Lemons	Ms Ujala Satgoor, Jagger Library, University of Cape Town

HUMANITIES HUBS RESEARCH PROJECT:

The National Liberation History Project**Project leader: Mr Gcwelumusa Chrysostomus "Castro" Khwela**

Freedom Park

The Humanities Hubs Research Project at Freedom Park, *The National Liberation History Project*, is led by Mr Gcwelumusa Chrysostomus "Castro" Khwela. The research project includes developing a *South African Liberation Education Programme*. This immersive educational initiative aims to equip young South Africans with a deeper understanding of the country's liberation history and its relevance to contemporary civic responsibility.

Mr Khwela and the Freedom Park team developed *the South African Liberation Educational Programme* in response to mounting concerns about youth disconnection from historical context, identity, and democratic values. To address this, the programme transforms the study of history into a dynamic, lived experience by combining visual storytelling, guided learning, and direct engagement with veterans of the liberation struggle. This ensures that history is not only learned but also understood and internalised.

The South African Liberation Educational Programme targets schools, universities, and organised youth groups. It is delivered over a 12-month national educational calendar and structured as a 2-hour experience. Participants engage with a carefully curated curriculum covering fifteen (15) thematic categories of the anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggle. The themes include early resistance, the rise of liberation movements, the roles of youth and women, armed resistance, international solidarity, and the transition to democracy. The programme's key differentiator is its intergenerational dialogue component, in which participants take part in a live question-and-answer session with a veteran of the liberation struggle. This element bridges historical and experiential knowledge, grounded in the veteran's lived experience, and fosters critical thinking and meaningful reflection.



Mr Gcwelumusa Chrysostomus "Castro" Khwela with colleagues and friends

The official launch of the South African Liberation Educational Programme will be in May 2026 at Freedom Park. The launch, with popular young South African actress Lerato Marabe will bring together key stakeholders, including media, educators, university professionals, public figures, and youth organisations. Thus, positioning the programme as both a national educational initiative and a platform for dialogue and engagement.

The *South African Liberation Educational Programme*, as part of the funded NIHSS Humanities Hubs aligns with national priorities for social cohesion, heritage preservation, and youth empowerment, while positioning itself for scalability and long-term impact.

NIHSS WORKING GROUPS

NIHSS Working Groups consist of smaller groups of scholars funded to collaborate on interdisciplinary projects. These networks encourage dialogue, enhance research output, and promote integrity and excellence in the humanities and social sciences.

NIHSS Working Group Projects awarded in 2025/26

In the 2025/26 financial year, the NIHSS awarded twelve (12) Working Group grants to fund academic publishing and interdisciplinary research.

Number of Working Group Projects monitored in 2025/26

WORKING GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT:

Critical reflections on the Zondo Commission in socio-political and historical context

Research Leader: Prof Mbongiseni Buthelezi

University of Johannesburg and the Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI)

Prof Mbongiseni Buthelezi leads the NIHSS Working Group Research Project, *Critical reflections on the Zondo Commission in socio-political and historical context*. Given the central place that the Madlanga Commission has occupied in public debate in 2026, there is clear scope for in-depth reflection on the impact of commissions in South Africa. A current output of this project is an academic collection that broadly explores the institutional form of 'the commission'. The book's editors are Peter Vale, Sarah Meny-Gibert, Devi Pillay and Mbongiseni Buthelezi.

On 29 October 2025, at PARI, the project brought together scholars, researchers and public intellectuals interested in contributing to the book. Writers with a wide range of research interests and expertise subsequently submitted draft chapters. These included Verne Harris, an archivist and historian, who



Dr Thulani Mkhize giving a speech at a book launch



offers an incisive, critical view of the commission of inquiry form in South African history – exploring its instrumentalisation in pursuit of colonial ends. He argues that a decolonial state practice would entail institutionalising a new form of discursive engagement that abandons the British colonial form that has shaped South African commissions.

In contrast, retired judge Clive Plasket, together with co-author Franciscus Crouse, a legal researcher, offers a more favourable view of commissions in general, with a specific focus on the Zondo Commission. The draft chapter they provide examines the broader legal context of commissions of inquiry, considering the range of commissions and their impact on the public interest. In line with this more positive perspective, legal scholar Jonathan Klaaren places the State Capture Commission within the history of post-apartheid Constitutionalism in South Africa.

Scholars furthermore explore how the Commission was received and processed in the public domain. Rhetoric scholar Sisanda Nkoala analyses the Zondo Commission as a television spectacle, teasing out its implications for public knowledge and debate about political corruption. A further series of contributions explores the Commission's internal life and methods. Devi Pillay draws on her experience as a seconded researcher at the

Commission to explore how these methodological choices affect the Commission's findings and recommendations. The Commission's interpretation of its own terms of reference is important to explore, as is its engagement with and interpretation of "state capture".

The co-editors await further contributions on the divergent discourses surrounding the Commission and its findings, and on how these discourses speak to competing conceptions of the state, the post-apartheid project, democracy, and the transformation project. How the Commission, its findings, and recommendations have been received, interpreted, and framed within public discourse provides insight into the nature of post-apartheid society. As such, this NIHSS Working Group research project remains timely, and 'the commission', as a legal and political form, remains consequential in South Africa.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Across all four programmes, the 2025/26 financial year produced a substantial body of scholarly, creative, and public-facing research outputs. Below is a list of research outputs produced by the NIHSS-funded research project leaders and collaborators.


Table 10: Number of Working Group Projects awarded in 2025/26

No.	Project title	Project leader, Institution
1.	Publishing grant	Ms Bridget Impey, Jacana Media
2.	Publishing grant	Ms Roshan Cader, Human Sciences Research Council Press
3.	Publishing grant	Ms Veronica Klipp, University of Witwatersrand Press
4.	Publishing grant	Ms Colleen Higgs, Modjaji Books
5.	Development of the Multilingual African Riddles e-Dictionaries	Dr Ntsana Mokuoane, University of South Africa
6.	The Critical Creative Therapies Think Tank: Developing Culturally Grounded Praxis	Dr Sinthemba Makanya, University of Johannesburg
7.	5th International Anthropology and Development Studies Conference-2026	Dr Zinhle Mthembu, University of Zululand
8.	Building Regional Research Capacity through AI-Enhanced Sexuality Education Scholarship: A Multi-Institutional Writing Retreat for Special Issue Development	Prof Anthony Brown, University of South Africa
9.	Digital Humanities and Creative AI (DigCreArt)	Prof Amanda Du Preez, University of the Free State
10.	The African Neuropsychology Network: Workshop for Core Members	Prof Kevin Thomas, University of Pretoria
11.	Addressing male violence in Khayamandi High schools: Masculinity, schooling and Community-based responses	Dr Bapiwe Gobodo, University of Stellenbosch
12.	Society, Education and Labour Series Publication	Dr Sheetal Bhoola, University of Zululand

Table 11: Number of Working Group Projects monitored

No	Project title	Project leader, Institution
1.	Publishing grant	Ms Bridget Impey, Jacana Media
2.	Life History, Political Biography and Struggle History	Prof Noor Nieftagodien, University of Witwatersrand
3.	Critical reflections on the Zondo Commission in socio-political and historical context	Prof Mbongiseni Buthelezi, University of Johannesburg
4.	History of the Congress of South African Students	Dr Tshepo Moloi, University of Johannesburg
5.	"Sobashaya Ngamatye": Women and Sixty Years of the Armed Struggle in South Africa	Prof Siphokazi Magadla, Rhodes University
6.	UKZN Press/ Postcolonial Histories and Socio-economic Alternatives Publications	Dr Phindile Dlamini, University of KwaZulu-Natal Press
7.	Publishing grant	Ms Roshan Cader, HSRC Press
8.	Inqolobane Yolwazi/Black Archive	Prof Siseko Kumalo, University of Fort Hare
9.	Radio and Decolonisation in Africa	Prof Sekibakiba Lekgoathi, University of Witwatersrand
10.	The Life and Times of Professor Khabi Vivien Mngoma- a contribution to music education in South Africa	Prof Zoliswa Fikelepi-Twani, University of Zululand

**HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORKING GROUP OUTPUTS**

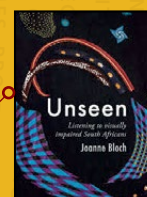
Fifteen (15) books were produced through programme funding, spanning memoir, political biography, environmental activism, theology, Indigenous language, and poetry.

Jacana Media:

- Butler, A. 2025. *A Jacana Pocket History: Presidential Power*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
- Kekana, M. 2025. *The Fragile Mental Health of Strong Women*. Jacana Media: Johannesburg.
- Lodge, T., and Southall, R. 2026. *Walter Sisulu: A sense of outrage*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
- Matlwa, K. 2025. *Bosadi*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
- Mohlele, N. 2026. *LOVE: a novel*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media
- Rakabe, J. 2025. *Led by Shepherds: An Initiate's Memoir*. Jacana Media: Johannesburg.
- Zubayr, C. 2026. *the sad boy's starter pack and other poems*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.

**HSRC Press**

- Becker, H. 2026. *Voice of Liberation: Andimba Toivo ya Toivo- A Namibian Struggle Icon*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.
- Marmon, B. 2026. *Voice of Liberation: Edson Sithole- Law, Liberation and the Cost of Dissent*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.

**AOSIS Publishing**

- Letsoalo, N., and Ngoepe, M. 2025. *Soshanguve paremiology +: A multilingual approach*. Cape Town: AOSIS Publishing.

Modjaji Books

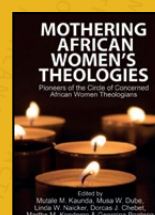
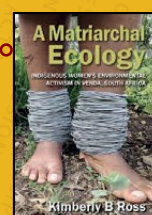
- Bloch, J. 2025. *Unseen: Listening to visually impaired South Africans*. Cape Town: Modjaji Books.

**Skotaville Academic Publishing**

- Ramoupi, N.L. 2025. *Robben Island: Songs of Struggle, Izingoma Zomzabalazo*. Skotaville Academic Publishing: Johannesburg.

UNISA Press

- Ross, K.B. 2025. *A Matriarchal Ecology: Indigenous Women's Environmental Activism in Venda, South Africa*. Johannesburg: UNISA Press.
- Kaunda, M. M., Dube, M.W., Naicker, L.W., Chebet, D.J., Kondemo, M.M., and Boateng, G. 2025. *Mothering African Women's Theologies*. Johannesburg: UNISA Press.

**AFRICAN SUN Media under the SUN PreSS imprint**

- Dondolo, L.M. 2025.** *African Intellectual Tradition in South Africa Volume 1: Towards New Histories*. Stellenbosch: AFRICAN SUN Media under the SUN PreSS imprint.





BOOKS:

Fifteen (15) books were produced through programme funding, spanning memoir, political biography, environmental activism, theology, Indigenous language, and poetry.

1. **Rakabe, J. 2025.** *Led by Shepherds: An Initiate's Memoir*. Jacana Media: Johannesburg.
2. **Kekana, M. 2025.** *The Fragile Mental Health of Strong Women*. Jacana Media: Johannesburg.
3. **Ramoupi, N.L. 2025.** *Robben Island: Songs of Struggle, Izingoma Zomzabalazo*. Skotaville Academic Publishing: Johannesburg.
4. **Ross, K.B. 2025.** *A Matriarchal Ecology: Indigenous Women's Environmental Activism in Venda, South Africa*. Johannesburg: Unisa Press.
5. **Kaunda, M. M., Dube, M.W., Naicker, L.W., Chebet, D.J., Kondemo, M.M., and Boateng, G. 2025.** *Mothering African Women's Theologies*. Johannesburg: Unisa Press.
6. **Letsoalo, N., and Ngoepe, M. 2025.** *Soshanguve paremiology +: A multilingual approach*. Cape Town: AOSIS Publishing.
7. **Bloch, J. 2025.** *Unseen: Listening to visually impaired South Africans*. Cape Town: Modjaji Books.
8. **Matlwa, K. 2025.** *Bosadi*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
9. **Butler, A. 2025.** *A Jacana Pocket History: Presidential Power*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
10. **Dondolo, L.M. 2025.** *African Intellectual Tradition in South Africa Volume 1: Towards New Histories*. Stellenbosch: AFRICAN SUN Media under the SUN PReSS imprint.
11. **Zubayr, C. 2026.** *the sad boy's starter pack and other poems*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
12. **Lodge, T., and Southall, R. 2026.** *Walter Sisulu: A sense of outrage*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
13. **Marmon, B. 2026.** *Voice of Liberation: Edson Sithole- Law, Liberation and the Cost of Dissent*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.
14. **Becker, H. 2026.** *Voice of Liberation: Andimba Toivo ya Toivo- A Namibian Struggle Icon*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.

15. **Mohlele, N. 2026.** *LOVE: a novel*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

Seven (7) peer-reviewed journal articles were published covering themes central to the NIHSS national priorities.

1. **Bokaba, E., and Coetser, Y. M. 2025.** *Re-imagining uMakhulu as integral epistemic agents in addressing climate change*. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/11771801251362689>
2. **Coetzee, J. 2025.** *An absurdist approach to radical climate activism: Understanding responses to the climate change problem*. *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 44:2, 223-236. DOI: 10.1080/02580136.2025.2510102
3. **Oboh, E. A. 2025.** *The role of feminist environmental ethics in curbing gender-based violence*. *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 44:2, 274-284. DOI: 10.1080/02580136.2025.2500191
4. **Mohamed, A-H., and Jacobs, E. 2025.** *Changing political economy in Africa: China's trade, investment, and cross-border payment mechanisms in the SADC*. *New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy*, 98.
5. **Makgahlela, M., Sodi, T., and Themane, M. 2025.** *Reflections on the scholarship of teaching and learning*. *African Perspectives of Research in Teaching and Learning Journal*, 2: 9.
6. **Sibanyoni, E.K., Sharpley, N., Majija, Y., Mavuso, N., and Mkwanzani, S. 2025.** *COVID-19 exacerbated socio-structural and behavioural realities of girl-child development and education in selected rural Eastern Cape communities*. *African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies (AJIMS)*, 7:2, 1-14.
7. **Hlatshwayo, M.N. 2025.** *Postdocs, Gender and Precarity in South African Universities*. *South African Review of Sociology*. DOI:10.1080/21528586.2025.2575213

CREATIVE AND CONFERENCE OUTPUTS:

Two (2) significant knowledge outputs were supported this year:

1. **Mosoetsa, S., and Siswana, B. (eds). 2025.** *Pan-African philosophies, ideologies, and agendas: Rethinking prosperity*. Johannesburg: NIHSS. [Conference proceedings]
2. **Stewart, L. 2025.** *Japhta Moswang Lekgetho: A Biography*. [Booklet]



NIHSS-supported book
publication *Bosadi* by
Kopano Matlwa

NIHSS CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, COLLOQUIUMS

and similar academic events organised by NIHSS-funded projects' leaders and collaborators

The NIHSS supported twelve (12) public events during the year, extending the reach of funded scholarship into public intellectual life. Below is a list of conferences, workshops, colloquiums and similar academic events organised by NIHSS-funded projects' leaders and collaborators.

ACADEMIC EVENT:

The launch of Kopano Matlwa's book, *Bosadi*

Project leader: Ms Bridget Impey, Jacana Media

At Hyde Park Corner, Johannesburg, on 21 October 2025, medical doctor Dr Kopano Matlwa launched her NIHSS Working Group-funded book, *Bosadi*. Hosted by Jacana Media in collaboration with Zebra Square, Exclusive Books, and the NIHSS, the *Bosadi* launch brought together readers, academics, and cultural

practitioners in a shared spirit of gratitude and recognition. The book poses critical social questions, aligning closely with the central issues championed by NIHSS-funded scholars in national debates. Across her books, Dr Matlwa chronicles the inner life of post-apartheid South Africa, asking what it means to live and to hope in the aftermath of struggle. The Setswana and Sesotho word *bosadi* means 'womanhood'. Retaining the title in the vernacular is deliberate and radical. It insists that African languages are not mere vessels of translation but sites of philosophy and power. In doing so, Dr Matlwa echoes the NIHSS mission: to restore African languages and lived experience to the heart of national thought.

The narrative unfolds through the eyes of Naledi, a woman living between the sacred and the secular. Her journey unfolds quietly yet unflinchingly as she navigates marriage, motherhood, and the silences that often accompany them. The novel's emotional range is vast: grief sits beside grace; prayer becomes protest; love and exhaustion share the same table. Dr Matlwa captures the subtle rhythms of domestic life, from the thud of a washing machine to the scent of church polish and the whispered prayers that carry generations forward. In *Bosadi*, religion is not a refuge


Table 12: NIHSS Conferences, Workshops and Colloquiums

No.	Conferences, Colloquiums and Workshops	Project leader, Institution
1.	The NIHSS and the University of Witwatersrand Sociology Department hosted a joint event entitled Memorial for Michael Burawoy and the Relaunch of Eddie Webster's Cast in a Racial Mould on 01 April 2025.	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the University of Witwatersrand Sociology Department
2.	Jacana Media hosted the launch of The Fragile Mental Health of Strong Women by Michelle Kekana on 13 May 2025.	Ms Bridget Impey, Jacana Media
3.	SUN Press hosted the launch of Unlocking the chains of knowledge: Understanding the challenges, remaking pedagogies and curriculum renewal on 09 May 2025.	Prof Monwabisi Ralarala, University of the Western Cape
4.	Jacana Media and Book Circle Capital hosted the launch of The Fragile Mental Health of Strong Women by Michelle Kekana on 07 June 2025.	Ms Bridget Impey, Jacana Media
5.	The University of KwaZulu-Natal Press celebrated the official launch of Nontsizi Mqwetho: The Poet of the People (1919-1929) by Thulani Mkhize on 03 July 2025.	Dr Phindile Dlamini, University of KwaZulu-Natal
6.	The National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) hosted the launch of Pan-African philosophies, ideologies, and agendas: Rethinking prosperity by Sarah Mosoetsa and Babalwa Siswana on 29 July 2025.	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
7.	The National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) and The Forge hosted the launch of Robben Island: Songs of Struggle–Izingoma Zomzabalazo by Neo Lekgotla laga Ramoupi on 31 July 2025.	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences and The Forge
8.	The South African Society for Research in Music hosted its 19th Annual Conference on 26-28 September 2025.	Dr Carina Venter, South African Society for Research in Music
9.	Jacana Media hosted the launch of Bosadi by Kopano Matlwa on 21 October 2025.	Ms Bridget Impey, Jacana Media
10.	Jacana Media and Book Circle Capital hosted the launch of Bosadi by Kopano Matlwa on 15 November 2025.	Ms Bridget Impey, Jacana Media
11.	Unisa Press hosted the launch of Matriarchal Ecology: Indigenous Women's Environmental Activism in Venda, South Africa by Kimberley Roos on 19 November 2025.	Ms Hetta Pieterse, University of South Africa Press
12.	Dr Laura Phillips hosted a workshop titled Currencies, Colonial Economies and the Making of the South African State: Studying Economic History in South Africa on 27 November 2025.	Dr Laura Phillips, University of the Witwatersrand

but a reckoning, as Dr Matlwa draws on her own experience as a doctor and a believer. She explores how faith and feminism collide and, in some instances, heal one another.

Futhermore, Dr Matlwa turns inward, and her writing becomes more contemplative, more distilled, and profoundly empathetic. It marks a new chapter in her authorship, one that fuses theology, psychology, and African humanism. At a time when South Africa grapples with gender-based violence, moral fatigue, and the daily toll of maintaining resilience, *Bosadi* feels like an answered prayer. It reminds us that transformation begins not in institutions but in language, in the stories we tell about what it means to be human. Supporting a project like *Bosadi* through the NIHSS affirms that the Humanities are not a luxury but the country's conscience. Through literature, we do not just describe our world; we remake it.

Bosadi is a profound contribution to the Humanities, a literary and spiritual exploration of what it means to live, love, and believe as a woman in South Africa today. The NIHSS investment in *Bosadi* affirms the Institute's role as the custodian of voices

that move the nation, transforming empathy into understanding and understanding into change.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

3

UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY, REPUTATION AND IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES WITHIN THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY, THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY AT LARGE





19th Annual SASRIM Conference Poster



cannot be overstated. These associations offer training and development, promote scholarly networks, and facilitate collaboration and dialogue within and across various disciplines. Additionally, many publish in respected academic journals.

To support these professional associations, the NIHSS allocates funding for their annual or biennial conferences, special academic publishing projects, and capacity-building for master's and/or doctoral students.

In the 2025/26 fiscal year, the Institute continued to monitor the progress of two (2) professional associations funded in previous years, as outlined in Table 13.

HSS PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION:

The South African Society for Research in Music

Project leader: Dr Carina Venter

19th Annual Conference of the South African Society for Research in Music

The NIHSS-funded Professional Association, the *South African Society for Research in Music* (SASRIM), hosted the 19th Annual Conference

The NIHSS for the financial year 2025/26 contributed to its goals of upholding the integrity, reputation, and significance of the humanities and social sciences through professionalisation and collaboration. This was achieved primarily by supporting the work and effective functioning of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) professional associations.

HSS PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

HSS Professional Associations monitored:

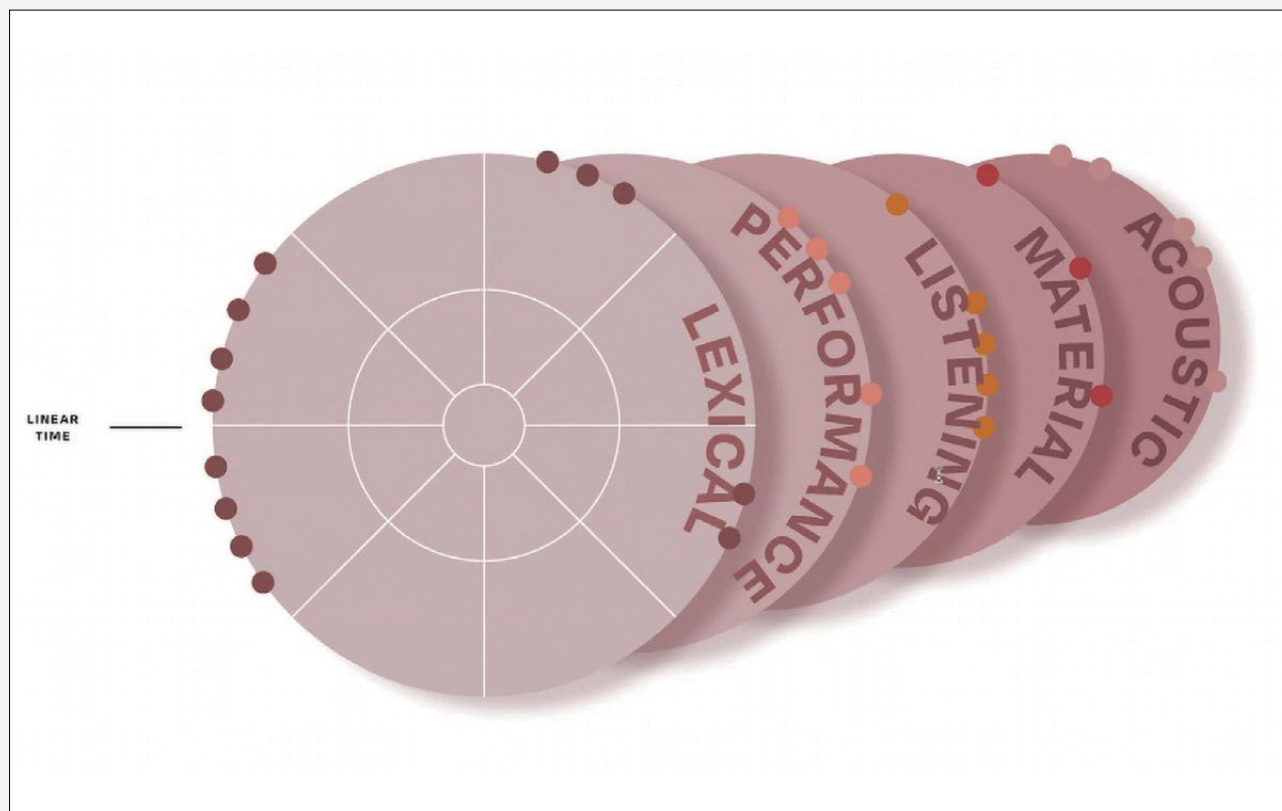
The importance of HSS professional associations in Southern Africa for the professionalisation of research and best practice

from 26 to 28 September 2025. The conference served as an interdisciplinary platform for rigorous academic discourse and creative practice across the humanities and social sciences. Stellenbosch University's Department of Music hosted the event, with in-person sessions held at the Stellenbosch University Conservatory. The NIHSS and other key stakeholders provided support for the event, including the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Stellenbosch University and the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (in partnership with the South African Centre for Digital Language Resources).

Professor Nina Sun Eidsheim (based at the University of

Table 13: Professional Associations Monitored in the financial year 2025/26

No.	Professional Association	Project leader
1.	The South African Society for Research in Music	Dr Carina Venter
2.	African Humanities Association	Prof Fred Hendricks



California, Los Angeles) delivered an online keynote address, and her engagement throughout the conference, particularly with postgraduate students, was a highlight. Her address, titled *'From the Matterphor of Voice to the Relational Philosophy of Wadada Leo Smith,'* probed thinking and conversation about music and sound through the notational system developed by jazz trumpeter and composer Wadada Leo Smith. These concepts, introduced by Prof Eidsheim, underpinned many of the conference's broader discussions on musical philosophy and relationality. Furthermore, the conference offered postgraduate students the opportunity to engage virtually with Prof Eidsheim, who provided answers on voice and opera, professional advice, and networking opportunities. Prof Eidsheim also presented a post-conference workshop for postgraduate students, in which she responded specifically to the work in progress of four (4) students or early-career academics.

The 2025 conference demonstrated significant academic engagement, with a dense schedule organised into four parallel streams over three days. This NIHSS Professional Association-funded event attracted the largest number of participants of any SASRIM conference to date, with representatives from a range of South African and international universities and institutions. One hundred and ten (110) scholars, researchers, and music practitioners presented ninety-nine (99) academic papers and collaborative presentations across approximately thirty-five

Slide from Prof Nina Eidsheim's Keynote address

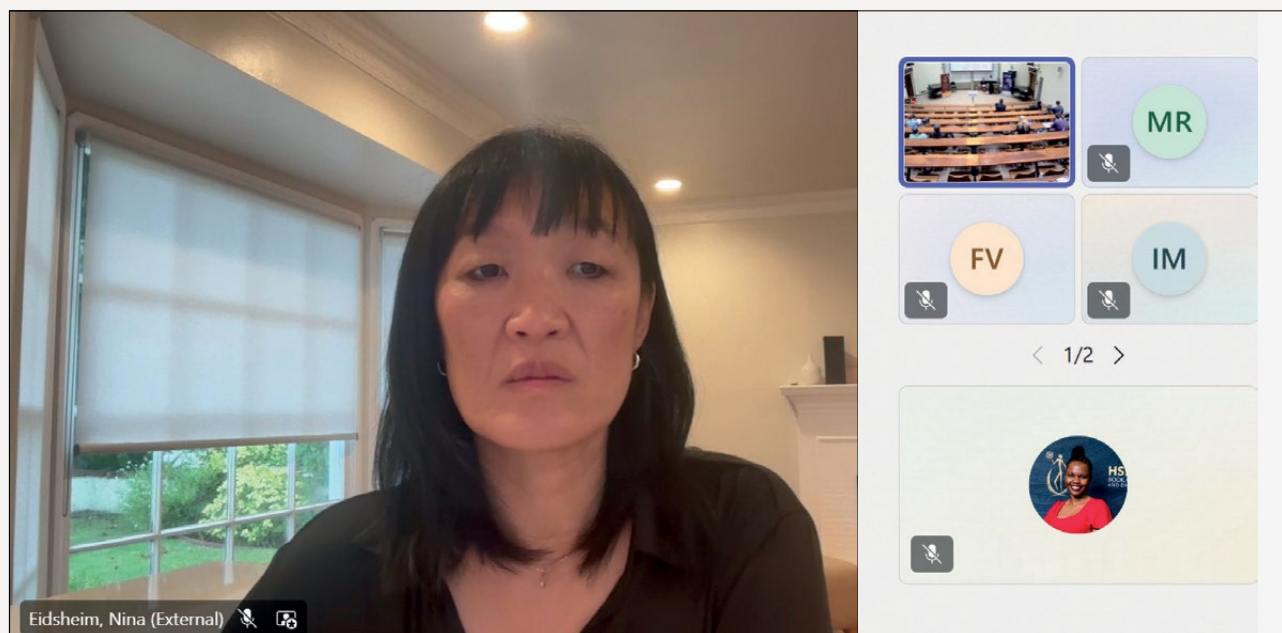
(35) dedicated thematic sessions. South African academic and cultural institutions represented included: Stellenbosch University; Rhodes University; the University of Pretoria; the University of Fort Hare; the University of the Free State; the University of Cape Town; Nelson Mandela University; North West University; and the University of the Witwatersrand. International institutions included: the University of Education, Winneba; Maseno University; Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in München; the Royal Conservatory in Brussels; the University of Bayreuth; the University of York; and the UN Human Rights Commission.

The presentations at the SASRIM 2025 conference showcased a dynamic approach to music research, engaging deeply with pressing social, political, and technological issues and highlighting the intersection of the arts with broader societal narratives. The conference addressed the following themes: decoloniality and curriculum transformation; technology, AI, and digital culture; social justice, trauma, and gender; health and psychological well-being; Indigenous Knowledge and archival revitalisation; and jazz, popular music, and community.

Beyond the above parallel streams, the conference offered two (2) evening programmes: first, the Ramon Alexander Trio,



Prof Nina Eidsheim addressing attendees at the 19th Annual SASRIM Conference



featuring decades of Cape Jazz and some of Alexander's own compositions; and second, a sonic exploration of rare records from the Hidden Years Music Archive at Stellenbosch University.

The SASRIM 2025 Conference showcased the vibrancy of music scholarship and its relevance to broader socio-cultural dialogues. NIHSS support for the SASRIM 19th Conference was impactful, partially covering running costs and providing student bursaries. The NIHSS and its partners were instrumental in facilitating this diverse academic gathering, ensuring that vital conversations on decolonisation, technological advancement, community health, and social justice continue to thrive within South Africa's humanities ecosystem.

SOUTH AFRICAN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HSS) AWARDS

The NIHSS annual South African Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Awards are the Institute's flagship initiative. Launched in 2016, the Awards celebrate outstanding scholars in the HSS field who are stimulating serious critical work and authentically telling South African stories that are shaping new ways of knowing. The HSS Awards also reposition scholarly contributions as having public value and increase appreciation for their role in building sustainable social cohesion and in reimagining the Humanities and Social Sciences. Furthermore, the HSS Awards recognise exceptional individuals in the higher education community for their contributions to the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The NIHSS did not meet this key performance indicator in the 2025/26 fiscal year due to limited funding. Notwithstanding the funding constraint, the NIHSS continues to uphold its core mandate to recognise excellence in the humanities and social sciences.

CONCLUSION

The NIHSS research programmes have delivered measurable, high-quality outcomes in the 2025/26 fiscal year. They have thereby advanced transformative, socially responsive scholarship and strengthened South Africa's global intellectual standing. The breadth of outputs, ranging from peer-reviewed journals and monographs to community heritage hubs and public book launches, demonstrates that these programmes are achieving their intended outcomes.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

4

**FOSTER INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH COLLABORATION
BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA
AND COUNTRIES OF THE GLOBAL
SOUTH**





BRICS Academic Review Issue 10

International research collaboration remains central to the NIHSS's commitment to advancing knowledge that responds to shared development priorities across the Global South. By creating opportunities for researchers, policymakers and institutions to collaborate across national boundaries, the Institute contributes to the generation of contextually relevant knowledge, strengthens research capacity, and promotes innovative solutions to complex social, economic and developmental challenges. These partnerships reinforce the role of the humanities and social sciences in informing evidence-based policy and fostering inclusive, sustainable development.

The International Programme is designed to strengthen research collaboration between South Africa and countries of the Global South by facilitating academic exchanges, supporting collaborative research initiatives, and creating platforms that foster meaningful dialogue between researchers and policymakers. Through these initiatives, the programme deepens strategic partnerships, promotes the exchange of knowledge and expertise, and enhances South Africa's contribution to regional and international research and innovation ecosystems.

Recognising that many contemporary challenges transcend national borders, the programme also encourages collaborative responses to issues such as social inequality, education, governance, sustainable development, cultural preservation, and economic transformation. By bringing together diverse perspectives and research expertise, these partnerships enrich scholarly inquiry, promote comparative learning, strengthen

institutional networks, support emerging researchers, and contribute to the co-creation of contextually relevant knowledge that advances both national priorities and the broader development agenda of the Global South.

In the 2025/26 financial year, however, the implementation of the International Programme was significantly constrained by limited financial resources. These funding limitations affected the Institute's ability to implement several planned strategic initiatives that are fundamental to advancing international collaboration. As a result, the NIHSS was unable to award new BRICS collaborative research projects, implement the African Pathways and BRICS Mobility programmes, fund planned collaborative research initiatives with Global South partners, or convene the targeted Policy Engagement Forum dialogues that were intended to strengthen engagement between researchers and policymakers.

Despite these constraints, the Institute remained committed to sustaining existing strategic relationships and maintaining its presence within key international knowledge networks. Ongoing engagement with regional and international partners ensured that channels for future collaboration remained active, while the programme continued to identify opportunities for renewed partnerships and resource mobilisation. These efforts underscore the NIHSS's long-term commitment to building resilient international research partnerships that advance scholarship, strengthen policy engagement, and contribute meaningfully to South Africa's role within the Global South research community.

5



BRICS Academic Review Issue 11

THE BRICS 2025/26

The NIHSS has implemented cross-border study programmes for the BRICS countries in the form of the BRICS Cluster projects. These include the BRICS Research Cluster projects, the BRICS Research Institutes, and the BRICS Teaching and Learning Mobility Grants. This follows the vision outlined in the Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) and is part of the Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences' (CHSS) African Renaissance Programme.

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS 2025/26

Although funds were limited, the NIHSS continued to monitor its active BRICS programmes. The number of research outputs and strategic events in Table 14 highlights the impressive performance and positive impact on the HSS landscape.

The Institute was unable to launch and award the BRICS Collaborative Research, African Pathways, and BRICS Mobility Grants. These programmes aim to foster international research collaborations between South Africa and other countries in the Global South.

BRICS RESEARCH CLUSTER PROJECTS AND BRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTES MONITORED 2025/26

The NIHSS supports and monitors the BRICS Cluster Projects and BRICS Research Institutes, which aim to develop initiatives contributing to a better and safer world order through peaceful diplomacy and multilateralism. The BRICS Research Institutes strengthen these clusters. Four (4) BRICS cluster projects and BRICS Research Institutes were monitored in the 2025/26 financial year.

Table 14: The number of NIHSS-funded BRICS research outputs and strategic events 2025/26

Number	1	7	2	8	5	5	9
BRICS programmes	BAR	Op-eds	Policy Briefs	Journal Articles	Working Papers	Conference Presentations	Events

**Table 15: BRICS Research Cluster projects and BRICS Research Institutes monitored 2025/26**

No.	BRICS Cluster Projects and BRICS Research Institute Monitored	Project leader and Institution
1.	Promoting Intra-BRICS cooperation for economic growth and development through lessons on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)	Prof Sam Koma University of Limpopo
2.	Seeing the Sea: Promoting BRICS maritime cooperation for sustainable Development and security in Africa.	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
3.	BRICS security system as an essence of fruitful cooperation	Prof Nirmala Gopal University of KwaZulu-Natal
4.	BRICS Shaping Climate Governance and the Just Transition: Partnership between India and South Africa	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs

THE BRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTES

THE BRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE PROJECT:

Seeing the sea: Promoting BRICS maritime cooperation for sustainable development and security in Africa

Grant Holder: Prof Maxi Schoeman

University of Pretoria

The NIHSS BRICS Research Institute Project, *Seeing the sea: Promoting BRICS maritime cooperation for sustainable development and security in Africa*, pursues the following aims:

1. to provide a platform for scholars and researchers to engage with policy actors, exchange ideas, and generate evidence-based policy recommendations. This project will ensure long-term attention to the country's BRICS and African maritime agenda, including the maritime dimension of South Africa's national interest.
2. Policy analysis—the generation and exchange of ideas and insights will depend on a clear understanding of the various BRICS policies and declarations relevant to the maritime domain, with particular attention to whether these documents and initiatives indicate gender awareness. Policy analyses will identify challenges, opportunities for refinement and implementation, and gaps. This is intended to provide evidence-based support to the South African government in formulating or re-formulating relevant BRICS-related policies and programmes in the maritime domain.
3. to conduct a comprehensive literature review—addressing the rise in maritime scholarships due to geopolitical power shifts and perceptions of the ocean in relation to sustainable development, the exploitation of marine resources, the emergence of new threats, and debates about the nature of maritime security and the referent objects of that security.

The guiding review question is the extent to which existing scholarship provides insights into 'using' and governing the maritime domain with a view to advantage and to promote South Africa's national interests.

4. to Engage with academics and researchers on the African continent to determine their perspectives on how South Africa could best serve the continent's interests within the BRICS forum. Particular attention will be paid to ways in which Africa's littoral and island states could be supported in the face of climate change and disasters.
5. Knowledge creation and capacity building—to build and empower a new generation of academics, researchers and policy analysts (and officials) with knowledge and expertise on the BRICS. Youth involvement includes engaging students and providing at least three (3) postgraduate students or postdoctoral fellows with opportunities to be closely associated with the various project activities.

Scholarly engagement and research outputs

The project hosted a number of events, including an international scholar, Amitav Acharya, in May 2025, as well as a conference or colloquium and a roundtable in November 2025. The BRICS Research Institute offered these events in a hybrid format to ensure the broadest reach and participation.

Activities in 2025/26 also included prolific research publications (see Table 15) and successful capacity building. Notably, the publications emanating from the project exceed the original contracted outputs. These publications include op-eds and peer-reviewed, internationally accredited articles or book chapters. The authorship of these publications underscores the project's capacity-building success.



Prof Maxi Schoeman (Deceased),
BRICS Research Institutes Project Leader

Capacity building and youth empowerment

The original project contract provided for two Master's scholarships, one doctoral scholarship, and one postdoctoral fellowship to be awarded in 2023. All grantees achieved and exceeded the project's expectations by 2026. In addition, Prof Schoeman accessed support for two additional Master's students to be part of the project: Tyrone Gunnie and Yoliswa Mvebe.

Ms Tshegofatso Ramachela graduated (with distinction) in 2024 and was subsequently awarded a second scholarship to study at the University of Glasgow. She continued to collaborate on this project, co-published an article in the May 2025 special issue of *Strategic Review for Southern Africa*, and contributed a chapter to a Springer-edited volume (see Table 16).

Ms Marggraff was originally a Master's candidate. However, the project's grant holder, Prof Maxi Schoeman, successfully applied for Ms Marggraff's dissertation to be upgraded to doctoral status. As a result, Ms Marggraff was awarded her PhD in September 2025. Prof Schoeman further obtained support for Ms Marggraff to continue in the project as a one-year postdoctoral fellow. She thus continued in her related research on the Oceans Regions Programme. Ms Marggraff also continued to write and publish peer-reviewed articles and op-eds for the project (see Table 16).

Dr Yu-Shan Wu was originally a postdoctoral fellow on the project and subsequently a researcher until August 2025, when

she moved to a full-time senior research position at UJ. She has co-authored an article and co-edited a special double issue of the *South African Journal of International Affairs*.

Dr Samuel Oyewole took up the postdoctoral fellow position on the project in 2023 and continued in this role during 2025/26. He has also published articles, including one co-authored for a reputable Brazilian journal and another in *Strategic Review for Southern Africa* (see Table 16).

Collaboration with other institutions and universities

The project's activities during the financial year 2025/26 fostered collaboration with numerous institutions and universities. It thus successfully expanded the network of institutions interested in maritime matters, particularly those concerned with maritime security within the BRICS bloc.

Existing partnerships were sustained, including those with Curtin University in Australia; the Faculty of Military Science at Stellenbosch University; the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in Delhi, India; the Institute for Social and Political Studies at the State University of Rio de Janeiro; the Getulio Vargas Foundation in São Paulo; the University of Mauritius; and the Indian Ocean Commission (headquartered in Mauritius). Professor Amitav Acharya's 2025 visit also provided an opportunity for collaboration with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and the University of Johannesburg (UJ).



THE BRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE PROJECT:

BRICS security system as an essence of fruitful cooperation

Grant holder: Prof Nirmala Gopal

University of KwaZulu-Natal

The NIHSS Research Institute Project, BRICS Security System as an Essence of Fruitful Cooperation, led by Prof Nirmala Gopal, aims to bring together expert academics and experienced postgraduate researchers from Russia, India, South Africa, Tanzania, and China to generate original research on security, sustainability, and capacity building for member states.

The fundamental objectives for advancing the project aims are:

1. to set up a world-class reference-lab centre of multidisciplinary experts in security studies, *combined with* the economic objectives of the BRICS.
2. to espouse the imperative of security mechanisms as the *terra firma* of sustainable economic cooperation, protection, and mutual growth.

3. to articulate the significance of a BRICS security framework by identifying threats to deepening en bloc cooperation and to strengthening the BRICS format.
4. to demonstrate a nexus among the SDGs of peace and security-oriented BRICS, international consensus on the SDGs, and the collective sustainability of the world.

Capacity building and post-graduate student inclusion

Prof Gopal appointed three capable individuals to enhance the successful implementation of the project's research and community-based initiatives. The team comprised an Administrator, a Project Coordinator, and a Research Assistant. The Administrator ensured the smooth running of logistical workflows, drawing on strong organisational and communication skills. The Project Coordinator provided expertise in planning, stakeholder engagement, and project execution, playing a crucial role in aligning activities with key deliverables. The Research Assistant supported data collection, analysis, and academic research, enhancing intellectual rigour. Together, they made meaningful contributions to the project's



Prof Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu-Natal, BRICS Research Institutes Project Leader

success while gaining vital experience in project management, research methodology, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Two PhD candidates and one Master's student, who contributed research on relevant criminological and security-related issues to the project, graduated in May 2025. These graduates have made significant contributions to the body of knowledge within criminology and security studies, and their work is poised to influence both academic discussions and practical applications in their respective fields. The candidates and the titles of their theses were as follows:

- Dr Mandlankosi Mphatheni: *An Analysis of Psycho-Criminological Factors Contributing to Adult Child Sex Offenders in the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape Provinces.*
- Dr Ayanda Nondumiso Ndlovu: *Investigating Security Threats of E-Banking Services on Pensioners: A Case Study of Hammarisdale, Mpumalanga Township, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa.*
- Master's Candidate, Mr Zaheer Soofie: *The Role of Religion and Spirituality in the Rehabilitation of Former Gang Members in the Durban Metropolitan.*

Activities

Prof Gopal participated in five (5) project-related activities (April to August 2025). This was made possible by support from the NIHSS BRICS Research Institute. She attended two (2) preparatory meetings for the proposed book launch of *Illicit Substance Abuse in the Western Cape: Structures of Harm & Struggle for Justice*. The project is capacity-building and involves Prof Gopal, Prof Tricia Naiker and Mr Kistoor. The primary objective of the book is to critically examine the mechanisms, impacts, and regulatory challenges of money laundering in both South African and global contexts. It aims to reveal how illicit financial flows undermine economic development, facilitate organised crime, and diminish public trust in the BRICS. The book will adopt a multidisciplinary perspective—drawing on criminology, finance, law, and governance—to investigate the structural enablers of money laundering, identify gaps in enforcement, and evaluate the effectiveness of anti-money laundering policies and systems. Through rigorous analysis and real-world case studies, this publication seeks to enrich scholarly discourse and inform practical measures to combat financial crime and foster economic integrity.

Prof Gopal also attended two (2) internationally affiliated meetings. The first was with academics at the Observer Research Foundation Middle East (ORF ME). The aim of this collaboration meeting was to foster meaningful dialogue on critical regional



issues, identify opportunities for joint research, and contribute to policy-oriented academic discussions. This gathering served as an invaluable platform for connecting with scholars and policy experts, exchanging insights from Prof Gopal's BRICS research, and strengthening partnerships to enhance informed analysis and make impactful contributions to Middle Eastern studies and global policy discourse. The second meeting at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy provided Prof Gopal with the opportunity to engage with prominent experts in diplomacy and international relations, gain insights into the UAE's foreign policy priorities, and explore potential avenues for academic and policy collaboration. This further deepened her understanding of regional diplomacy, expanded her professional networks, and contributed to the academic discourse on global strategic issues.



Prof Johannes Smit, Ms Auriel Niemack, Prof Gert Kruger, Prof Nirmala Gopal, Ms Shaida Bobat, Dr Isaac Luthuli, Prof Matshepo Motoane and Prof Federico Settler (Dean)



Collaboration

The project fostered collaboration in numerous spaces. Firstly, collaboration included Mr Mahdi Ghuloom from the Organisation for Research, Future, and Middle East (ORFME), which is centred on strategic dialogue, research exchange, and policy-oriented engagement to address significant global and regional challenges. Simultaneously, Prof Gopal collaborated with Dr Damyana Bakardzhieva from the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy. Dr Bakardzhieva played a crucial role in aligning the project's research outputs with practical policy frameworks, particularly within the context of multilateral diplomacy and regional cooperation.

A second area of collaboration in the project was through Prof Gopal's co-editing of an interdisciplinary academic volume titled *Dark Anthropology, Migrants and Others: Of Vulnerable Communities, Solidarities, and Challenges to Nation-States*. This collaborative work enriches scholarly discourse in anthropology, migration studies, and political sociology by providing both theoretical insights and grounded case studies.

Thirdly, the project collaborated with Mr Chetty of the Human Sciences Research Council on the international conference *AI*

for Development: Open Solutions by and for the Global Majority, scheduled for July 2026. The event aims to bring together thought leaders, innovators, and stakeholders from around the globe. The project team worked to secure keynote speakers, organise workshops, and develop a diverse agenda that fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing among participants.

Published Articles and Media Contributions

Prof Gopal authored several articles and comment pieces in a range of newspapers and journals, significantly contributing to the national discourse on public safety, criminal justice, and policy reform. Key topics included the urgent need to reform SAPS; crimes against the elderly and criminal involvement in minority communities; and concerns about proposed amendments to South Africa's security industry regulations. The project also disseminated findings through public discourse, with Prof Gopal participating in a series of in-depth interviews with a range of stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, community leaders, and residents, to gather insights into the operations of the South African Police Service (SAPS). Furthermore, Prof Gopal authored several opinion pieces that critically analysed the quality of service provided by the police, examining how public perception and community relationships shape trust in law



Prof Nirmala Gopal and Prof Federico Settler (Dean)

enforcement. Prof Gopal also appeared on a number of television and radio platforms, where she offered expert commentary on critical issues pertaining to policing, crime trends, and public safety policy within the South African context.

On 28 November 2025, Prof Nirmala Gopal launched a book titled *BRICS: Peace, Security, and Economy Research Intersections*, which she co-edited with Prof Gert Kruger. The volume brings together scholars from criminology, sociology, psychology, economics, health, international relations, and other disciplines to explore diverse discourses on global security and harmony, a multidisciplinary analysis of peace and security. It also engages with contemporary challenges, including pandemic management and issues of psychological security.

Conclusion

This expansive project aims to transform academic criminological research into a strategic communication asset, positioning the BRICS nations at the forefront of 21st-century security solutions. By reframing the discourse from “crime and punishment” to “security through restoration,” the initiative offers a compelling alternative to the ineffective punitive models traditionally associated with Western frameworks.

NUMBER OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS/PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY THE BRICS PROJECT LEADERS 2025/26

Across the BRICS programmes, the 2025/26 financial year produced a substantial and diverse body of scholarly and research outputs, reflecting both the depth and breadth of the Institute’s intellectual contributions. A total of twenty-eight (28) research outputs were produced, including the BRICS Academic Review, seven (7) op-eds, five (5) 17th BRICS Academic Forum conference presentations, two (2) policy briefs, eight (8) journal articles, and five (5) working papers. These research outputs demonstrate the Institute’s commitment to advancing evidence-based research within the academic community.

SABTT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (NIHSS, DHET, DIRCO) 2025/26

The South African BRICS Think Tank held eight (8) meetings with the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. These meetings aim to update, inform, and align South African foreign policy with the SABTT’s academic mandate.

**Table 16: BRICS Project Leaders' Research Outputs/Publications 2025/26**

No.	Research output produced	Project leader and Institution
1.	BRICS Academic Review 2025. <i>BRICS & Brazil: Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance</i> . Issue 10. National Institute for the and Social Sciences: Johannesburg.	NIHSS-SABTT
2.	Marggraff, D. 2025. <i>The Importance of South Africa's Presence at UNOC-3</i> , Op-ed No. 3, ed. by Schoeman, M., Ocean Regions Programme, 4 June 2025.	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
3.	Marggraff, D. 2025. <i>Framing Ocean Security: An Analysis of State Priorities at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference</i> , Op-ed No. 4, ed. by Schoeman, M., Ocean Regions Programme, 19 June 2025.	Prof Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
4.	Marggraff, D. 2025. <i>What the ICJ's Advisory Opinion Means for South Africa</i> , Op-ed No.5, ed. by Schoeman, M., Ocean Regions Programme, 1 August 2025.	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
5.	Marggraff, D. 2025. <i>Re-Thinking 'Somali Pirates'</i> , Op-ed No. 6, ed. by Samatar, A., Ocean Regions Programme, 15 October 2025.	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
6.	Ramachela, T.J. 2025. <i>Recent Developments in Africa-US Maritime Relations: Where to from Here Under Trump's Second Administration?</i> Op-Ed no. 7, ed. by Marggraff, D., Ocean Regions Programme, 29 October 2025.	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
7.	Ramachela, T.J. 2026. <i>In-Depth: Key Maritime Developments and All That Will Define Africa's Oceans in 2026</i> , Op-ed No. 1, ed. by Theron, S., Ocean Regions Programme, 29 January 2026.	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
8.	Ramachela, T.J. 2026. <i>Waves of Conflict: How Tensions in the Middle East Might Affect the African Maritime Environment</i> , Op-ed No. 2, ed. by Theron, S., Ocean Regions Programme, 6 March 2026.	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
9.	Moyo, S., 2025. <i>Advancing Global Health Equity: The Pivotal Role of BRICS Countries</i> . 17 th BRICS Academic Forum. Brasilia: Brazil, 25 June 2025.	Prof Sizulu Moyo Human Sciences Research Council
10.	Ncwadi, R., 2025. <i>Rethinking Trade, SMEs, Green Economy and Transborder Payments in BRICS</i> . 17 th BRICS Academic Forum. Brasilia: Brazil, 25 June 2025.	Prof Ronney Ncwadi Nelson Mandela University
11.	Mamphiswana, R., 2025. <i>AI Governance</i> . 17 th BRICS Academic Forum. Brasilia: Brazil, 25 June 2025.	Prof Rendani Mamphiswana University of Johannesburg
12.	Xaba, N., 2025. <i>A Just Transition to Climate-Resilient Economies and Society</i> . 17 th BRICS Academic Forum. Brasilia: Brazil, 26 June 2025.	Dr Ngobile Xaba University of Johannesburg
13.	Gopal, N., 2025. <i>A Shared Digital Vulnerability: The Case for Collective Cybersecurity Among BRICS Nations</i> . 17 th BRICS Academic Forum. Brasilia: Brazil, 26 June 2025.	Prof Nirmala Gopal University of KwaZulu-Natal
14.	Netswera, F., 2025. <i>Institutional Development</i> . 17 th BRICS Academic Forum. Brasilia: Brazil, 26 June 2025.	Prof Fulufo Netswera Durban University of Technology
15.	Francois Vreij, F. 2025. The Latent Maritime Potential of BRICS+: A Time for Realignment. <i>Strategic Review for Southern Africa</i> 47:1, 8-20. DOI: https://doi.org/10.35293/srsa.v47i1.6179	Pro. Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
16.	Oyewole, S. 2025. Challenging Eurocentrism: An Afrocentric Appraisal of the Cape Sea Route. <i>Strategic Review for Southern Africa</i> 47:1, 21-37. DOI: https://doi.org/10.35293/srsa.v47i1.6180	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
17.	Otto, L. 2025. The Rights, Interests, and Strategic Approaches of Landlocked States in the Maritime Domain: The Case of Ethiopia. <i>Strategic Review for Southern Africa</i> 47:1, 38-51. DOI: https://doi.org/10.35293/srsa.v47i1.6181	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
18.	Ramachela, T. J., and Anthony Bizos, A. 2025. The Protection, Preservation and Repatriation of Marine and Underwater Cultural Heritage: Lessons and Opportunities for Africa. <i>Strategic Review for Southern Africa</i> 47:1, pp 52-64. DOI: https://doi.org/10.35293/srsa.v47i1.6182	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
19.	Daniela Marggraff, D. 2025. Seychelles and Mauritius as Pioneers: The Case for a Refined Conceptualisation of Small State Foreign Policy. <i>Strategic Review for Southern Africa</i> 47:1, 65-78. DOI: https://doi.org/10.35293/srsa.v47i1.618	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
20.	Otele, O., M 2025. Navigating Stormy Waters: Kenya's Maritime Threats and the Balancing Act of External and Domestic Responses. <i>Strategic Review for Southern Africa</i> 47:1, 79-91. DOI: https://doi.org/10.35293/srsa.v47i1.6184	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
21.	Fred Jonyo, F. and Philip Kaudo, P. 2025. The Maritime Question on the Kenya-Somali Border. <i>Strategic Review for Southern Africa</i> 47:1, 92-102. DOI: https://doi.org/10.35293/srsa.v47i1.6185	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria



No.	Research output produced	Project leader and Institution
22.	Hlatshwayo, M. 2025. A Workers' Education Curriculum with No Production Issues? Gaps in Workers' Education in South Africa. <i>Studies in Adult Education and Learning</i> , 1-17. https://doi.org/10.4312/as/19368	Prof Mondli Hlatshwayo University of Johannesburg
23.	Mc Lean, J. 2025. <i>Green Skills for a Just Transition: Lessons from Brazil and South Africa</i> . Johannesburg: South African Institute of International Affairs. Available at: https://saiia.org.za/research/green-skills-for-a-just-transition-lessons-from-brazil-and-south-africa/	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos South African Institute of International Affairs
24.	Sack, H. 2025. <i>Climate Financing in BRICS: Lessons from Brazil and South Africa</i> . Johannesburg: South African Institute of International Affairs. Available at: https://saiia.org.za/research/climate-financing-in-brics-lessons-from-brazil-and-south-africa/	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos South African Institute of International Affairs
25.	Muthayan, N. 2025. <i>Technology for Green Growth and Industrialisation</i> . Working Paper 1. Johannesburg: South African Institute of International Affairs. Available at: https://saiia.org.za/research/technology-for-green-growth-and-industrialisation/	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos South African Institute of International Affairs
26.	Sidiropoulos, E. and Govender, D. 2025. <i>Strengthening the Multilateral Trade System for Green Growth and Development: South Africa and Brazil within the WTO</i> . Working Paper 2. Johannesburg: South African Institute of International Affairs. Available at: https://saiia.org.za/research/strengthening-the-multilateral-trade-system-for-green-growth-and-development-south-africa-and-brazil-within-the-wto/	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos South African Institute of International Affairs
27.	Mc Lean, J. 2025. <i>Managing a Just Transition: Reskilling of Affected Communities in Fossil Fuel Intensive Sectors</i> . Working Paper 3. Johannesburg: South African Institute of International Affairs. Available at: https://saiia.org.za/research/managing-a-just-transition-reskilling-of-affected-communities-in-fossil-fuel-intensive-sectors/	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos South African Institute of International Affairs
28.	Sack, H and Pearson, K. 2025. <i>The Role of Climate Financing for Green Growth and Development</i> . Working Paper 4. Johannesburg: South African Institute of International Affairs. Available at: https://saiia.org.za/research/the-role-of-climate-financing-for-green-growth-and-development/	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos South African Institute of International Affairs

NUMBER OF BRICS SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES HOSTED, CO-HOSTED AND FUNDED IN 2025/26

During the 2025/26 financial year, the NIHSS co-hosted and supported nine (9) events, including book launches, webinars, conferences and dialogues. These events reflect the Institute's ongoing commitment to advancing research collaboration and to strengthening its role within the BRICS knowledge ecosystem.

Table 17: BRICS Academic Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences in 2025/26

No.	Academic event and date	Project leader, Institution
1.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera of the BRICS Research Institute based at the Durban University of Technology hosted a book launch, <i>Entrepreneurship in BRICS: Economic Development & Growth in the Post-pandemic World</i> , on 07 April 2025	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera Durban University of Technology
2.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera of the Durban University of Technology hosted a virtual webinar titled: <i>Land Reform: BRICS+ Nations Challenges, Lessons, and Unlocking Its Potential</i> on 08 May 2025.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera Durban University of Technology
3.	Prof Netswera from Durban University of Technology hosted a book launch, <i>Innovation and Development of Agricultural Systems: Cases from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa</i> , on 01 August 2025.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera Durban University of Technology
4.	Prof Netswera from Durban University of Technology hosted a webinar titled: <i>Creative Tourism in BRICS + Countries: Developing A Collaborative Research Agenda</i> on 15 August 2025.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera Durban University of Technology
5.	Prof Netswera of the Durban University of Durban hosted the 4 th BRI International Conference titled: <i>BRICS Multilateralism: Peace & Security, Economic Development & Cultural Exchanges</i> , in India on 26-27 September 2025.	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera Durban University of Technology
6.	Prof Maxi Schoeman's project hosted a conference titled: <i>Africa, the United States, and Geoeconomics of the Seas</i> , at the University of Pretoria on 03-04 November 2025.	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
7.	Prof Nirmala Gopal from the University of KwaZulu-Natal hosted a book launch, <i>Peace, Security and Economy Research Intersections</i> , on 28 November 2025.	Prof Nirmala Gopal University of KwaZulu-Natal
8.	Prof Maxi Schoeman's project hosted a Webinar titled: <i>Knowledge Bridges to Catalyse Connectivity Across the Indian Ocean</i> , on 03 March 2026.	Prof Maxi Schoeman University of Pretoria
9.	Prof Hussein Solomon from the University of Free State and South African BRICS Think Tank co-hosted an African dialogue series titled: <i>BRICS Geopolitics and Climate Change</i> , on 05 March 2026.	SABTT



FLAGSHIP EVENTS:

The South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) Pre-Academic Forum 2025, The 17th BRICS Academic Forum and BTTC meetings

The NIHSS implements the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) agenda and works with other BRICS Think Tanks through the BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC). The BTTC mandate is to provide policy and research support to its respective national governments, and holds its flagship BRICS Academic Forum annually.

SABTT Pre-Academic Forum 2025

South Africa hosts a Pre-Academic Forum, and BTTC meetings on the sidelines of the Academic Forum. Outputs emanating from these fora include, but are not limited to, the following: paper presentations by delegates and commissioned research papers (see Table 17).

Notably, ahead of the 17th BRICS Academic Forum, the South African BRICS Think Tank, under the auspices of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, hosted a Pre-Academic Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 30 May 2025. The event was held to prepare the South African delegation elected to attend the BRICS Academic Forum.

The South African delegation comprised an experienced and competent SABTT team, led by the SABTT Chairperson, Prof Sarah Mosoetsa (CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council). The 17th BRICS Academic Forum's South African Delegation 2025, likewise consisting of an accomplished, diverse, and relevant team of academic leaders and scholars (see Table 18)

South Africa's Participation at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum 2025–Brasília, Brazil

Brazil assumed the BRICS Presidency on 01 January 2025. This BRICS Presidency is unique, as the bloc welcomed a new member, Indonesia, to the BRICS Family. As per Brazil's BRICS calendar, the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), a member of the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC), convened the 2025 BRICS Think Tank Council meetings and the 17th BRICS Academic Forum in Brasília, Brazil, from 25-26 June 2025.

The BRICS Think Tanks Council and the 17th BRICS Academic Forum serve as an important gathering for thought leaders and intellectuals to deliberate on pressing issues facing the international community. The event offered a comprehensive programme encompassing a wide range of topics, including but

not limited to global health cooperation, artificial intelligence governance, trade, investment, finance, climate change, reform of the multilateral peace and security architecture, and institutional development. The diversity of perspectives and the depth of analysis presented during the forum underscored the significance of multilateral cooperation in addressing global challenges.

The event offered an opportunity to engage with leading experts, scholars, and policymakers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia. It also provided a unique platform for exchanging ideas, sharing insights, and contributing to the discourse on global governance, economic development, and geopolitical dynamics. Attending the 17th BRICS Academic Forum by invitation were experts from both member states and partner countries.

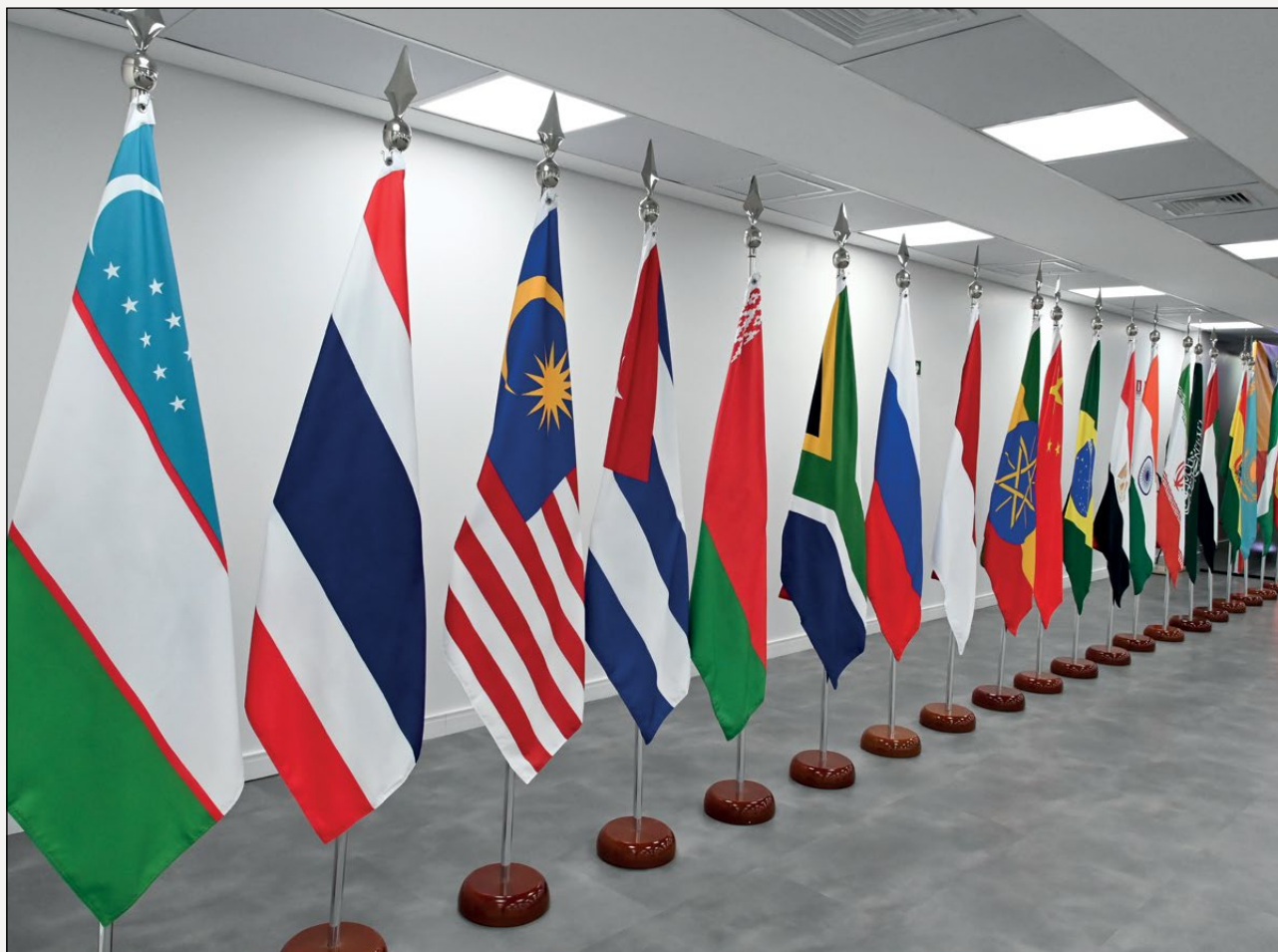
The BRICS Academic Forum provided an opportunity for academic exchange and knowledge sharing, and a platform for scholars and researchers to present their latest findings, discuss ongoing projects, and seek peer feedback. The interdisciplinary nature of the discussions enabled a holistic understanding of complex issues, and the incorporation of diverse methodologies and theoretical frameworks enriched the intellectual discourse.

Deliberations at the BRICS Think Tanks Council and the Academic Forum were not confined to theoretical debates but also extended to the formulation of policy recommendations and to practical implications. The insights generated from the discussions were instrumental in identifying actionable measures to advance inclusive growth, sustainable development, and enhanced cooperation among the BRICS nations. The emphasis on evidence-based policy formulation and the integration of local contexts within the proposed recommendations underscored the commitment to relevance and impact.

Beyond the formal sessions, the event provided ample opportunities for networking and collaboration. The interactions with fellow participants, both during scheduled breaks and in informal gatherings, facilitated the establishment of meaningful connections and the exploration of potential areas for collaboration. The diversity of expertise and the shared commitment to advancing knowledge and understanding created an environment conducive to forging partnerships that are expected to extend beyond the forum.



BRICS Members and Partners' National Flags at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum, held in Brasilia, Brazil



As the forum ended, it became evident that the experiences gained and the connections established during the event will serve as a foundation for future prospects and continued engagement, especially for the newly joined members. The commitment to sustaining the momentum of collaboration and the exchange of ideas was palpable, and the anticipation of furthering the dialogue on shared challenges and opportunities underscored the enduring significance of the BRICS Think Tanks Council and the Academic Forum.

The closed meeting of the BRICS Think Tanks Council and the 17th BRICS Academic Forum, held on 25 June 2025, was an immensely valuable experience that left an indelible impression. The intellectual stimulation, the collegial atmosphere, and the spirit of collaboration have contributed to a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances inherent in the global landscape. One of the key tangible outcomes of the meeting was the approval of a Portfolio of BRICS Cooperation Mechanisms, developed by the BRICS Think Tanks Council

(BTTC) under IPEA's leadership. The document presents an unprecedented mapping of one hundred and eighty (180) cooperation mechanisms established by member countries since the bloc's founding. The initiative aims to strengthen multilateral governance and the bloc's collective action, particularly following its recent expansion. It synthesises key information on meetings, mandates, and outcomes of thematic forums, such as agriculture, finance, culture, youth, and security, to enhance the bloc's institutional cohesion and effectiveness.

The South African Delegation Session Presentations

Presenter: Prof Sarah Mosoetsa

Plenary session: *The legacy of the Fortaleza Summit*

In her opening address at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum, Professor Sarah Mosoetsa, CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council and Chair of the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT), delivered a powerful call to action for the bloc's future.

**Table 18: The South African delegation's topics 17th BRICS Academic Forum 2025**

No.	Session Topic	Speaker Representing South Africa
1.	Global Health Cooperation	Prof Sizulu Moyo
2.	Artificial Intelligence Governance	Prof Rendani Mamphiswana
3.	Trade, Investment, Finance	Prof Ronney Ncwadi
4.	Climate Change	Dr Nqobile Xaba
5.	Reform of the Multilateral Peace and Security Architecture	Prof Nirmala Gopal
6.	Institutional Development	Prof Fulufhelo Netswera

She advocated for the institutionalisation of BRICS through a permanent secretariat, calling for structured, strategic, and sustained cooperation across academic and policy domains. "We must move beyond project-based support to sustained financing for research as a public good," she stated.

Prof Mosoetsa also expressed solidarity with Iran, acknowledging the Islamic Republic's absence and reaffirming the commitment to strengthening scholarly, diplomatic, and developmental ties. Prof Mosoetsa emphasised the role of the 2014 Brazilian Fortaleza BRICS summit in reshaping global governance and financial institutions. This led to the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB) and subsequent initiatives, which underscored the BRICS's "commitment to equity, multi-polarity, and the principles of South to South cooperation". Prof Mosoetsa urged the BRICS to carry this legacy forward.

Prof Mosoetsa underscored the need to centre knowledge and innovation in addressing global challenges, highlighting public health, data justice, climate resilience, and democratic governance as priority research areas. Her remarks reflected a deep commitment to equity, South-South cooperation, and inclusive development, concluding with optimism: "The best years are ahead of us, BRICS family."

Presenter: Prof Sizulu Moyo

Session 1: Global Health Cooperation

Professor Sizulu Moyo, Senior Research Director at the Human Sciences Research Council, contributed to the opening panel on Global Health Cooperation at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum, alongside experts from China, India and Brazil.

In her presentation titled *Advancing Global Health Equity: The Pivotal Role of BRICS Countries*, Prof Moyo highlighted urgent health

challenges, including Tuberculosis (TB), Mpox, and inequitable access to vaccines across the Global South. The presentation defined global health equity as "every single person within the collective BRICS countries and our neighbouring countries and regions having access to their full potential for their full health". Prof Moyo reiterated the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) definition of health as "complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity", which requires a holistic approach. Prof Moyo further outlined four evidence-based recommendations on how the BRICS could advance global health equity.

The first recommendation focused on reforming global health financing, shifting the source of funding from the Global North to the BRICS countries, and establishing a BRICS health fund with three focus areas: a BRICS vaccine and a research centre, a research network on health issues, and an emphasis on neglected conditions in the Global South. Secondly, Prof Moyo recommended addressing current gaps in research on inequity within global health norms and standards to ensure these norms and standards are grounded in equity. Thirdly, Prof Moyo advocated for reform of the Intellectual Property (IP) regime, and fourthly, she recommended championing health across all policies, thereby promoting multi-sector collaboration that breaks down siloed approaches to health, underscoring that health exists not in isolation but in people's everyday lives.

Thus, Prof Moyo drew on data from the latest WHO Global Tuberculosis Report and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to call for stronger BRICS investment in disease surveillance systems, regional genomic sequencing networks, and support for the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre. Her contribution reinforced the importance of solidarity, locally driven health innovation, and multi-sectoral partnerships in achieving global health equity.



Prof Sizulu Moyo presenting at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum Session 1: Global Health Cooperation

Presenter: Prof Rendani Mamphiswana
Session 2: Artificial Intelligence Governance

Professor Rendani Mamphiswana from iCatalysis Hub and the University of Johannesburg participated in the session on AI Governance, offering strategic insights into how BRICS countries can advance shared, ethical, and inclusive approaches to artificial intelligence.

Regarding South Africa, Prof Mamphiswana observed, based on evidence on “digital infrastructure, data access and capacity and capability for artificial intelligence”, points of convergence with other core BRICS countries in a focus on fairness, inclusion, and shared ethical concerns. Key points of divergence include South Africa’s national AI strategy, which is ethics-driven but faces limited investment and lacks a unified approach. South Africa’s national priorities, as stated by Prof Mamphiswana, aim to promote the social good, achieve digital equity, and uphold public-sector ethics. Governance and regulatory gaps in South Africa, Prof Mamphiswana noted, are at the draft-policy stage and are characterised by limited funding and regulatory immaturity.

Prof Mamphiswana proposed four evidence-based recommendations. The first was to harmonise the uneven and fragmented Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance across the BRICS countries. Secondly, to invest in addressing disparities among the BRICS countries in digital infrastructure, data access, and AI capacity. The third was to promote shared participation in AI development. Lastly, to ensure the shared benefits of Artificial Intelligence, including those for data contributors.

Furthermore, Prof Mamphiswana focused on the following areas: the case for contextualised cooperation to bridge current gaps; bridging the Artificial Intelligence capacity divide within the BRICS; continued joint research and development programmes to increase Artificial Intelligence capabilities across the BRICS; and advancing the BRICS Artificial Intelligence ethics through regional norms.

Prof Mamphiswana’s intervention highlighted the need for harmonised governance frameworks, equitable access to AI infrastructure, and regional cooperation on ethics and data sovereignty. His call to action: for the BRICS to invest in bridging the AI capacity divide and ensure that the benefits of AI reach all citizens, including those who contribute their data.



Prof Rendani Mamphiswana presenting at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum Session 2: Artificial Intelligence Governance

Presenter: Prof Ronney Ncwadi
Session 3: Trade, Investment & Finance

Prof Ronney Ncwadi of Nelson Mandela University delivered a compelling presentation titled *Rethinking Trade, SMEs, Green Economy and Transborder Payments in BRICS*. He began by emphasising the importance of trade and investment flows in supporting economic growth. He noted that these flows should prioritise the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), especially given “the low labour absorption capacity in many countries” and youth unemployment.

Prof Ncwadi cited statistics supporting that “SMEs make up over 90% of businesses in the BRICS countries but face structural barriers to accessing regional and global markets.” Furthermore, in South Africa, SMEs constitute 93% of registered businesses. He also highlighted the challenges SMEs face, including limited access to cross-border finance and digital trade platforms, fragmented regulatory environments, and high transaction costs for payments and compliance. He noted that the global shift towards de-dollarisation and regional payment systems presents an opportunity for the BRICS to enhance financial sovereignty and facilitate more inclusive trade and investment flows.

Prof Ncwadi outlined five recommendations for addressing these challenges and embracing opportunities. First, he suggested empowering the BRICS SMEs for the future; second, improving cross-border payments; and third, promoting sustainable trade and supply chain resilience. His fourth recommendation was to collaborate on critical mineral exploration, processing, and green technology, and to diversify critical mineral supply chains within the BRICS. Fifth, the BRICS should resist green protectionism to ensure fair access to resources and build a more resilient and equitable global trading system.

He furthermore highlighted the urgent need to diversify BRICS mineral supply chains, reduce reliance on the US dollar in intra-BRICS trade, and empower SMEs through digital inclusion and access to finance. Drawing on South African examples such as Coega Special Economic Zones (SEZ), he underscored how strategic investment and policy alignment can unlock inclusive economic resilience. Prof Ncwadi called for the establishment of a BRICS cross-border payment system and a unified approach to tackling non-tariff barriers (NTBs), crucial for empowering small businesses and advancing South–South trade cooperation.



Prof Ronney Ncwadi presenting at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum Session 3: Trade, Investment & Finance

Presenter: Dr Nqobile Xaba

Session 4: Climate Change

Dr Nqobile Xaba of the University of Johannesburg represented South Africa on the Climate Change panel at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum, alongside specialists and experts from Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, and Russia. Her presentation was titled *A Just Transition to Climate-Resilient Economies and Society*.

In the context of global emissions and the climate crisis, Dr Xaba shared statistics on carbon emissions from the energy sector, which reached a new record in 2024. This occurred despite current pledges, policies, and actions that seem off track and unable to prevent the worst-case outcomes, due to the growing implementation gap. The statistics highlighted regional trends in carbon emissions. Dr Xaba noted, with supporting evidence, that despite rising emissions, clean energy technologies are making a difference. She urged that “it is important that we centre the energy transition that is underway globally to embrace the concept of just transition”.

Furthermore, Dr Xaba emphasised the BRICS perspective on a just energy transition, including a focus on placing human development at the centre of decision-making, particularly concerning the Global South. She highlighted the challenge of

decoupling emissions from economic growth and suggested it is critical to scale up green technologies. This embraces justice to ensure a fair distribution of costs, benefits, and risks among stakeholders; an equity-based transition that should be intentionally designed to provide equal opportunities and benefits for all individuals and communities; inclusiveness involving diverse stakeholders and perspectives in decision-making processes; and sustainability across the three dimensions of sustainable development—social, economic, and environmental.

Within the context of global emissions and the climate crisis, Dr Xaba made recommendations across three areas. First, from a BRICS Global South perspective on a just energy transition. Secondly, on the financial architecture and development sovereignty. Thirdly, on innovation and a BRICS-led technology pathway.

Dr Xaba underscored the urgent need for the BRICS nations to reform global climate finance, unlock innovation ecosystems, and ensure that developing countries are not left behind in the green transition. She proposed deepening BRICS cooperation through the New Development Bank to fund ecological transitions, expand local-currency financing, and support the co-creation of climate technologies tailored to the Global South.



Dr Nqobile Xaba presenting at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum Session 4: Climate Change

Presenter: Prof Nirmala Gopal

Session 5: Reform of the Multilateral Peace and Security Architecture

Professor Nirmala Gopal of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and leader at UKZN's BRICS Research Institute represented South Africa in the fifth panel at the 17th BRICS Academic Forum. Her presentation, was titled, *A Shared Digital Vulnerability: The Case for Collective Cybersecurity Among BRICS Nations*. Experts from diverse institutions, governments, and foundations in the core BRICS countries and Ethiopia accompanied Prof Gopal on the panel.

Prof Gopal noted a shift in the discourse on peace and security, as well as the emergence of the BRICS countries' dialogue on this topic. Her presentation shifted the discourse further as she focused on how the digital landscape can effectively and transformatively facilitate peace and security dialogue.

The key question that Prof Gopal raised, influenced by the digital sphere, was "how do we conceptualise and secure peace where digital vulnerabilities can and have destabilised nations, economies, and entire regions?" She therefore focused on how the BRICS countries could foster digital peace, emphasising cybersecurity and multilateral reform. She highlighted the shared digital vulnerabilities by, on the one hand, exposing

the cyber threats and dependencies of the BRICS and, on the other, the global ethical norms that underpin the principles of responsible digital conduct. Prof Gopal noted that connecting these two ideas is secure digital cooperation.

Prof Gopal reiterated that African solutions are needed for African problems. She illustrated cybersecurity in African peacekeeping as comprising three components: operational integrity, which safeguards the mission's core functions; enhanced credibility, which fosters trust; and mission effectiveness and data protection, which secure civilian information. Prof Gopal raised numerous questions, including how the BRICS nations can provide the support needed regarding unequal digital infrastructure.

Prof Gopal warned of the escalating threat posed by uneven cybersecurity landscapes across the bloc. She underscored how a single breach in one BRICS nation can trigger cascading effects across interconnected digital and economic systems. She called for the development of a multilateral BRICS cybersecurity framework grounded in collaborative resilience, respect for sovereignty, and the protection of shared infrastructure. Prof Gopal's intervention positioned cybersecurity not only as a technological issue but as a critical pillar of global peace and democratic stability.



Presenter: Prof Fulufhelo Netswera

Session 6: Session Institutional Development

Professor Fulufhelo Netswera of the Durban University of Technology and leader of the DUT's BRICS Research Institute delivered a keynote on the evolving architecture of BRICS cooperation, grounded in a comparative institutional analysis of global multilateral bodies. Other panellists were experts from Brazil, China, Ethiopia and India.

Prof Netswera began by emphasising the critical importance of institutionalisation for the BRICS. His presentation traced the bloc's development through four key phases, from financial reform and institution-building to innovation and adaptive resilience, and highlighted the need for a coherent, legally anchored institutional framework to enhance the BRICS' sustainability, impact, and institutional memory. He then examined the BRICS institutional themes and evolution matrix from 2009 to 2024, as well as an in-depth analysis of the New Development Bank's timeline, members, and shareholdings.

Prof Netswera finalised his analysis by comparing the institutional profiles of multilateral organisations, including the United Nations, the European Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the BRICS. He assessed whether they had a permanent secretariat, monitoring mechanisms, research and education infrastructure, and security coordination, with the only negative response being for the BRICS.

His analysis on the topic resulted in recommendations covering five dimensions of institutionalisation:

- Secretariat and Bureaucracy—A permanent Secretariat that does not undermine the sovereignty of member states.
- Monitoring Mechanisms—There is a need for robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms. When the BRICS makes recommendations, it must track their implementation and progress.
- Research and Academic Infrastructure—Institutional support for knowledge generation. Better documentation is required to address the current lack of a comprehensive archive of its meetings, systems and processes.
- Security Coordination—Formal structures for strategic dialogue and conflict resolution.
- Economic Governance—Instruments for macroeconomic alignment and financial cooperation.

Prof Netswera called for the establishment of a permanent BRICS Secretariat, robust monitoring mechanisms, and greater investment in research infrastructure to support knowledge production and policy alignment.

Presenter: Prof Sarah Mosoetsa

Closing Session: Launch of the Portfolio of BRICS cooperation mechanisms preliminary report

Professor Sarah Mosoetsa, CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council and Chair of the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT), delivered closing reflections on South Africa's engagement and the Forum's broader impact.

Prof Mosoetsa commended the richness of the dialogues and the shared commitment among the BRICS partners to deepen collaboration across disciplines, institutions, and regions. She emphasised the critical role of think tanks in shaping responsive, evidence-based policy, and advancing knowledge solidarity across the Global South.

She further saluted the Brazilian organising team, led by the Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea), for the successful coordination and delivery of the 17th BRICS Academic Forum, remarking on the forum's strategic relevance and its contribution to strengthening South-to-South intellectual cooperation.

Prof Mosoetsa's remarks underscored the importance of sustaining momentum beyond the Forum by translating shared insights into long-term cooperation, joint research, and a strengthened intellectual infrastructure within the BRICS bloc.

The closing session also marked the launch of the Preliminary Report on the Portfolio of BRICS Cooperation Mechanisms, a foundational milestone in documenting and aligning BRICS-wide engagements.

C

SECTION

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION





NIHSS staff members pose for a group photograph with the newly appointed CEO, the Board Chairperson, and Board Members during a meet-and-greet session, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the organisation.



The 2025/26 financial year commenced under improving, yet still transitional, governance conditions following a period of instability in the preceding year. The Institute achieved a key milestone with the appointment of the Board in October 2025, restoring critical oversight and strategic direction. This enabled the organisation to undertake key executive recruitment processes, resulting in the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Company Secretary. The Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary assumed their duties on 01 April 2026, while the Chief Financial Officer commenced on 01 May 2026.

Despite this progress, the Institute continued to experience leadership transitions during the latter part of the financial year. In March 2026, the Acting Director, Acting Chief Financial Officer and Senior Officer: Communications and Marketing tendered their resignations. None of the three resignations affected the staff count for this reporting period, as they were on the payroll until the last date of the financial year. These developments created short-term capacity constraints in critical leadership and operational roles; however, they were managed to ensure operational continuity and stability.

Notwithstanding ongoing transitions, the NIHSS employees continued to demonstrate exceptional professionalism, resilience, and adaptability. Their sustained commitment ensured uninterrupted support for NIHSS doctoral candidates, research partners, and stakeholders in alignment with the adjusted Annual Performance Plan (APP). Day-to-day operations and key strategic initiatives were executed effectively, maintaining the high-performance culture that underpins the Institute's mandate.

The resilience demonstrated across all levels of the organisation has been instrumental in preserving operational stability during a period marked by both transition and renewal. With a fully constituted Board and new executive leadership, the Institute is well-positioned to strengthen governance, enhance operational effectiveness, and advance the mission of the NIHSS in the forthcoming financial year.

As at 31 March 2026, the NIHSS staff complement stood at 27 employees.



STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In total, the Institute invested R646 340 in staff training and development in 2025/26, equating to 2.89% of Employee total expenditure. This was higher than the previous year's training expenditure of R374 555, which amounted to 1.73% of total expenditure.

Within a constrained fiscal environment, the Institute maintained prudent financial management while adopting a more enabling approach to employee development. Unlike the previous financial year, staff training and development were not restricted, and employees were afforded the opportunity to

apply for study bursaries without limitation. This shift reflects the Institute's commitment to strengthening internal capacity and supporting continuous learning.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

We continued to strengthen our general compliance with health and safety during the year under review. As a result, the NIHSS once again received a letter of good standing from the Department of Labour, acknowledging full compliance with the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act No 130 of 1993 (COIDA).

HR OVERSIGHT STATISTICS

Table 19: 2025/26 personnel cost per salary band

Level	Personal expenditure	Personnel expenditure as % of personnel cost	Number of employees	Average cost per employee
Top management	3 325 549	15%	2	1 662 775
Senior management	3 609 665	16%	3	1 203 222
Professionally qualified	8 530 298	38%	9	947 811
Skilled technical and academically qualified	3 073 338	14%	5	614 668
Semi-skilled	3 404 791	15%	6	567 465
Unskilled	427 965	2%	2	213 983
Total	22 371 607	100%	*27	

* This number includes staff members who have left the organisation but were paid during their tenure.

Table 20: 2025/26 staff training expenditure

Programme	Total expenditure	Staff training Expenditure	Total employee expenditure	Number of employees	Average cost per employee
Staff training	22 371 607	646 340	2.89%	27	23 939

Table 21: Employment and vacancies as at 31 March 2026

Level	2025/26 approved posts	2025/26 number of employees	2025/26 Vacancies	% of vacancies
Top management	2	2	0	0%
Senior management	6	3	3	50%
Professionally qualified	9	9	0	0%
Skilled	12	5	7	58%
Semi-skilled	8	6	2	25%
Unskilled	3	2	1	33%
Total	40	27	13	32,5%

**Table 22: Employment and vacancies as at 31 March 2026**

Level	Employment at 31 March 2025	Appointments (internal movements)	Terminations	Employment at 31 March 2026
Top management	2	0	0	2
Senior management	3	0	0	3
Professionally qualified	9	0	0	9
Skilled	5	0	0	5
Semi-skilled	6	0	0	6
Unskilled	2	0	0	2
Total	27	0	0	27

Table 23: Reasons for employee turnover for the 2025/26 financial year

Reasons	Employment at 31 March 2026
Dismissals	0
Contract non-renewal	0
*Resignations	0
Separation agreement	0
Total	0

**Three employees resigned in the month of March 2026, which is the last month of the quarter, therefore, they were still on payroll till the last day of the financial year.*

Table 24: Labour relations: Misconduct and disciplinary action

Nature of disciplinary action	Number
Verbal warning	0
Written warning	0
Final written warning	0
Dismissals	0
Total	0

**EQUITY TARGETS AND EMPLOYMENT EQUITY STATUS**

There was no change in the proportion of women to men among the Institute's employees. Women remained at 66.67% of the staff in 2025/26, as they were in 2024/25 (Figure 2).

In terms of employee race profile 26 (92.86%) staff members were African; one (3.57%) was white, and one (3.57%) was Coloured (Figure 3).

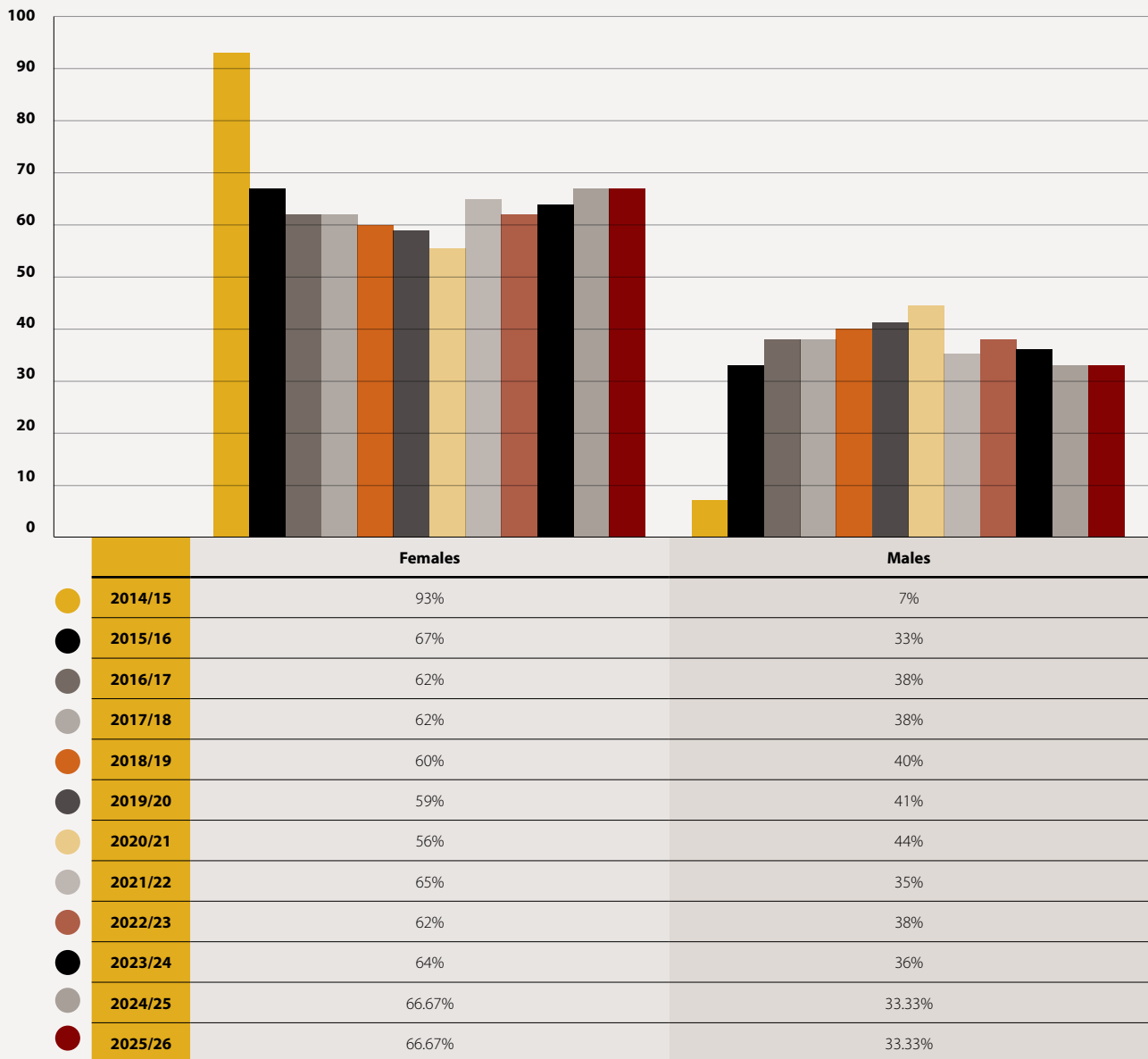
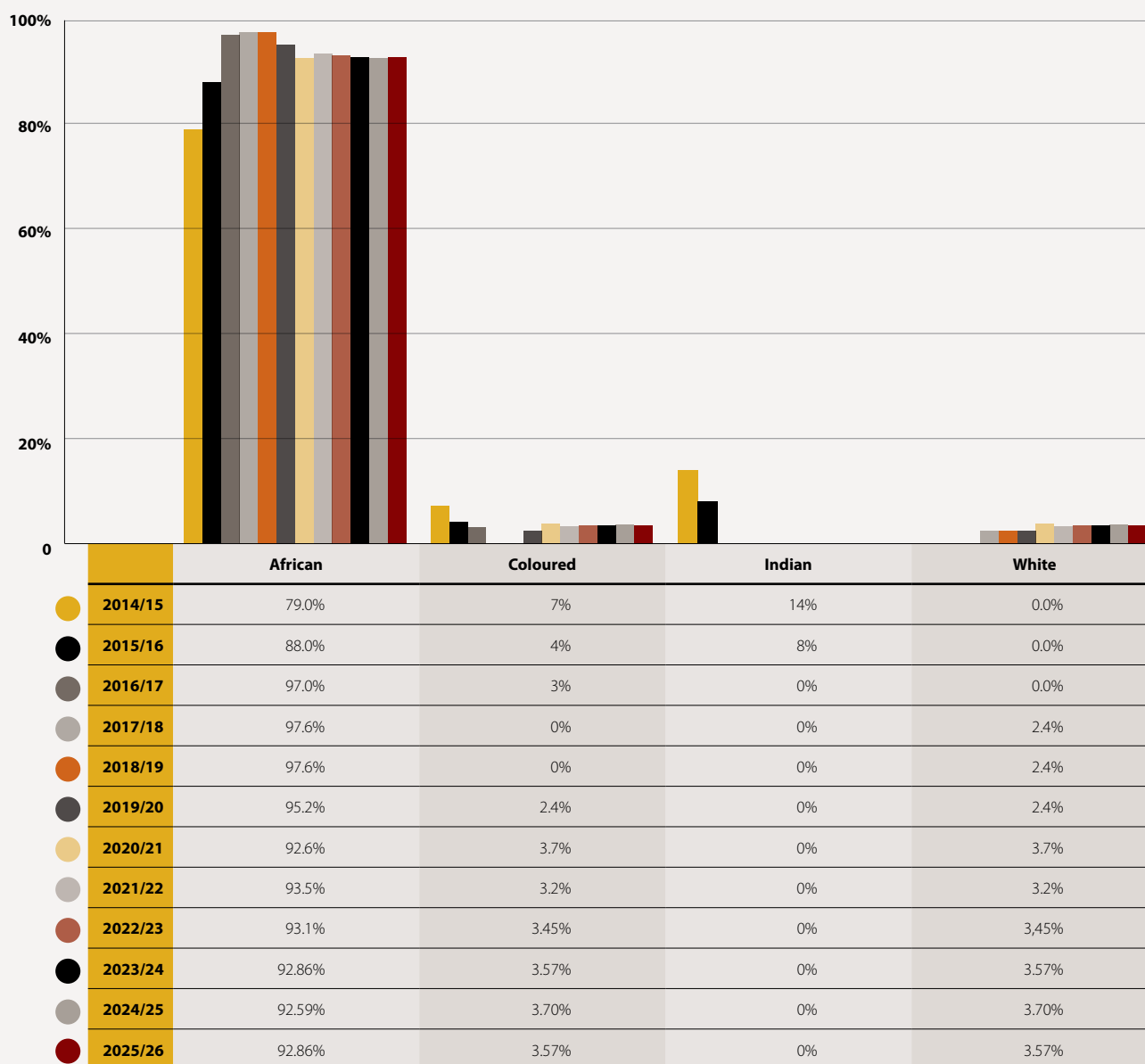
Figure 2: Gender profile of NIHSS employees (2014/15-2025/26)



Figure 3: Race profile of NIHSS employees (2014/15 – 2025/26)



CONCLUSION

As an Institute that serves and pursues its mandate in collaboration with the higher education sector in South Africa and beyond, the NIHSS strives to build and maintain an organisational culture that is responsive to the needs of stakeholders, including employees, while also embodying

accountability and responsibility and an appreciation of high ethical standards. These qualities are not always easy to measure, but feedback from stakeholders indicates that the Institute is, for the most part, succeeding in cultivating the desired organisational culture.

SECTION D

NIHSS GOVERNANCE





Minister of Higher Education and Training Honourable Buti Manamela meets the newly appointed NIHSS Board members.



The Board of the NIHSS fully subscribes to the principles of corporate governance and regards them as fundamental to the Institute's business success and sustainability.

The Board has therefore adopted the Board Charter, the provisions of which are subject to all statutory and regulatory requirements, including the Institute's Governance Policy. The purpose of the Board Charter is to regulate the parameters within which the Board operates and to ensure the application of the principles of good corporate governance in all dealings on the Institute's behalf. The Board Charter sets out the Board's roles and responsibilities, including the Board's composition and the relevant procedures to which the Board subscribes.

Effective governance is a function of effective leadership, strong internal controls, and the provision of adequate assurance over the efficacy and reliability of these controls. The Board of the Institute was appointed in September 2025 and serves a four-year term of office.

NIHSS BOARD AS GOVERNING BODY

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the NIHSS and is ultimately accountable for the Institute's performance, strategic direction, and long-term sustainability. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Board applies an integrated thinking approach consistent with King IV as well as the movement towards implementation of King V, ensuring that decisions consider the interdependence of the key operational elements, namely, governance, finance, intellectual capital, human capital, and stakeholder relations. The Board prides itself on providing ethical leadership and exercises independent judgement in directing the Institute's affairs within a framework of prudent and effective controls.

The Board's responsibilities include approving the five-year Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan, as well as all policies and frameworks, and monitoring their compliance and execution.



The current Board comprises the Chairperson and nine (9) ordinary members with voting rights. The establishing regulations require that at least three (3) members be appointed from the academic and management staff of public higher education institutions (the names of Board members are listed in table 25). In addition, the regulations governing the NIHSS allow the Board to co-opt up to four non-voting experts in relevant fields when the Board deems it necessary. During the period under review, the Board did not co-opt any members.

The Board approves strategy, policies, and budgets. It oversees risk management and assurance processes and ensures compliance with the relevant laws and regulations, in line with King IV (and now King V). Responsible stewardship and long-term organisational resilience are at the forefront of the Board's priorities. The Board delegates certain responsibilities to its established Committees while retaining overall accountability for their outcomes.

The Board is supported by a diverse mix of independent, skilled Non-Executive Directors and Executive Directors, namely, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

REMUNERATION OF THE BOARD

During the period under review, Board members were remunerated and reimbursed for expenses incurred while executing NIHSS-related activities. Board remuneration was effected in accordance with National Treasury Directives, as issued and revised from time to time by the National Treasury. For the disclosure of Board fees and other related expenses, please refer to Note 23 of the Annual Financial Statements.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

During the period under review, the NIHSS Board met four (4) times to provide leadership and oversight in the governance of the Institute, including the following:

- Review of the NIHSS Strategy, Annual Performance Plan and Budget for 2025/26;
- Monitoring of the implementation of the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan by reviewing the Institute's quarterly reports; and
- Review of policies and governance frameworks.

The meeting attendance record of each member is shown in Table 25.

Table 25: Attendance of Board meetings in 2025/26

Name and Position	No. of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Board members		
Chairperson: Prof Mogomme Masoga	4	4
Prof Nirmala Gopal	4	4
Dr Xolani Khohliso	4	4
Prof Siphamandla Zondi	4	4
Ms Zandile Matshaya	4	2
Ms Brenda Ntombela	4	4
Prof Nompumelelo Zondi	4	3
Prof Andre Keet	4	2
Dr Annastasia Moloto	4	4
Prof Samuel Koma	4	4
Ex-officio members		
Ms Auriel Niemack: Acting Director	4	4
Mr Tshiamo Molapisi: Acting CFO	4	4

BOARD COMMITTEES

Six governance committees were in place over the latter portion of the 2025/26 financial year to assist the Board in carrying out its duties. These are the Executive Committee, Audit and Risk Committee, Finance Committee, Human Resource Committee, Academic and International Advisory Committee and the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Governance Committee:

Executive Committee

This committee comprises the Chairperson of the Board and the chairpersons of the five (5) Board committees. Its role is to assist the Board in fulfilling oversight responsibilities relating to governance and other strategic matters, including reviews of quarterly performance and the adequacy and effectiveness of the Board's governance structures. The committee met once during the year under review. All strategic matters were referred to, deliberated on, and ratified by the collective Board.

Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

The ARC serves as a critical governance mechanism, combining financial oversight, audit supervision, risk management and compliance monitoring to protect the Institute's integrity, enhance transparency and support strategic decision-



making. The effectiveness of the Committee depends on the independence and expertise of committee members.

The Committee considers and reports on matters relating to financial reporting, the integrity of external reports, combined assurance and audit. The Committee provides oversight through:

- Overseeing and evaluating the Institute's internal control environment and internal financial controls;
- Monitoring the effectiveness and independence of both internal and external audit;
- Identifying and quantifying the various risks facing the organisation;
- Setting the direction for risk governance and ensuring risk management is embedded in business activities;
- Initiating appropriate risk management methodologies to mitigate these risks; and
- Reviewing management's risk processes and outcomes, reporting findings and making appropriate and acceptable recommendations to the Board.

The role of this committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to financial reporting, audit processes, risk management, and the system of internal controls. The Committee also ensures the Institute's compliance with applicable legislative and governance frameworks. The committee is chaired by an independent member.

Two (2) ARC meetings were held during 2025/26.

Table 26: Attendance of Audit and Risk Committee meetings in 2025/26

Name and Position	No. of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Acting Chairperson: Ms Zandile Matshaya	2	2
Members	2	2
Prof Nirmala Gopal	2	2
Prof Siphamandla Zondi	2	2
Prof Nompumelelo Zondi	2	2
Dr Xolani Khohliso	2	2
Dr Fanelesibonge Mabaso	2	1

Finance Committee (FINCO)

The Finance Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to sound financial management and supply chain management processes, including financial investments and infrastructure management (acquisition and maintenance). The committee met two (2) times during the year.

Table 27: Attendance of Finance Committee meetings in 2025/26

Name and Position	No. of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Chairperson: Ms Zandile Matshaya	2	2
Members		
Prof Samuel Koma	2	2
Dr Annastasia Moloto	2	2
Ex-officio members		
Mr Tshiamo Molapisi: Acting CFO	2	2
Mr Sipiwe Zondi	2	2

Human Resource Committee (HRC)

The Human Resource Committee ensures the effective governance and management of human resources within the Institute. The Committee oversees Human Resource policies, executive compensation, talent management, and maintains overall oversight over the Human Resource space. The Committee helps to ensure that the organisation attracts, retains, and develops the talent required to achieve its strategic objectives.

The Human Resource Committee initiates and oversees periodic Board and Committee evaluations, advising on effectiveness, skills gaps, diversity, independence and governance improvements. The Committee also sets the direction for fair, responsible and transparent remuneration, ensuring alignment with performance, organisational strategy and sustainability. The Committee further oversees remuneration policy implementation, including benchmarking, incentive frameworks, and leadership performance evaluation. Finally, the Human Resource Committee provides oversight of human resources policies, workforce planning, diversity, employee development and organisational culture.

The Human Resource Committee convened 2 meetings over the 2025/26 financial year.

**Table 28: Attendance of Human Resource Committee meetings in 2025/26**

Name and Position	No. of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Chairperson: Dr Xolani Khohliso	2	2
Members		
Ms Zandile Matshaya	2	2
Ms Brenda Ntombela	2	2
Prof Samuel Koma	2	1
Prof Andre Keet	2	2
Ex-officio members		
Mr Petros Mashaba	2	2

Academic and International Advisory Committee (A&IAC)

The primary function of the Academic and International Advisory Committee is to advise the Board on matters related to the intellectual trajectories of the Doctoral Schools and Scholarships Programme, Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs and the African Pathways Programme. It also reviews the thematic and policy guidelines for all calls for proposals.

The Committee plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and quality of research-based studies within the humanities and social sciences (HSS). The Committee oversees grant management, academic standards within the HSS research areas, and supervisor and mentor support.

Overall, the Academic and International Advisory Committee provides oversight of all the international work of the Institute, including international collaborations and partnerships, as well as the Institute's extended mandate related to the BRICS as its Think-Tank. This committee held three (3) meetings during the 2025/26 financial year.

Table 29: Attendance of Academic and International Advisory Committee meetings in 2025/26

Name and Position	No. of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Chairperson: Prof Siphamandla Zondi	3	2
Members		
Prof Andre Keet	3	2
Prof Nompumelelo Zondi	3	2
Prof Nirmala Gopal	3	3
Prof Samuel Koma	3	3
Ex-officio members		
Ms Auriel Niemack: Acting Director	3	3

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Committee

The ICT Governance Committee oversee the development and implementation of CGICT (Corporate Governance of ICT) by providing strategic direction; recommending plans, policies, resource requirements, project portfolios, and risk management; monitoring compliance, performance, and assurance; reviewing the health of the ICT environment; and ensuring effective change management and reporting to the Board.

Table 30: Attendance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Governance Committee meetings in 2025/26

Name and Position	No. of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Chairperson: Prof Nirmala Gopal	3	3
Members		
Dr Annastasia Moloto	3	3
Ms Brenda Ntombela	3	3
Mr Fanelesibonge Mabaso	3	1
Ex-officio members		
Dr Kambale Muhongya	3	3
Mr Tshiamo Molapisi (Ex Officio)	3	2

NIHSS Secretariat

The NIHSS Secretariat ensured that all Board structures were functional, effective and adequately capacitated. Meetings were minuted, and attendance and disclosure registers were kept up to date. The Secretariat ensured that key governance frameworks were developed and/or reviewed, such as the Board Charter,



and the Terms of Reference, and that Board remuneration was effected in accordance with National Treasury Directives.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT

The NIHSS assessment is conducted in alignment with the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Framework and the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (IIA Standards). A structured, risk-based approach is followed, incorporating meetings with management and review of existing internal controls.

The review process included conducting a comprehensive risk assessment, encompassing the review, consolidation and updating of the NIHSS risk register, the updating of the risk matrix, as well as the review of risk reporting practices.

The risk review process entailed: Reviewing the strategic objectives of the NIHSS and linking them to the identified risks to ensure alignment between the risk register and the organisation's strategic direction.

The outcome of the risk review resulted in:

- Updated Controls: Existing controls across all assessed departments were reviewed and revised to reflect current operating practices, policy changes, and management's interventions.
- Reviewed Ratings: The likelihood and impact ratings were reassessed through structured workshops and meetings, which resulted in revised inherent and residual risk scores that more accurately reflect the Institute's current risk profile.
- Recommendations: Based on the assessment, targeted recommendations were developed to enhance the NIHSS's risk management framework and reduce residual risk exposure.

The Risk Management Framework is reviewed annually.

Internal Controls

The NIHSS categorises internal controls into two components: basic internal controls and the training of employees on internal controls in the execution of their day-to-day activities. Basic internal controls are further categorised into prevention controls, detection controls and segregation of duties.

The internal auditors assume responsibility for assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of key controls.

The internal audit function is aimed at aiding in the assessment of significant organisational risks and the review of the adequacy of internal control systems. It further provides the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board with assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of internal financial controls and systems.

Internal audit operates in terms of a formal mandate, in full conformance with the International Professional Practices Framework for Internal Audit (Standards) and leading risk-based and integrated methodologies.

As in previous years, the internal audit function at the NIHSS was outsourced to an independent firm, Outsourced Risk and Compliance Assessment (ORCA). ORCA's mandate is supported by unrestricted access to the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board.

The independent audit firm has the following responsibilities, among others:

- Implement the third year of the Annual Internal Audit Plan (part of the three-year Coverage Plan approved by the Audit and Risk Committee during the 2025/26 financial year). This includes any special tasks or projects, as appropriate, requested by the Audit and Risk Committee and executive management;
- Provide a professional internal audit capability with sufficient knowledge, skills and experience to meet the requirements of the NIHSS;
- Keep the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board informed of emerging trends and successful practices in internal auditing; and
- In the event of suspected significant fraudulent activities within the organisation, assist in the investigation of such activities and notify management and the Audit and Risk Committee of the findings.

During the 2025/26 financial year, internal audit activities included a review of performance information and core functions, following up on external and internal audit findings, Annual Financial Statements and Performance Report, Information, Communication, and Technology.

The evidence obtained from the audits performed for the 2025/26 financial year indicated that the processes and related system of internal controls require improvements in the areas reviewed (see list below). Improvements are necessary to provide reasonable assurance that the NIHSS's goals and



objectives in these areas will be achieved efficiently and effectively.

The results of these audit activities have been discussed with management and the Audit and Risk Committee and appropriate action plans developed to mitigate the risks.

The following internal audit activities were conducted in 2025/26:

- A review of performance information and core functions
- Annual Financial Statements and Performance Report
- Information, Communication, and Technology
- Following up on external and internal audit findings

The results of these audit activities have been discussed with management and the Audit and Risk Committee, and appropriate action plans have been developed to mitigate the risks.

External Audit

The Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) is the external auditor, responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the NIHSS annual financial statements and performance information.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

The Board has established governance structures and frameworks to assist the Institute's compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, as well as corporate governance best practices. To the extent possible, the NIHSS complied with applicable laws and regulatory frameworks during the period under review. Where instances of non-compliance were detected and/or observed, corrective measures were implemented.

Fraud and Corruption

The NIHSS is committed to ethical behaviour and to the prevention, detection and reporting of fraud in terms of a zero-tolerance approach. As such, the Institute implements the Fraud Prevention Plan, which the Board developed and approved on 30 March 2017. The plan applies to any fraud or suspected fraud involving Board members, employees, consultants, vendors, contractors, outside agencies, and any other parties in a business relationship with the Institute.

The Fraud Prevention Plan highlights the roles and responsibilities of the Board and different categories of staff members in preventing fraud. It also provides internal mechanisms for the detection and reporting of fraudulent activities through the relevant governance structures and

regulatory bodies. Details of the reported fraud cases in the previous financial years are contained in Note 24 of the Annual Financial Statements.

Minimising Conflict of Interest

The following processes have been implemented to reduce conflicts of interest that may arise within the SCM portfolio:

- All employees joining the NIHSS are inducted on the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct and the Institute's values of Ubuntu, teamwork, excellence, accountability, integrity, creativity and respect;
- All suppliers conducting business with the NIHSS must sign a declaration of interest form (SBD04 form), whereby they declare any conflict of interest they might have in the procurement process concerned; and
- All SCM officials and staff members involved in bid specification, evaluation and adjudication are required to sign a declaration of interest form for all tenders undertaken by the Institute.

During the period under review, no instances of conflict of interest were declared. Should any cases be declared in the future, the individual will not participate in the relevant procurement process.

NIHSS BOARD STATEMENT ON GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE FOR THE 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR:

The ARC, the HRC, the A&IAC, the FINCO and the ICT Governance Committee are satisfied that they effectively discharged their respective statutory and governance responsibilities in line with their mandated Terms of Reference, the Companies Act, and King IV (and now King V). Internal controls were effective in maintaining the integrity of the Institute's operations. The Board appointed Internal auditors (SAB&T) to assist the Board in identifying any control deficiencies and to assist the Institute in improving its Risk Management processes. No material weaknesses were identified. Corrective actions were taken promptly where minor deficiencies arose. The Board approves an annual Combined Assurance Plan coordinated across the ARC, HRC, A&IAC, ICT and FINCO. This ensures that financial, operational, ICT and ethical risks are overseen through coordinated assurance channels. Assurance outcomes are reported quarterly to the Board and are referenced in financial reporting and internal controls. The Board is satisfied that all Board committees effectively discharged their responsibilities in accordance with their respective mandates.



E SECTION

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS



NIHSS staff members engage in a meet-and-greet session with the Minister, fostering dialogue and strengthening collaboration in support of the humanities and social sciences sector.



Healthy stakeholder relationships are a prerequisite for the Institute's ability to carry out its mandate of enhancing and supporting the humanities and social sciences (HSS). It is through the continued acceptance and cooperation of our key stakeholders that the Institute has succeeded in establishing itself as a credible, authoritative facilitator of HSS development.

In strengthening and deepening the connections with different stakeholder groups, the Institute makes use of a range of channels and platforms. These include workshops, colloquiums, dialogues, conferences, book launches and other events, tailored to the needs of stakeholders groups and designed to foster value-adding, cohesive relationships.

Key stakeholder groups that influence or are influenced by the NIHSS include partners such as SAHUDA, CODESRIA, public universities, think tanks and professional associations, as well as the Institute's community of master's and doctoral fellows, postdoctoral fellows, mentors and researchers participating in or leading our Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs, Working Groups and international collaborations.

In each stakeholder relationship, there are specific deliverables that the NIHSS works towards.

**Table 31: Stakeholders and related NIHSS deliverables**

Stakeholder	Deliverables
South African doctoral and master's students	The Institute provides funding and academic support for students pursuing HSS doctoral and master's studies.
African Pathways Programme students	The NIHSS works with partners such as CODESRIA to enable non-South African HSS doctoral students to study at public universities in South Africa.
Postdoctoral research fellowships	Increased funding for HSS postdoctoral research fellows contributes to the academic growth of emerging academics and researchers.
Doctoral alumni	Through opportunities such as the annual HSS Alumni Conference, alumni network, share ideas, explore future collaborations and receive support for their transition to the next phases in their careers.
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	The DHET provides funding for the Institute's operations. For the purposes of accountability and transparency, the NIHSS: · conducts comprehensive reporting at agreed levels; · carries out performance monitoring in terms of the NIHSS mandate; · provides policy advice on matters related to the HSS; · Advises the Minister of Higher Education and Training and government on HSS-related matters; · Promotes increased and guided academic discourse about the crucial social issues that face South African citizens (thus helping to influence the character of the South African community and contributing to the creation of a more humane, responsible and just society).
Doctoral Schools mentors	These highly experienced, respected HSS academics provide support for NIHSS-funded students on their master's and doctoral journeys.
NIHSS employees	In attracting and retaining high-calibre employees, the NIHSS strives to offer: · favourable working conditions; · support for staff enrolled for studies; and · Opportunities to develop their careers, community leadership and academic growth.
Funders	Potential partnerships for ad hoc projects in line with agreed upon service levels
Higher education institutions (HEIs)	The Institute contributes to the status and reputation of HSS faculties at HEI institutions by funding research through Catalytic Research Projects and Working Groups and by providing funding and academic support for master's and doctoral students. In turn, HEIs administer NIHSS scholarships and research funding through their internal financial processes.
National Skills Fund (NSF)	The NSF funds all the NIHSS's award projects (including the African Pathways scholarship)
South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA)	SAHUDA and the NIHSS collaborate in the screening of applications for Doctoral Schools and Scholarships Programme through panel reviews.
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)	The NIHSS seeks to enter into mutually beneficial partnerships for ad hoc projects in line with agreed upon service levels.
South African citizens	The NIHSS strives to: demonstrate social responsibility and societal responsiveness; · Offer informed perspectives to help address the socio-economic challenges facing South Africa and her citizens; · provide advice to civil society bodies on HSS-related matters; and · stimulate increased and guided public discourse about the crucial social issues facing citizens, to help build a better South Africa for all.
BRICS partner countries	Through the SABTT, the Institute engages with other official think tanks from the BRICS countries.
Department of International Relations and Cooperation	The NIHSS fosters a close working relationship between the SATBB and government to align the SABTT with government policy.
BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC), a network of five official think tanks from the BRICS countries	The NIHSS is responsible for the coordination and management of all SABTT activities in relation to the BTTC.
SA Parliament	As and when required, the Institute provides sound and independent policy advice on HSS matters.

**CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (CASS)**

CASS is a Chinese research institute and think tank, focused on the social sciences, policymaking and philosophy. Through this partnership, CASS and the NIHSS fund and oversee collaborative research between South African and Chinese researchers in the HSS.

**SOUTH AFRICAN HUMANITIES DEANS' ASSOCIATION (SAHUDA)**

- SAHUDA comprises the Deans of Humanities at South African public universities;
- It is a strategic NIHSS partner who played an instrumental part in initiating the Institute
- SAHUDA and the NIHSS collaborate in awarding and monitoring scholarships for PhD studies.

**INDIAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (ICSSR)**

The ICSSR is the national body overseeing research in the social sciences in India. It is a key international NIHSS partner and jointly funds collaborative research between India and South Africa.

**COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN AFRICA (CODESRIA)**

CODESRIA is a pan-African research organisation that partners the NIHSS in:

- Awarding scholarships for full-time non-South African PhD students based at South African universities.
- Awarding mobility grants to South African researchers and postgraduate students pursuing collaborations and scholarship within the African continent.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Maintaining sound relationships with all key stakeholders and partners enables the NIHSS to elevate HSS scholarship and research in South Africa and further afield through focused and effective collaboration and cooperation.



FINANCIAL

SECTION

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Mr Morena Mofokeng
Chief Financial Officer

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

As the NIHSS Chief Financial Officer, I am proud and honoured to present the financial report for the 2025/26 financial year. Each year brings extraordinary milestones worthy of celebration. It has been a pleasure to be part of this notable journey, which has significantly changed the lives of ordinary South Africans within the Humanities and Social Sciences sphere. As the NIHSS looks forward to another year, the Institute remains eager and optimistic about the journey ahead.

Impactful strides continue to be made through the NIHSS (SAHUDA collaboration) scholarships to grow the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) within the South African borders. From inception to date, the NIHSS has reported a total of 636 PhD completions and/or graduations cumulatively, including those of South African and non-South African students. This further substantiates that the NIHSS is gradually transforming the Humanities and Social Sciences, resulting in a clear positive impact on the state of academia within the HSS.

Funding for the 2025/26 financial year was received as follows:

- A total of **R43 518 000** was received from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to fund the NIHSS operational requirements. The amount includes the BRICS programme funding, which is a project expenditure. This amount was received quarterly in four tranches (R10 879 500) and was recognised as revenue in full. For the current year, no

amount was received from the National Skills Fund (NSF) to fund project administration costs.

- A total of **R162 848 000** was approved by the Department of Higher Education for programmes and project funding, subject to funding availability from the NSF.
- Interest income of R647 582 was received from investments and bank accounts.

Therefore, the total revenue recognised for the 2025/26 financial year was **R45 524 210**, it is a decrease when comparing to previous years. This decrease was a result of the non-receipt of project funding from NSF for the 2025/26 financial year.

Project expenditure

The expenditure on projects was as follows:

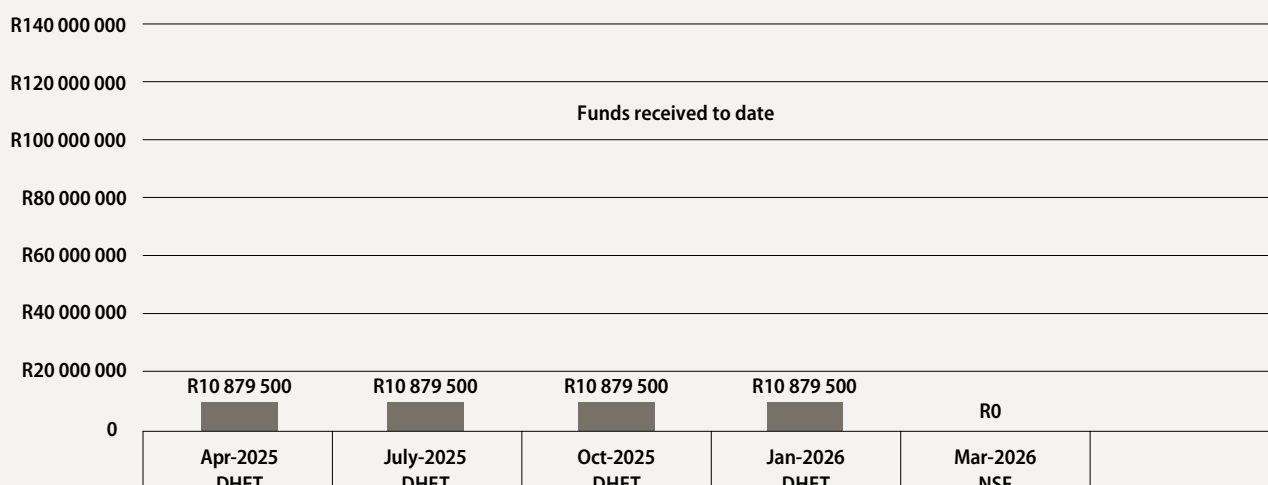
NIHSS scholarship programme

A total of **R675 500** was disbursed to NIHSS-funded PhD fellows within South African public universities. This represents a decrease in disbursement of **93%** from the previous financial year. This was only for returning (renewed) scholars. There was no new intake of students in the current financial year.

Other significant projects supported during the period under review were:

• Catalytic Research Projects:

A total of **R1 241 293** was funded, resulting in a decrease of 50% from the previous year.

**Graph 1: Funds received to date in the financial year 2025/26**

- Humanities Hubs:**

A total of **R680 000** was committed for support, totalling a increase of **132%** from the previous year.

- BRICS Think Tank:**

A total of **R4 015 211** was funded, reflecting a decrease of **47%** from the previous year.

- Working Groups:**

A total of **R2 404 349** was funded, reflecting an increase of **19%** from the previous year.

- National Mentorship Programme:**

A total of **R3 510 130** was spent, reflecting a decrease of **18%** from the previous year.

- HSS Book awards:**

The award ceremony was not held in 2025/26, this is due to funding not received from NSF.

2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years. An unmodified conclusion with findings was expressed for the 2025/26 financial year. This highlights the effectiveness of all endeavours and commitments towards effective financial management and administration.

Operational challenges experienced

The late disbursement of project funding continued to pose a serious challenge in the 2025/26 financial year, exacerbated by the fact that the funds for 2025/26 were not received by 31 March 2026. This created challenges in terms of disbursement to the beneficiaries. However, funds were committed accordingly by the end of the financial year.

Overall, total project expenditure decreased by **61%**, primarily due to the absence of new project calls. During this period, the focus was on monitoring and fulfilling commitments related to previously initiated projects.

Audit outcomes

Given that the Institute is in its twelfth year of existence, outstanding results have been achieved in terms of audit outcomes. The NIHSS obtained a clean audit outcome from the Auditor-General of South Africa consecutively for the five (5) years from 2016/17 until 2020/21 and 2022/23 financial years. An unmodified review conclusion was expressed for the 2021/22,

Morena Mofokeng
Chief Financial Officer



REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. I have reviewed the financial statements of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) set out on pages 94 to 130, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2026, statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Conclusion

2. Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences as at 31 March 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (Standards of GRAP) as issued by the Accounting Standards Board of South Africa and the requirements of the Higher Education Amendment Act, No. 9 of 2016.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

3. I draw attention to the matter below. My conclusion is not modified in respect of this matter.
4. As stated in note 27 to the financial statements, which indicates that the institute has not received budgeted funds from National Skills Fund since 2023/24 financial year to date, and the funding application submitted in June 2025 remains unapproved. As stated in note 27, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in note 27, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the institute's ability to continue as a going concern.

Emphasis of matter – Restatement of corresponding figures

5. I draw attention to 32 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 31 March 2025 were restated as a result of an error in the financial statement of the institute at, and for the year ended, 31 March 2026.
6. My conclusion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the board for the financial statements

7. The board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the

Higher Education Amendment Act, No. 9 of 2016 and for such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

8. In preparing the financial statements, the board is responsible for assessing the institute's ability to continue as a going concern; disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the institute or to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities of the auditor-general for the review of the financial statements

9. My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. I conducted my review in accordance with the International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400 (Revised), *Engagements to review historical financial statements*. The standard requires me to conclude on whether anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This standard also requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.
10. A review of financial statements in accordance with ISRE 2400 (Revised) is a limited assurance engagement. I am required to perform procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the auditee, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluating the evidence obtained.
11. The procedures performed in a review engagement are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

12. In accordance with the Public Audit Act 25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for the selected material performance indicators presented in the annual performance report. The board is responsible for the preparation of the annual performance report.
13. I selected the following material performance indicators related to strategic objective 1 presented in the annual



performance report for the year ended 31 March 2026. I selected those indicators that measure the institute's performance on its primary mandated functions and that are of significant national, community or public interest.

- Number of NIHSS-funded South African doctoral students awarded
 - Number of NIHSS funded South African doctoral students monitored
 - Number of NIHSS-funded South African master's students awarded
 - Number of NIHSS-funded South African postdoctoral research fellowships awarded
 - Throughput rate on total funded SAHUDA PhDs by March 2026
 - Number of mentors appointed to support doctoral schools, and ultimately enhance the creativity, and technical capacities of NIHSS master's and doctoral students .
 - Number of regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors through the NIHSS doctoral schools to enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS-funded master's and doctoral students
 - Number of research outputs/publications by doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows,
 - NIHSS Alumni and Emeritus Writing fellows, contributing further to the HSS.
14. I evaluated the reported performance information for the selected material performance indicators against the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice. When an annual performance report is prepared using these criteria, it provides useful and reliable information and insights to users on the institute's planning and delivery on its mandate and objectives.
15. I performed procedures to test whether:
- the indicators used for planning and reporting on performance can be linked directly to the institute's mandate and the achievement of its planned objectives
 - all the indicators relevant for measuring the institute's performance against its primary mandated and prioritised functions and planned objectives are included
 - the indicators are well defined and verifiable to ensure that they are easy to understand and apply consistently, and that I can confirm the methods and processes to be used for measuring achievements
 - the targets can be linked directly to the achievement of the indicators and are specific, time bound and measurable to

ensure that it is easy to understand what should be delivered and by when, the required level of performance, as well as how performance will be evaluated

- the indicators and targets reported on in the annual performance report are the same as what was committed to in the approved initial or revised planning documents
 - the reported performance information is presented in the annual performance report in the prescribed manner
 - there is adequate supporting evidence for the achievements reported and for the reasons provided for any over- or underachievement of targets.
16. I performed the procedures for the purpose of reporting material findings only; and not to express an assurance opinion or conclusion.
17. I did not identify any material findings on the reported performance information for the selected indicators.

Other matters

18. I draw attention to the matters below.

Achievement of planned targets

19. The annual performance report includes information on reported achievements against planned targets and provides explanations for over- and under-achievements
20. The table that follows provides information on the achievement of planned targets and lists the key performance indicators that were not achieved as reported in the annual performance report. The reasons for any underachievement of targets are included in the annual performance report on pages 20 to 23.

Strategic objective 1: *Advance postgraduate scholarship in South African universities.*

Targets achieved: 50%

Key performance indicator not achieved	Planned target	Reported achievement
Performance indicator 1.1: Number of NIHSS-funded South African doctoral students awarded	50	0
Performance indicator 1.3: Number of NIHSS-funded South African master's students awarded	50	0
Performance indicator 1.4: Number of NIHSS-funded South African postdoctoral research fellowships awarded	50	0
Performance indicator 1.5: Throughput rate on total funded SAHUDA PhDs by March 2026	55%	40%

**REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION**

21. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on compliance with applicable legislation relating to financial matters, financial management and other related matters. The board is responsible for the institute's compliance with legislation.
22. I performed procedures to test compliance with selected requirements in key legislation in accordance with the AGSA findings engagement methodology. This engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, I do not express an assurance opinion or conclusion.
23. Through an established AGSA process, I selected requirements in key legislation for compliance testing that are relevant to the financial and performance management of the institute, clear to allow consistent measurement and evaluation, while also sufficiently detailed and readily available to report in an understandable manner. The selected legislative requirements are included in the annexure to this auditor's report.
24. The material findings on compliance with the selected legislative requirements, presented per compliance theme, are as follows:

Annual financial statements and annual reports

25. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework as required by section 49U(2)(a) (c) of the Higher Education Amendment Act. Material misstatements of financial instruments, contingent assets and going concern disclosures identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statement were corrected subsequently, resulting in the financial statements receiving an unqualified review conclusion.

INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCIES

26. I considered internal control relevant to my engagement on the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it.
27. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the conclusion and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
28. Management did not exercise adequate oversight responsibility for financial reporting, compliance monitoring and related internal controls, as material

misstatements were identified in the financial statements submitted for auditing. These were subsequently corrected.

29. Management did not adequately review the financial statements before submission for auditing.
30. Although the internal audit committee and the audit and risk committee reviewed the financial statements prior to submission for auditing, this was not effective as material misstatements were identified during the audit.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND QUALITY CONTROL

31. I am independent of the institute in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International code of ethics for professional accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code) as well as other ethical requirements that are relevant to my engagements in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
32. In accordance with the International Standard on Quality Management 1, the AGSA maintains a comprehensive system of quality management that includes documented policies and procedures on compliance with ethical requirements and professional standards.

Auditor-General

Pretoria

30 June 2026

**ANNEXURE TO THE AUDITOR'S REPORT****Compliance with legislation – selected legislative requirements**

The selected legislative requirements are as follows:

Legislation	Sections or regulations
Higher Education Amendment Act, No.9 of 2016	Section 49M, Section 49N, Section 49O, Section 49P, Section 49Q, Section 49R, Section 49S, Section 49T, Section 49U
Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, No. 12 of 2004	Section 34(1)



INDEX

THE REPORTS AND STATEMENTS SET OUT BELOW COMPRISE THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PRESENTED TO THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE:

Statement of Financial Position	94
Statement of Financial Performance	95
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	95
Cash Flow Statement	96
Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts	97
Accounting Policies	98
Notes to the Audited Annual Financial Statements	106

The audited annual financial statements set out on page 94, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by Chief Executive Officer and NIHSS Board Chairperson on 29 June 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Prof Pearl Sithole
Chief Executive Officer

Prof Mogomme Masoga
NIHSS Board Chairperson

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2026**

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025 Restated
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3	1 598 103	1 951 280
Intangible assets	4	1 286 892	1 353 235
		2 884 995	3 304 515
Current assets			
Inventories	7	209 620	223 514
Receivables from exchange transactions	8	558 632	734 778
Prepayments	6	587 396	632 567
Cash and cash equivalents	9	2 003 600	20 636 044
		3 359 248	22 226 903
Non-Current Assets		2 884 995	3 304 515
Current Assets		3 359 248	22 226 903
Total assets		6 244 243	25 531 418
Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Finance lease obligation	10	137 124	284 259
		137 124	284 259
Current liabilities			
Finance lease obligation	10	149 063	132 243
Payables from exchange transactions	5	1 705 600	1 849 346
Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions	11	579 389	9 775 501
Provisions	12	825 081	937 793
Credit card	9	1 758	1 150
		3 260 891	12 696 033
Non-Current Liabilities		137 124	284 259
Current Liabilities		3 260 891	12 696 033
Total Liabilities		3 398 015	12 980 292
Assets		6 244 243	25 531 418
Liabilities		(3 398 015)	(12 980 292)
Net assets		2 846 228	12 551 126


STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025 Restated
Revenue			
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Other income		938 675	35 898
Investment revenue	14	647 582	2 510 942
Total revenue from exchange transactions		1 586 257	2 546 840
Revenue from non-exchange transactions			
Transfer revenue			
Government grants and subsidies	15	43 937 953	42 034 500
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions		43 937 953	42 034 500
Total revenue from exchange transactions		1 586 257	2 546 840
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions		43 937 953	42 034 500
Total revenue	13	45 524 210	44 581 340
Expenditure			
Employee-related costs	16	(22 371 607)	(21 637 510)
Depreciation and amortisation	17	(819 928)	(1 447 569)
Lease rentals on operating lease and utilities	21	(4 352 256)	(3 476 528)
General expenses	19	(10 947 877)	(9 933 065)
Project expenses	18	(15 541 576)	(40 667 237)
Project administration fees	19	(1 195 864)	(186 990)
Total expenditure		(55 229 108)	(77 348 899)
Deficit before taxation		(9 704 898)	(32 767 559)
Surplus (deficit) for the year		(9 704 898)	(32 767 559)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

Figures in Rands	Notes	Accumulated surplus / deficit	Total net assets
Balance at 01 April 2024		45 218 094	45 218 094
Prior year adjustment		100 591	100 591
Deficit for the year		(32 767 559)	(32 767 559)
Changes in Net assets		(32 666 968)	(32 666 968)
Balance at 01 April 2025		12 551 126	12 551 126
Changes in net assets			
Deficit for the year		(9 704 898)	(9 704 898)
Total changes		(9 704 898)	(9 704 898)
Balance at 31 March 2026		2 846 228	2 846 228

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026**

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025 Restated
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Grants		44 114 099	41 995 480
Interest income		647 582	2 510 942
Other Income		938 675	35 898
		45 700 356	44 542 320
Payments			
Compensation of employees and Board members		(22 385 488)	(21 637 512)
Payment to suppliers		(24 638 548)	(8 751 601)
Project expenses		(16 737 440)	(40 854 229)
		(63 761 476)	(71 243 342)
Total receipts		45 700 356	44 542 320
Total payments		(63 761 476)	(71 243 342)
Net cash flows from operating activities	20	(18 061 120)	(26 701 022)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	3	(159 155)	-
Purchase of other intangible assets	4	(241 253)	(33 848)
Net cash flows from investing activities		(400 408)	(33 848)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Finance lease payments		(171 521)	(71 466)
Net cash flows from financing activities		(171 521)	(71 466)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(18 633 049)	(26 806 338)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		20 634 893	47 441 233
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	9	2 001 844	20 634 895



STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026

Budget on accrual basis

Figures in Rands	Approved budget	Adjustments	Final budget	Actual amounts on comparable basis	Difference between final budget and actual	Reference
Statement of financial performance						
Revenue						
Revenue from exchange transactions						
Other income	-	-	-	938 675	938 675	30
Interest received	-	-	-	647 582	647 582	30
Total revenue from exchange - transactions	-	-	-	1 586 257	1 586 257	
Revenue from non-exchange transactions						
Transfer revenue						
Government funding - operations	43 518 000	-	43 518 000	43 518 000	-	30
Government funding - projects	119 330 000	-	119 330 000	419 953	(118 910 047)	30
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions	162 848 000	-	162 848 000	43 937 953	(118 910 047)	
Total revenue from exchange transactions	-	-	-	1 586 257	1 586 257	
Total revenue from non- exchange transactions	162 848 000		162 848 000	43 937 953	(118 910 047)	
Expenditure						
Operating Expenditure	43 518 000	-	43 518 000	39 687 532	(3 830 468)	30
Scholarships and Programmes	119 330 000	-	119 330 000	15 541 576	(103 788 424)	30
Total expenditure	162 848 000	-	162 848 000	55 229 108	107 618 892	
Deficit for the year	-	-	-	(9 704 898)	9 704 898	

The variance of R118.9million is because NSF funding not yet received.



ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Presentation of audited annual financial statements

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), including any interpretations, guidelines and directives issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and in accordance with the historical cost convention, unless specified otherwise.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented, except for the initial application of the revised Standard of GRAP on Financial Instruments, GRAP 104, during the current year.

1.1 Presentation currency

These audited annual financial statements are presented in South African Rand, which is the functional currency of the NIHSS.

1.2 Going concern assumption

These audited annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the NIHSS will continue to operate as a going concern for at least the next twelve months from the reporting date.

Management has assessed the NIHSS's ability to continue as a going concern, considering its approved mandate, funding arrangements, operational requirements, available financial information, and known uncertainties. The detailed going concern assessment, including the material uncertainty relating to National Skills Fund project funding.

1.3 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is initially measured at cost.

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is the purchase price and other costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. Trade discounts and rebates are deducted in arriving at the cost.

Recognition of costs in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment ceases when the item is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated on the straight-line basis over their expected useful lives to their estimated residual value.

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment have been assessed as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Furniture and fixtures	Straight-line	9 - 11 years
Office equipment	Straight-line	4 - 13 years
IT equipment	Straight-line	2 - 13 years
Office equipment - Project	Straight-line	4 - 12 years
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	Over the lease term (3 - 11 years)

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that the entity expectations about the residual value and the useful life of an asset have changed since the preceding reporting date. If any such indication exists, the entity revises the expected useful life and/or residual value accordingly. The change is accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

Items of property, plant and equipment are derecognised when the asset is disposed of or when there are no further economic benefits or service potential expected from the use of the asset.

The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is included in surplus or deficit when the item is derecognised. The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount of the item.

The entity separately discloses expenditure to repair and maintain property, plant and equipment in the notes to the financial statements (see note 3).

Impairment of assets

Assets are annually assessed, by considering internal and external factors where there is an indication of impairment.



ACCOUNTING POLICIES

If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated at the higher of fair value less cost to sell and its value in use.

For the current financial year, indicators considered were assets which had a zero net book value. No external factors existed that indicated impairment of assets.

1.4 Intangible assets

An intangible asset is initially measured at cost.

Intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses.

Amortisation is provided to write down the intangible assets, on a straight-line basis, to their residual values as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Computer software, other	Straight-line	2 - 12 years

An assessment is done at each reporting period of whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of intangible assets have changed since the preceding reporting period. If any such indication exists, the expected useful lives and/or residual values are revised accordingly.

The gain or loss is the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount. It is recognised in surplus or deficit when the asset is derecognised.

Where the carrying amount of an intangible asset is greater than its estimated recoverable service amount, it is written down immediately to its recoverable amount (i.e. impairment losses are recognised).

1.5 Financial instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or residual interest of another entity. NIHSS recognises a financial asset or financial liability when it becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Scope assessment

Management assesses each balance and arrangement to determine whether it is within the scope of GRAP 104 or another

Standard of GRAP. Items settled through cash or another financial asset are recognised as financial instruments. Items settled through goods, services or service potential are not recognised as financial instruments.

Item	Primary Standard	Policy conclusion
Receivables from exchange transactions	GRAP 104	Financial assets where NIHSS has a contractual right to receive cash.
Cash and cash equivalents	GRAP 104	Financial assets held with financial institutions and measured at amortised cost.
Prepayments	Other applicable GRAP / Framework	Not financial instruments because settlement is through goods or services.
Employee benefit liabilities included in payables	GRAP 25	Excluded from GRAP 104 financial liabilities and disclosed separately from the financial instrument portion of payables.
Provisions	GRAP 19	Excluded from GRAP 104, except related reimbursement rights where applicable.
Finance lease obligations	GRAP 13 and GRAP 104 disclosure	Recognised and measured under GRAP 13; included in GRAP 104 risk disclosures where relevant.

Classification of financial assets

Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortised cost unless they are held for trading or designated at fair value through surplus or deficit in accordance with GRAP 104.

Class of financial asset	Classification	Basis
Receivables from exchange transactions	Amortised cost	Held to collect contractual cash flows; settlement is in cash.
Cash and cash equivalents	Amortised cost	Contractual right to receive cash from financial institutions.
Short-term investments included in cash and cash equivalents	Amortised cost	Held to collect contractual cash flows; cash flows comprise principal and interest.



ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortised cost unless they are held for trading or designated at fair value through surplus or deficit in accordance with GRAP 104.

Class of financial liability	Classification	Basis
Trade payables and trade accruals from exchange transactions	Amortised cost	Contractual obligation to deliver cash.
Payables from non-exchange transactions to the extent contractual	Amortised cost	Applies only where a contractual obligation to deliver cash exists.
Finance lease obligation	Amortised cost for GRAP 104 disclosure purposes	Recognised and measured under GRAP 13, with GRAP 104 disclosure/derecognition considerations.
Credit card	Amortised cost	Obligation to deliver cash to the financial institution.

Initial and subsequent measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value. Transaction costs directly attributable to acquisition or issue are included in the initial measurement where the instrument is not measured at fair value through surplus or deficit. Financial assets and financial liabilities measured at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest method. Interest, impairment losses, reversals, gains, and losses are recognised in surplus or deficit.

Impairment of financial assets

NIHSS recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets measured at amortised cost. Expected credit losses are probability-weighted estimates of credit losses based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due to NIHSS and the cash flows NIHSS expects to receive, discounted using the National Treasury rate of interest on government loans where the effect of discounting is material.

For receivables, NIHSS applies the simplified approach and recognises lifetime expected credit losses from initial recognition until derecognition. Receivables are assessed individually where balances are specific, not homogeneous, disputed, subject to recovery action, or not suitable for collective assessment.

Provision matrix / assessment step	Application by NIHSS
Identify receivables	Identify all contractual receivables within GRAP 104 and exclude prepayments, statutory receivables, and non-financial balances.
Age balances	Allocate balances to ageing buckets based on the age analysis at reporting date.
Assess recoverability	Consider debtor-specific facts, recovery process, legal enforceability, subsequent receipts and whether the balance is disputed.
Consider forward-looking information	Consider reasonable and supportable information available at reporting date that may affect recovery.
Recognise allowance	Expected credit losses are calculated for all material receivables. Where the aggregate impact on the Annual Financial Statements is assessed as immaterial, no accounting adjustment is recognised.

For cash and short-term investments, NIHSS applies the general approach. Cash held with reputable financial institutions, available on demand or short notice, and with no evidence of significant deterioration in credit risk is considered low credit risk. Where the 12-month expected credit loss is immaterial, no loss allowance is recognised.

A financial asset is considered to be in default when it is more than 180 days past due or where there is evidence that the debtor is unlikely to pay in full without recovery action. The 180-day presumption may be rebutted where reasonable and supportable information demonstrates that the balance remains recoverable.

Derecognition and offsetting

NIHSS derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to cash flows expire, are settled, waived, or transferred and NIHSS transfers substantially all risks and rewards of ownership. A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation is discharged, cancelled, or expires. Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset only when NIHSS has a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.



ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.5.1 Significant judgements and sources of estimation uncertainty

Classification of financial assets and financial liabilities

The classification of financial assets and financial liabilities requires judgement by management. In making this judgement, management considers whether the instrument arises from a contractual arrangement, whether the instrument gives rise to a right to receive cash or an obligation to deliver cash, the management model for holding the asset, and whether the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest.

Impairment of receivables and other financial assets

Management assessed receivables from exchange transactions using the age analysis at reporting date. The assessment considered the nature of each balance, ageing, legal enforceability, recovery status, and forward-looking information. Although a significant portion of receivables is older than 180 days, management assessed these balances individually and concluded that the ECL allowance is immaterial based on available recovery evidence and enforceability of the balances.

In applying GRAP 104, management considered the rebuttable presumption that credit risk increases significantly when contractual payments are more than 30 days past due. Management rebutted this presumption for certain receivables where reasonable and supportable information indicated that the balances remained recoverable despite being past due, including consideration of legal enforceability, acknowledgements of debt or recovery arrangements where applicable, ongoing recovery actions, subsequent receipts, prescription assessments, and the specific nature of each debtor. Where such evidence was not available, the debtor was assessed individually for expected credit losses.

1.5.2 Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities include Trade and other payables from exchange and non-exchange transactions.

All financial liabilities of the NIHSS are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial liabilities and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs.

Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset if there is any intention to either settle on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously and a legally enforceable right to offset exists.

Classification

The entity has the following types of financial assets (classes and category) as reflected on the face of the statement of financial position or in the notes thereto:

Receivables from exchange transactions	Financial asset measured at amortised cost
Cash and cash equivalents	Financial asset measured at amortised cost

The entity has the following types of financial liabilities (classes and category) as reflected on the face of the statement of financial position or in the notes thereto:

Class	Category
Payables from exchange transactions	Financial liability measured at amortised cost
Trade payables from non-exchange transactions	Financial liability measured at amortised cost
Credit card	Financial liability measured at amortised cost



ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.6 Tax

No provision has been made for taxation, as the NIHSS is exempt from income tax in terms of Section 10 (1) (cA) (i) of the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act 58 of 1962).

1.7 Leases

A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. A lease is classified as an operating lease if it does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership.

Finance lease refer to a contract that transfers the risk, rewards, rights and obligations incidental to ownership to the lessee and is recorded as a purchase of property, plant and equipment by means of long terms borrowing. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Payments made under operating leases (leases other than finance leases) are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease. When operating lease is terminated before the lease period has expired, any payment required to be made to the lessor by way of penalty is recognised as an expense in the period in which termination takes place.

Finance leases – lessee

Finance leases are recognised as assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the statement of financial position as a finance lease obligation.

The discount rate used in calculating the present value of the minimum lease payments is the interest rate implicit in the lease.

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of on the remaining balance of the liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate on the remaining balance of the liability. This has been disclosed under Note 10 of the Annual Financial Statements.

Operating leases – lessee

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The difference between the amounts recognised as an expense and the contractual payments are recognised as an operating lease asset or liability.

1.8 Inventories

Inventories consist of consumables on hand at the reporting date and are measured at cost. An individual inventory item whose cost does not exceed R1 000 is recognised, on acquisition, in surplus or deficit.

Subsequently inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net replacement value.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of employee benefits is recognised during the period in which the employee renders the related service. Employee entitlements are recognised when they accrue to employees. A provision is made for the estimated liability as a result of services rendered by employees up to the reporting date. Termination benefits are recognised and expensed only when the payment is made.

Liabilities for annual leave are recognised as they accrue to employees. The NIHSS recognises the leave obligation during the vesting period based on the best available estimate of the accumulated leave expected to vest. The liability is based on the total amount of leave days due to employees at year end and also on the total remuneration package of the employee. The leave liability is recognised as an accrual.

No provision has been made for retirement benefits as the NIHSS does not provide for retirement benefits for its employees.

1.10 Provisions and contingencies

Provisions are recognised when:

- the entity has a present obligation as a result of a past event;
- it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

The amount of a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure expected to be required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date.



ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Contingent liabilities are possible obligations whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of an uncertain future event not wholly within the control of the NIHSS. Contingent liabilities are not recognised but are disclosed in the notes to these financial statements, unless the possibility of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential is remote.

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the NIHSS. Contingent assets are not recognised in financial statements but disclosed in the notes to the financial statements where an inflow of economic benefits or service potential is probable.

1.11 Commitments

Commitments are disclosed where the NIHSS has, in the normal course of its operations, entered into a contractual agreement with third parties for project expenses which are yet due for payment.

Commitments are measured at the amount the entity would pay to settle the obligation, to a third party at reporting date. Commitments are included in the disclosure note to these financial statements.

1.12 Revenue from exchange transactions

Revenue from exchange transactions is recognised when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the NIHSS and these benefits can be measured reliably. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Interest income is accrued on a time proportionate basis, taking into account the principal outstanding and effective interest rate over the period to maturity.

1.13 Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Non-exchange revenue transactions result in resources being received by the NIHSS, usually in accordance with a binding arrangement.

When the NIHSS receives resources as a result of a non-exchange transaction, it recognises an asset and revenue in the period that the arrangement becomes binding and when it is probable that

the NIHSS will receive economic benefits or service potential and it can make a reliable measure of the resources transferred.

Where the resources transferred to the NIHSS are subject to the fulfilment of specific conditions, it recognises an asset and a corresponding liability. As and when the conditions are fulfilled, the liability is reduced and revenue is recognised.

The asset and the corresponding revenue are measured on the basis of the fair value of the asset on initial recognition.

The following sources of receipts are considered revenue from non-exchange transactions:

Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) - operations funding

The MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Framework - three year rolling government budget) allocated funding received from the DHET.

The funding for the NIHSS operations is not conditional and revenue is recognised when the funds are received.

National Skills Fund (NSF)

The NSF funds all the NIHSS award projects (including the African Pathway scholarship).

The funds, from inception of the NIHSS until 31 March 2020, for the projects were conditional and revenue is only recognised to the extent that expenditure is incurred.

The funds from 1 April 2020 are not conditional and therefore revenue recognised in the period that the arrangement becomes binding.

1.14 Comparative figures

The NIHSS was established on 5 December 2013. The financial period for the 2024/25 financial year is over a 12 month period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Where there has been a change in accounting estimate to the extent that it gives rise to changes in assets and liabilities, or relates to an item of net assets, the change is recognised by adjusting the carrying amount of the related asset, liability or item of net assets in the period of the change. The comparative amounts are therefore not adjusted.



ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.15 Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Fruitless expenditure means expenditure which was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised. All expenditure relating to fruitless and wasteful expenditure is recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance in the year that the expenditure was incurred. The expenditure is classified in accordance with the nature of the expense, and where recovered it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

1.16 Irregular expenditure

Irregular expenditure is expenditure other than unauthorised expenditure, incurred in contravention of or that is not in accordance with the NIHSS supply chain policy.

1.17 Budget information

The approved budget on an accrual basis covers the fiscal period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

These financial statements and the approved budget are on the same basis of accounting, therefore, a comparison of actual performance with budgeted amounts for the reporting period has been included in the statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts.

1.18 Related parties

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions or if the related party entity or another entity are subject to common control.

Where such a situation exists, the nature and type of transactions and relationships between parties are disclosed in the notes to these financial statements.

1.19 Events after reporting date

Events after reporting date are those events, whether favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the reporting date and the date when the financial statements are approved. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the reporting date (adjusting events after the reporting date); and
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting date (non-adjusting events after the reporting date).

The NIHSS will adjust the amount recognised in the financial statements to reflect adjusting events after the reporting date once the event occurred.

The NIHSS will disclose the nature of the event and an estimate of its financial effect or a statement that such estimate cannot be made in respect of all material non-adjusting events, where non-disclosure could influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

1.20 Significant judgments and sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts represented in these financial statements and related disclosures. Use of available information and the application of judgement is inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual results in the future could differ from these estimates which may be material to these financial statements.

The following are the key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at year end, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year:

Estimation of useful lives and residual value

An assessment is done at each reporting period whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets have changed since the preceding reporting period. If any such indication exists, an estimation of the revised expected useful lives and/or residual values is done.

Impairment of assets

The NIHSS assesses its receivables for impairment at the end of each reporting period. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded in surplus or deficit, management makes judgements as to whether there is observable data indicating a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from receivables.



ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Segment reporting

Management have assessed that the NIHSS operates as one segment both geographically and in service offering. Therefore, Management have not divided the financial information into different segments as required by GRAP 18.

1.21 Reserves

Any surplus funds at the end of the financial year are retained and utilised for project expenditure in the new financial year.

1.22 Reporting period

The reporting period for the 2025/26 financial year is over a 12 month period.

2. General information

The creation of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) to dynamise these fields of study in South Africa's higher education system emerged out of a wide ranging consultative process inaugurated by the then Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande.

In 2010, the then Minister of Higher Education and Training appointed a task team to develop a Charter on humanities and social sciences. This was aimed at affirming the importance of humanities and social sciences as forms of scholarship. The final Report of the Charter was submitted to the Minister at the time on 4 August 2011. One of the key recommendations of the Report was the establishment of an institute for the promotion of humanities and social sciences.

Guided by the overwhelming support for the recommendations from the stakeholders across the entire cultural divide and the establishment of the institute in particular, the Minister then provided for establishment of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) through the Government Gazette Notice No. 37118 on 5 December 2013.

The scope of the NIHSS is that of advancing and coordinating scholarship, research and ethical practice in the fields of the humanities and the social sciences within and through the existing public universities and those to be established or declared in future as public universities.

The functions of the NIHSS are to:

- provide services to the higher education sphere within the humanities and social sciences
- advance learning within the specific scope or application of the Institute by ensuring collaboration, co-ordination or collaboration and co-ordination of the work of higher education institutions; and
- advise the Minister of Higher Education and Training on matters relating to its specific scope or application, or higher education generally



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. New standards and interpretations

2.1 Standards and interpretations issued

NIHSS adopted the revised Standard of GRAP on Financial Instruments, GRAP 104, for the first time during the year ended 31 March 2026. The revised Standard is effective for financial years commencing on or after 1 April 2025 and introduces updated requirements for classification, measurement, presentation, and disclosure of financial instruments.

The revised Standard replaced the incurred-loss impairment model with the Expected Credit Loss model. NIHSS applied revised GRAP 104 retrospectively in accordance with the transitional provisions. Comparative information has not been restated for the initial application of revised GRAP 104. Any adjustment arising on initial application is recognised in the opening balance of accumulated surplus or deficit at 1 April 2025.

A transition adjustment was calculated on adoption of revised GRAP 104 but was assessed as immaterial and therefore no adjustment was recognised in opening accumulated surplus.

Standard/ Interpretation:	Effective date:	Expected impact:
GRAP 104 - Financial Instruments	01 April 2025	Revised classification and measurement requirements and application of the Expected Credit Loss model. The ECL assessment did not result in a material transition adjustment.

2.2 Standards and interpretations not yet effective or relevant

The following standards and interpretations that have been issued but are not yet effective are not applicable to the NIHSS and will not have an impact on future financial statements:

Standard/ Interpretation:	Effective date:	Expected impact:
GRAP 103 - Heritage assets	1 April 2027	No significant impact on future disclosures
GRAP 105 on Transfer of Functions Between Entities Under Common Control (amended)	1 April 2027	No significant impact on future disclosures
GRAP 106 on Transfer of Functions Between Entities Not Under Common Control (amended)	1 April 2027	No significant impact on future disclosures
GRAP 107 on Mergers (amended)	1 April 2027	No significant impact on future disclosures



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Property, plant and equipment

	2026			2025		
Figures in Rands	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Furniture and fittings	3 451 417	(3 056 143)	395 274	3 451 417	(2 901 928)	549 489
Office equipment	1 602 281	(1 188 388)	413 893	1 914 410	(1 362 819)	551 591
IT equipment	2 253 662	(1 839 081)	414 581	2 097 481	(1 655 732)	441 749
Office equipment – Project	38 190	(35 972)	2 218	38 190	(35 725)	2 465
Leasehold improvements	4 686 010	(4 313 873)	372 137	4 686 010	(4 280 024)	405 986
Total	12 031 560	(10 433 457)	R1 598 103	12 187 508	(10 236 228)	1 951 280

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2026

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Depreciation	Total
Furniture and fittings	549 489	-	(154 216)	395 274
Office equipment	551 591	-	(137 698)	413 893
IT equipment	441 749	159 155	(186 323)	414 581
Office equipment – Project	2 465	-	(246)	2 219
Leasehold improvements	405 986	-	(33 849)	372 138
Total	1 951 280	159 155	(512 332)	1 598 105

During the 2025/26 financial year, a total of R134 983 was incurred to repair and maintain various assets.

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2025

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Depreciation	Total
Furniture and fittings	894 630	-	(345 142)	549 488
Office equipment	193 673	400 942	(43 024)	551 591
IT equipment	750 818	-	(309 069)	441 749
Office equipment – Project	2 773	-	(308)	2 465
Leasehold improvements	533 472	-	(127 487)	405 985
Total	2 375 366	400 942	(825 030)	1 951 280

During the 2024/25 financial year, a total of R143 419 was incurred to repair and maintain various assets.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Intangible assets

Figures in Rands	2026			2025		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Computer software	2 087 939	(1 733 234)	354 706	1 989 979	(1 735 585)	254 395
Internally generated computer software	4 893 118	(3 960 933)	932 186	4 749 825	(3 650 986)	1 098 840
Total	6 981 057	(5 694 167)	R1 286 892	6 739 804	(5 386 571)	1 353 235

The NIHSS has developed a Grant Management system internally during the 2016/17 until 2025/26 financial years. The cumulative expenses on developing the system have been recognised in the carrying amount of these intangible asset and the development is still ongoing.

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2026

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software	254 394	97 960	2 351	354 705
Internally generated computer software	1 098 839	143 293	(309 947)	932 185
Total	R1 353 233	241 253	(307 596)	1 286 890

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2025

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software	448 734	-	(194 340)	254 394
Internally generated computer software	1 493 193	33 848	(428 200)	1 098 841
	1 941 927	33 848	(622 540)	1 353 235

5. Payables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Trade payables		776 601	1 174 489
Trade accruals		109 175	8 663
Employees' payables - 13th cheque		77 543	101 448
Accrued leave pay		742 281	564 746
		1 705 600	1 849 346

Only the trade payables and trade accruals portion of payables from exchange transactions is included in the GRAP 104 financial liability disclosure. Employee-related payables and accrued leave are accounted for under GRAP 25 and excluded from the financial instruments category table.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Prepayments

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Assets paid in advance		186 390	186 390
Rental paid in advance		372 316	362 688
Medical aid prepayment		28 690	83 489
Total		587 396	632 567

7. Inventories

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Consumable stores		209 620	223 514
		209 620	223 514

8. Receivables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Other debtors		64 339	238 685
Recoverable amount of fruitless and wasteful expenditure		494 293	496 093
		558 632	734 778

Expected credit loss assessment - 2026

Figures in Rands	Gross carrying amount		Loss allowances	Net carrying amount
Other debtors	64 339	Individually assessed; R8 000 current and the balance older than 180 days.	0	64 339
Recoverable fruitless and wasteful expenditure	494 293	Individually assessed; balance is mainly older than 180 days and subject to recovery assessment.	0	494 293
Total	558 632		0	558 632

Expected credit loss assessment - 2025

Figures in Rands	Gross carrying amount		Loss allowance	Net carrying amount
Other debtors	238 685	Individual assessed; the balance is mainly older than 180 days.	0	238 685
Recoverable amount of fruitless and wasteful expenditure	496 093	Individual assessed; the balance is mainly older than 180 days and subject to recovery assessment	0	496 093
Total	734 778		0	734 778

Management performed individual expected credit loss assessments for all material receivables from exchange transactions in accordance with GRAP 104. The assessments incorporated historical information, current conditions and reasonable and supportable forward-looking information, including legal enforceability, recovery actions, acknowledgements of debt, repayment arrangements and expected future recoveries. The calculated expected credit losses were aggregated and compared to management's approved materiality thresholds. Based on this assessment, management concluded that the aggregate expected credit loss was not material to the Annual

Financial Statements and accordingly no loss allowance has been recognised. Comparative ageing information has been disclosed to provide users with information regarding changes in the credit-risk profile of receivables between reporting periods. Although a substantial portion of receivables remains older than 180 days, management has individually assessed these balances, taking into account recovery arrangements, legal enforceability, subsequent recoveries, and other available evidence. Based on this assessment, management concluded that no material expected credit loss allowance is required at 31 March 2026.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Loss allowance reconciliation	2026	2025
Opening loss allowance	-	-
Transition adjustment on adoption of revised GRAP 104	-	-
Expected credit loss recognised during the year	-	-
Amounts written off	-	-
Recoveries / reversals	-	-
Closing loss allowance	-	-

Expected credit losses were calculated and assessed for all material receivables. The aggregate expected credit loss was assessed as immaterial and accordingly no loss allowance was recognised

9. Cash and cash equivalents

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash on hand		1 583	1 863
NIHSS Operating Bank Account		513 330	3 203 858
NIHSS NSF Bank Account		14 623	784 655
NIHSS Current Bank (NSF)		55 915	987 998
Investments		1 135 833	15 132 818
NIHSS Corporate Cheque Account		242 118	100 860
Operations and project bank account		40 199	423 992
		2 003 601	20 636 044

Cash and cash equivalents are assessed under the general approach. The balances are held with reputable financial institutions and are available on demand or short notice. Management assessed the 12-month expected credit loss as immaterial and no loss allowance has been recognised

		-	-
Credit Card		(1 758)	(1 150)
		2 001 844	20 634 895

10. Finance lease obligation

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Minimum lease payments due			
- within one year		171 528	171 523
- in second to fifth year inclusive		142 935	314 459
		314 463	485 982
less: future finance charges		(28 276)	(69 480)
Present value of minimum lease payments		286 187	416 502

The Institute has entered into a finance lease agreement for the rental of 2 photocopying machines during the 2024/25 financial year. There are no annual escalation clauses associated with the leases. The leases have been accounted for in terms of GRAP 13..

The lease agreement starts from November 2024 and will end in October 2027 with an option to purchase the leased assets at the end of the lease term.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11. Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Unspent conditional grants and receipts comprises of:			
Unspent conditional grants and receipts			
Deferred revenue**		-	419 953
Trade payables		81 548	7 133 164
Accruals		245 723	2 121 524
Deferred - Sahuda***		252 118	100 860
		579 389	9 775 501

** The trade payables relating to NSF (from inception of the NIHSS until 31 March 2020) has been accounted for as deferred revenue in line with GRAP 104. The funds for the projects (from inception of the NIHSS until 31 March 2020) are conditional and recognised as deferred revenue. Revenue is only recognised to the extent that expenditure is incurred. The funds has since been utilised all as at 31 March 2026.

***NIHSS has received funds on behalf of Sahuda organization from October 2024, these funds are not for the NIHSS use however these funds will be handled and utilized on behalf of Sahuda as it is stipulated in the MOU between NIHSS and Sahuda.

Deferred Revenue

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed	Total
Sahuda	100 860	164 044	(12 786)	-	252 118

12. Provisions

Reconciliation of provisions – 2026

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed during the year	Total
Provision for incentive	937 793	825 084	(745 339)	(192 457)	825 081
	937 793	825 084	(745 339)	(192 457)	825 081

Reconciliation of provisions – 2025

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed during the year	Total
Provision for incentive	991 752	781 275	(810 000)	(25 234)	937 793

The provision relates to the following:

- Provisions for performance incentives which are expected to be paid out before the end of December 2026. These are performance based and are driven by the employees' performance evaluations

13. Revenue

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Other income		938 675	35 898
Interest received – investment		647 582	2 510 942
Government grants and subsidies		43 937 953	42 034 500
		45 524 210	44 581 340

The amount included in revenue arising from exchanges of goods or services is as follows:

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Other income		938 675	35 898

**NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Interest received – investment	647 582	2 510 942
	1 586 257	2 546 840

The amount included in revenue arising from non-exchange transactions is as follows:

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) - Operations funding		43 518 000	41 652 000
National Skills Fund (NSF) - Unconditional		419 953	382 500
		43 937 953	42 034 500

14. Investment revenue

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Interest revenue			
Interest received		647 582	2 510 942

15. Government grants and subsidies

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Operating grants			
Government grant		43 937 953	42 034 500

16. Employee-related costs

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Basic		19 456 497	19 068 439
Performance incentives		632 627	756 040
Medical aid - company contributions		391 635	357 066
Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF)		57 304	57 564
Skills Development Levy (SDL)		206 461	201 616
Acting allowances		1 200 845	1 217 271
Provident fund - Employer contributions		59 347	56 269
Other deductions and payments withheld		366 891	(76 755)
		22 371 607	21 637 510



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17. Depreciation and amortisation

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Property, plant and equipment		512 332	825 030
Intangible assets		307 596	622 539
		819 928	1 447 569

18. Project expenses

Awards

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Awards			
Catalytic Projects		1 241 293	2 495 830
Humanities Hubs		680 000	293 000
Awards		-	2 108 650
Evaluation Panels and Award Ceremony		2 565 925	12 768 760
Working Groups		2 404 349	2 013 450
BRICS Think Tank		4 015 211	7 562 735
Emeriti Professors		3 510 130	2 975 000
Annual National Doctoral Conference		57 554	46 506
National and Regional workshops and seminars		391 614	475 442
Total awards		14 866 076	30 739 373
SAHUDA (NSF-funded scholarships)		675 500	9 927 864



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

19. General expenses

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Audit fees - external		1 167 388	927 052
Audit fees - internal		92 345	361 733
Advertising and promotion		63 443	101 283
Consulting Fees		504 737	504 115
Bank charges		42 304	43 421
Cleaning		61 680	141 987
Insurance		402 614	361 954
Workshop Costs (operational)		1 566 372	2 551 024
Internet costs		9 897	16 119
Staff recruitment		216 974	-
Groceries		56 397	96 830
Postage and courier		1 991	-
Printing and stationery		191 156	429 535
Workmens compensation		23 468	5 873
Repairs and maintenance		134 983	143 420
Licenses		1 557 504	1 483 375
Security Expenses		901	-
Staff welfare		172 678	101 301
Subscriptions and membership fees		569 775	218 196
Telephone and fax		225 247	384 683
Staff Training		646 340	374 555
Travel & Accommodation		933 927	443 834
Staff refreshments		384 995	20 109
Small assets		89 448	27 326
Water and electricity		860 400	848 396
Rates and Taxes		104 397	183 020
Supplies and Services		68 586	76 896
Rental of equipment - finance costs		41 208	87 028
Board feess		756 725	-
		10 947 877	9 933 065



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Project administration fee

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Doctoral Schools		920 173	1 205 578
Workshop costs – NSF		20 852	534 012
NSF project administration costs		254 839	(1 552 600)
		1 195 864	186 990

20. Net cash flows from operating activities

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Deficit		(9 704 898)	(32 767 565)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation and amortisation		819 928	1 447 569
Gain on sale of assets and liabilities		2 474	-
Finance costs - Finance leases		41 208	-
Movements in operating lease assets and accruals		-	(506 817)
Increase in provisions related to employees		64 823	(130 714)
Changes in working capital:			
Inventories		13 894	6 338
Receivables from exchange transactions		219 681	147 223
Payables from exchange transactions		(9 250 131)	5 283 993
Payables from non-exchange transactions		(268 695)	(281 640)
Retained earnings adjustment		-	100 591
		(18 061 120)	(26 701 022)



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21. Commitments

Operating lease commitments - As lessee (expense)

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Minimum lease payments due:			
• within one year		4 502 497	4 352 256
Rental expenses relating to operating leases			
Minimum lease payments		4 352 256	3 476 528

The lease contract ended in March 2026 and it was extended by a year to end in March 2027. The building is located on Erf 902, 24 St Andrews Road, Parktown.

Finance lease Commitments - As Lessee

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Minimum lease payments due:			
• within one year		314 459	128 642
• in second to fifth year inclusive		-	314 459
		314 459	443 101

Figures in Rands – 2026	Present value	Interest	Payment
Reconciliation of total future minimum lease payments and their present values:			
Due not later than one year	149 068	22 460	171 528
Due later than one year	137 119	5 816	142 935
	286 187	28 276	314 463

The Institute has entered into a finance lease agreement for the rental of 2 photocopying machines for a period of three 1 years. There are no escalation clauses. The leases have been accounted for in terms of GRAP 13. The lease agreement will expire on 31 October 2027.

Figures in Rands – 2025	Present value	Interest	Payment
Reconciliation of total future minimum lease payments and their present values:			
Due not later than one year	132 243	39 280	171 523
Due later than one year	284 259	30 200	314 459
	416 502	69 480	485 982



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Project commitments

All Projects are funded by the National Skills Fund (NSF). The contract period ranges from 1 to 3 years for all projects.

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at March 2025	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2026	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2026	Contractual value at 31 March 2026
University of Johannesburg	Working Group programme	WGP22/1096	147 000	-	-	-	-	-	147 000
Wits University	Working Group programme	WGP22/1061	147 000	-	-	-	-	-	147 000
Durban University of Technology	Working Group programme	WGP23/1002	150 000	-	-	-	-	-	150 000
University of Pretoria	Working Group programme	WGP23/1003	350 000	(350 000)	-	-	-	-	-
Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni	Professional Association	PAP20/1017	300 000	-	-	-	-	-	300 000
University of Limpopo	Promotion intra-BRICS	BC01/2020/01/1080	107 604	-	-	59 216	-	-	166 820
University of Johannesburg	Mobility Grant	AMG22/1034	180	-	-	-	-	-	180
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	African Pathways and Internation, BRICS	BMG22/1041	60 000	(60 000)	-	-	-	-	-
University of Cape Town	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-02:UCT	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
University of Johannesburg	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-02:UJ	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
University Free State	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-02:UFS	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
University of Zululand	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-02:UNIZULU	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
Prof Fred Hendrick	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-03	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
Prof Nhlanhla Maake	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-04	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
Wits University	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-02:WITS	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
Nelson Mandela University	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-01:NMU	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-02:KZN	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
University of Limpopo	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-02:UL	87 500	-	-	-	-	(87 500)	-
	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-02	-	-	350 000	-	-	(262 500)	87 500
Nelson Mandela University	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-01:NMU	-	-	350 000	-	-	(262 500)	87 500
	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-01	-	-	350 000	-	-	(262 500)	87 500



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at March 2025	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2026	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2026	Contractual value at 31 March 2026
University of Cape town	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-01:UCT	-	-	350 000	-	-	(262 500)	87 500
University of Free State	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-01:UFS	-	-	175 000	-	-	(175 000)	-
University of Johannesburg	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-01:UJ	-	-	350 000	-	-	(262 500)	87 500
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-01:UKZN	-	-	350 000	-	-	(262 500)	87 500
University of ZuluLand	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-01:UNIZULU	-	-	350 000	-	-	(262 500)	87 500
Wits University	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-01:Wits	-	-	350 000	-	-	(262 500)	87 500
University of Limpopo	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-01:UL	-	-	350 000	-	-	(262 500)	87 500
University of Free State	Mentorship programme	NMP2025/26-02:UFS	-	-	175 000	-	-	(87 500)	87 500
University of Cape town	Humanities Hub Programme	00202101HUB	600 000	-	-	-	(600 000)	-	-
University of Cape town	Humanities Hub Programme	00201710HUB_C	95 000	(95 000)	-	-	-	-	-
Wits University	Humanities Hub Programme	00201708HUB_C	372 608	-	-	-	(372 608)	-	-
Freedom Park	Humanities Hub Programme	00202502HUB	-	-	300 000	-	-	(240 000)	60 000
University of Cape town	Humanities Hub Programme	00202501HUB_B	-	-	600 000	-	-	(300 000)	300 000
Wits origins centre	Humanities Hub Programme	00202503HUB	-	-	350 000	-	-	(140 000)	210 000
University of Free State	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/01	300 000	-	-	-	-	-	300 000
University of Pretoria	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research project	BC01/2020/01	179 340	(179 340)	-	-	-	-	-
University of Venda	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research project	JNI20/1033	59 600	-	-	-	-	-	59 600
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research project	JNI20/1026	2 700	-	-	-	-	-	2 700
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research project	JNI20/1047	59 460	-	-	-	-	-	59 460
The Hani Legacy	Working Group Programme	WGP21/1044	114 634	-	-	-	-	-	114 634
Wits University	Working Group Programme	WGP21/1131	336 000	-	-	-	-	(336 000)	-
University of ZuluLand	Working Group Programme	WGP21/1049	199 888	-	-	-	-	-	199 888



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at March 2025	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2026	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2026	Contractual value at 31 March 2026
University of Fort hare	Working Group Programme	WGP22/1003	22 000	-	-	-	-	-	22 000
Rhodes University	Working Group Programme	WGP22/1099	90 000	-	-	-	-	(90 000)	-
University of Johannesburg	Working Group Programme	WGP22/1067	132 000	-	-	-	-	-	132 000
University of Pretoria	Working Group Programme	WGP23/1003	150 000	(150 000)	-	-	-	-	-
University of Johannesburg	Working Group Programme	WGP24/1004	120 000	-	133 067	-	-	(253 067)	-
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Working Group Programme	WGP24/1002	45 000	-	-	-	-	(44 400)	600
Modjadji Books	Working Group Programme	WGP25/1001	-	-	180 000	-	-	(108 000)	72 000
Jacana Media	Working Group Programme	WGP26/1003	-	-	365 000	-	-	(219 000)	146 000
HSRC Press	Working Group Programme	WGP27/1002	-	-	360 000	-	-	(216 000)	144 000
Wits University	Working Group Programme	WGP28/1004	-	-	300 000	-	-	(180 000)	120 000
Nelson Mandela University	Working Group Programme	WGP29/1192	-	-	100 000	-	-	-	100 000
University of Western Cape	Working Group Programme	WGP30/1359	-	-	100 000	-	-	-	100 000
Stellenbosch University	Working Group Programme	WGP31/1335	-	-	90 000	-	-	-	90 000
University of South Africa	Working Group Programme	WGP32/1315	-	-	100 000	-	-	-	100 000
University of Zululand	Working Group Programme	WGP33/1256	-	-	100 000	-	-	-	100 000
University of Johannesburg	Working Group Programme	WGP34/1252	-	-	100 000	-	-	-	100 000
University of Zululand	Working Group Programme	WGP35/1445	-	-	100 000	-	-	-	100 000
University of South Africa	Working Group Programme	WGP36/1354	-	-	100 000	-	-	-	100 000
University of Free State	Working Group Programme	WGP37/1357	-	-	100 000	-	-	-	100 000
University of Pretoria	Working Group Programme	WGP38/1376	-	-	99 435	-	-	-	99 435
University of South Africa	Working Group Programme	WGP39/1458	-	-	99 500	-	-	-	99 500
SAHUDA	Professional Association Programme	PAPA20/1016	500 000	-	-	-	-	-	500 000
Wits University	Brics academic cluster	BC01/2020/04	329 400	(299 000)	-	-	-	-	30 400
NWU to Wits	Catalytic Research programme	CRP22/1090	188 000	-	-	-	-	(187 000)	1 000



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at March 2025	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2026	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2026	Contractual value at 31 March 2026
Tshwane University of Technology	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1071	200 000	588 039	-	-	-	(588 039)	200 000
Nelson Mandela University	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1074	400 000	-	-	-	-	-	400 000
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1093	400 000	-	-	-	-	(400 000)	-
University of Pretoria	South African BRICS think tank Academic Research Cluster Grants: Economic Development	BRI22/1216	632 200	-	-	-	-	-	632 200
Total			7 664 614	(545 301)	7 177 002	59 216	(972 608)	(6 801 506)	6 581 417
Non-contract expenditure[^]			-	-	-	-	-	(8 064 570)	-
Total			-	-	-	-	-	(14 866 076)	-

[^] R8 064 570 are operational expenses incurred to support the NSF projects that do not fall under a contract.

Scholarships (SAHUDA)	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2025	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2026	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2026	Contractual value at 31 March 2026
			8 480 136	703 000	-	-	(8 062 636)	(675 500)	445 000
Total	-	-	8 480 136	703 000	-	-	(8 062 636)	(675 500)	445 000

22. Contingencies

2025/26 NSF project funding

The contingent asset disclosed in the 2024/25 Annual Financial Statements has not been carried forward into the 2025/26 Annual Financial Statements, as the facts and circumstances that supported its disclosure have changed.

Management is of the view that the 2024/25 disclosure was appropriate based on the information available at that reporting date. However, developments during 2025/26 and subsequent events, including the continued lack of approval and non-payment by the NSF, indicate that the possible inflow no longer meets the requirements for disclosure as a contingent asset.

Accordingly, no contingent asset has been disclosed in respect of the NSF funding applications for the 2025/26 financial year.

2024/25 NSF project funding

The NIHSS identified a possible asset of R209 695 750 relating to funding for 2024/25 projects that remained outstanding at year-end. Although the 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan was approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training, receipt of the funding was dependent on the initiation, assessment and approval of the related funding application by the National Skills Fund.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

23. Related parties

The DHET has appointed the NIHSS Board on 20 November 2025. The board has since began its oversight responsibilities. The major breakthrough is the appointment made to these key areas, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary. The new key staff members (CEO and CS) started in office from 1 April 2026 and the CFO will start on 1 May 2026.

Relationship		
Controlling entity:	Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	
Entities under common control:	NSF	
Members of key management :	Ms Auriel Niemack	Acting CEO
	Mr Tshiamo Molapisi	Acting CFO
Members of the Board:	Prof Magomme Masoga	Board Chair
	Prof Nirmal Gopal	ICT Chair
	Dr Xolani Khohliso	HR Chair
	Ms Zandile Matshaye	Finco Chair
	Prof Siphamandla Zondi	AIAC Chair
	Mr Tumelo Mokoena	ARC Chair
	Prof Andre Keet	
	Prof Samuel Koma	
	Dr Fanelesibonge Mabaso	
	Dr Anastasia Moloto	
	Ms Brenda Ntombela	

2026

Institution	Members Of the Board	Figures in Rands	Figures in Rands
University of Free State	Prof Magomme Masoga (Board Chair)	76 175	
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Prof Nirmal Gopal (ICT Chair)	98 603	
Nelson Mandela University	Prof Andre Keet (Board member)	45 241	
Central University of Technology, Free State	Dr Xolani Khohliso (HR Chair)	115 242	
University of Limpopo	Prof Samuel Koma	61 429	452
Vaal University of Technology	Dr Fanelesibonge Mabaso (Board member)	33 439	
Vaal University of Technology	Ms Zandile Matshaye (Finco Chair)	94 002	
University of South Africa	Dr Anastasia Moloto (Board member)	59 010	
University of South Africa	Ms Brenda Ntombela (Board member)	55 076	
University of Johannesburg	Prof Siphamandla Zondi (AIAC Chair)	75 397	
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Prof Nompumelelo Zondi (Board member)	43 110	3 770
Total		756 724	4 222



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2026

Institution	Associated Board member	Figures in Rands
University of Free State	Prof Magomme Masoga	353 600
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Prof Nirmal Gopal	469 045
Nelson Mandela University	Prof Andre Keet	262 500
Central University of Technology, Free State	Dr Xolani Khohliso	0.00
University of Limpopo	Prof Samuel Koma	262 500
Vaal University of Technology	Dr Fanelesibonge Mabaso	0.00
Private	Ms Zandile Matshaya	0.00
University of South Africa	Dr Anastasia Moloto	37 500
Private	Ms Brenda Ntombela	0.00
University of Johannesburg	Prof Siphamandla Zondi	812 180
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Prof Nompumelelo Zondi	469 045
Total		2 666 370

The DHET has a number of institutions and entities which reports to it, including universities, TVET colleges and SETAs. For the year under review, the NIHSS did not transact with any of those entities, except universities. All transactions with the universities have been disclosed under Note 21 Project Commitments. The nature of the transactions with universities is grants awarded to student for studies and for projects related expenses.

Related party balances

Figures in Rands	2026	2025
Grants received - Owning (to) by related parties		
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	-	-
Amounts included in Trade receivable (Trade Payable) regarding related parties		
National Skills Fund	-	419 953
Sahuda funds	252 118	100 860
Commitments with related parties		
National Skills Fund	-	-

All related party balances and transactions to DHET include the transfer to/from the National Skills Fund

Grants received from related parties

Figures in Rands	2026	2025
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	43 518 000	41 652 000
National Skills Fund	419 953	382 500
Total	43 937 953	42 034 500



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Remuneration of management Management class: Executive management 2026

Name	Basic salary	Bonuses and performance related payments	Total
Chief Executive Officer	1 666 283	-	1 666 283
Chief Financial Officer	1 709 770	40 533	1 750 303
Executive Manager	1 280 332	46 986	1 327 318
	4 656 385	87 519	4 743 904

2025

Name	Basic salary	Bonuses and performance related payments	Total
Chief Executive Officer	1 643 258	30 000	1 673 258
Chief Financial Officer	1 558 460	30 000	1 588 460
Executive Manager	1 218 727	30 000	1 248 727
	4 420 445	90 000	4 510 445

The key management group consists of the Acting Director (Office of the CEO), Acting CFO and Executive Manager. The Executive Manager was appointed as the Acting Director in the office of the CEO since 2023/24 financial year Ms Auriel Niemack resigned on 13 March 2026 and Mr Tshiamo Molapisi resigned on 31 March 2026.

24. Change in accounting estimate

Property, plant and equipment

The useful lives of computer equipment, leasehold improvements and computer software are as follows:

	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Furniture and fittings	9-11 years	11% - 9%
Office equipment	4-13 years	25% - 7.69%
IT equipment	2-13 years	50% - 7.69%
Computer software	2-12 years	50% - 8.33%
Leasehold improvements	3-11 years	33.33% - 9.09%

An assessment was done during the 2025/26 reporting period to ascertain whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets have changed since the preceding reporting period. Such an indication did exist for a few items of computer equipment, leasehold improvements and computer software and the useful lives revised as follows (only on those specific items):

**NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Office equipment	Extended by 1 more year	25% - 7.69%
IT equipment	Extended by 1 more year	50% - 8.33%
Computer software	Extended by 1 more year	50% - 8.33%
Leasehold improvements	Extended by 1 more year	33.33% - 9.09%
Internally generated computer software	Extended by 1 more year	50% - 9%

The revised useful lives had the following effect on the carrying amounts of the assets:

	Average useful life	Amounts
Furniture and fittings	Increase in carrying amount	120 316
Office equipment	Increase in carrying amount	95 068
Computer equipment	Increase in carrying amount	213 576
Office equipment - projects	Increase in carrying amount	2 218
Computer software	Increase in carrying amount	263 955
Leasehold improvements	Increase in carrying amount	362 579
Internally generated computer software	Increase in carrying amount	347 205

The effect on the current and future periods will be an decrease in the depreciation charge of R1 404 918 in the current period and an equal Increase in the depreciation charge of R1 404 918 over the next period.

25. Risk management**25.1 Categories of financial instruments**

Figures in Rands		2026	2025
Financial assets	Measurement category		
Receivables from exchange	Amortised cost transactions	558 632	734 778
Cash and cash equivalents	Amortised cost	2 003 600	20 636 044
Total financial assets		2 562 232	21 370 822
Financial liabilities	Measurement category		
Trade payables and accruals Amortised cost from exchange transactions	Amortised cost	885 774	1 183 150
Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions, to the extent contractual	Amortised cost to the extent contractual	327 271	9 254 688
Finance lease obligation	Amortised cost for GRAP 104 disclosure purposes	286 187	416 502
Credit card	Amortised cost	1 758	1 150
Total financial liabilities		1 500 990	10 855 490

The carrying amounts of short-term financial assets and financial liabilities approximate their fair values because of their short-term nature. Finance lease obligations are measured in accordance with GRAP 13 and included in financial risk disclosures where relevant.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

25.2 Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will fail to discharge an obligation and cause NIHSS to incur a financial loss. NIHSS is exposed to credit risk mainly from receivables from exchange transactions and cash and cash equivalents held with financial institutions.

Credit risk is managed through the monitoring of debtor balances, periodic review of ageing reports, assessment of recoverability, implementation of recovery arrangements where appropriate, legal recovery processes where necessary, and ongoing reassessment of expected credit losses. A receivable is considered past due when a contractual payment has not been received by the agreed payment date or, where no specific payment terms exist, when payment has not been received within 30 days from the date on which the debt became due and payable. In applying GRAP 104, management considered the rebuttable presumption that credit risk increases significantly when contractual payments are more than 30 days past due. Management rebutted this presumption for certain receivables where reasonable and supportable information indicated that the balances remained recoverable despite being past due, including consideration of legal enforceability, acknowledgements of debt or recovery arrangements where applicable, ongoing recovery actions, subsequent receipts, prescription assessments and the specific nature of each debtor. In determining expected credit losses, management incorporated forward-looking information by considering expected future recoveries, repayment arrangements, subsequent receipts, legal enforceability, the status of recovery actions and the timing of expected cash flows. Where repayment arrangements existed, expected future cash flows were assessed and discounted where applicable, while debtors without such evidence were assessed individually for expected credit losses.

Figures in Rands	2026	2025
Maximum exposure to credit risk		
Receivables from exchange transactions	558 632	734 778
Cash and cash equivalents	2 003 600	20 636 044
Total maximum exposure to credit risk	2 562 232	21 370 822

Financial asset	Credit quality / ECL conclusion
Cash and cash equivalents	Assessed under the general approach. Balances are held with reputable financial institutions and are available on demand or short notice. Management assessed 12-month ECL as immaterial and no loss allowance was recognised. Balances are held with reputable financial institutions and are available on demand or short notice. Management assessed 12-month ECL as immaterial and no loss allowance was recognised.
Receivables from exchange transactions	Assessed using the simplified approach and lifetime ECL. Balances were individually assessed based on age analysis, nature, recovery process, legal enforceability, and forward-looking information. Management assessed the ECL allowance as immaterial.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to meet an obligation. Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, and deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as outstanding receivables and committed transactions. For banks and financial institutions, only highly reputable financial institutions are used and funds are invested in short-term deposits and call accounts. As such, the NIHSS is not exposed to significant credit risk related to the risk or loss of interest earned on cash and cash equivalents.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

25.3 Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that NIHSS will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset. Liquidity risk is managed through cash-flow forecasting, budget monitoring, grant management, monitoring of commitments and regular management reporting.

Figures in Rands	Carrying amount	Contractual cash flows	On demand	Less than 1 year	1-5 years	More than 5 years
2026 maturity analysis						
Trade payables and accruals from exchange transactions	885 774	885 774	-	885 774	-	-
Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions, to the extent contractual	327 271	327 271	-	327 271	-	-
Finance lease obligation	286 187	314 463	-	171 528	142 935	-
Credit card	1 758	1 758	1 758	-	-	-
Total	1 500 990	1 529 266	1 758	1 384 573	142 935	-
2025 maturity analysis						
Trade payables and accruals from exchange transactions	1 183 150	1 183 150	-	1 183 150	-	-
Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions, to the extent contractual	9 254 688	9 254 688	-	9 254 688	-	-
Finance lease obligation	416 502	485 982	-	171 523	314 459	-
Credit card	1 150	1 150	1 150	-	-	-
Total	10 855 490	10 924 970	1 150	10 609 361	314 459	-

25.4 Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market variables. NIHSS is primarily exposed to interest rate risk through cash and short-term investments. NIHSS is not materially exposed to currency risk or other price risk at reporting date.

Market risk is managed through the continuous monitoring of cash and short-term investment balances, ensuring that funds are placed with established and regulated South African financial institutions and that investment periods remain aligned with the Institute's liquidity requirements. Management reviews prevailing market interest rates and investment returns on a periodic basis and maintains a diversified portfolio of bank accounts and short-term investments to minimise concentration risk. Given the nature of NIHSS's operations, the Institute has no material exposure to foreign currency transactions or market-traded instruments and is therefore not materially exposed to currency risk or other price risk at reporting date.

25.4.1 Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. NIHSS is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through cash balances and short-term investments held at variable rates of interest.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management manages this risk by monitoring interest rate movements, reviewing available investment options periodically, and ensuring that funds are placed with reputable financial institutions offering competitive market-related returns while maintaining adequate liquidity to meet operational requirements. The Institute does not utilise derivative financial instruments or other hedging arrangements to manage interest rate risk.

At reporting date, management assessed the potential impact of reasonably possible changes in interest rates on cash and short-term investment balances and concluded that any resulting impact on the financial statements would not be material.

Interest rate sensitivity	Interest-bearing balance	Increase / decrease in rates	Effect on surplus or deficit
2026 cash and cash equivalents	2 003 600	+1%	20 036 increase
2026 cash and cash equivalents	2 003 600	-1%	20 036 decrease
2025 cash and cash equivalents	20 636 044	+1%	206 360 increase
2025 cash and cash equivalents	20 636 044	-1%	206 360 decrease

25.4.2 Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

NIHSS's transactions are predominantly denominated in South African Rand and the Institute does not maintain material foreign currency-denominated financial assets or financial liabilities. Accordingly, management has assessed the Institute's exposure to currency risk as immaterial at reporting date.

25.4.3 Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk.

NIHSS does not hold listed equity investments, commodity-linked instruments or other financial instruments whose values are directly affected by market price fluctuations. Consequently, management has assessed the Institute's exposure to other price risk as immaterial at reporting date.

25.5 Fair value

Management considers that the carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities measured at amortised cost approximate their fair values because the balances are short-term in nature or bear market-related returns. Where fair values differ materially from carrying amounts, the fair values and valuation basis are disclosed separately.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2026

The ageing of receivables from exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due*	558 632	-	558 632

*Not past due is defined as when a counterparty has failed to make a payment when contractually due. As such, the receivable as relates to the recovery of legal costs are not past due.

The ageing of receivables from non-exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	-	-	-
The ageing of cash and cash equivalents	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	2 003 600	-	2 003 600
	2 003 600	-	2 003 600

2025

The ageing of receivables from exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due*	734 778	-	734 778
The ageing of receivables from non-exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	-	-	-
The ageing of cash and cash equivalents	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	20 636 044	-	20 636 044
	20 636 044	-	20 636 044

26. Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the NIHSS will continue to operate as a going concern for at least the next twelve months from the reporting date. Management has assessed the NIHSS's ability to continue as a going concern, considering its approved mandate, funding arrangements, operational requirements, and available financial information. This assessment is supported by the mandate review process conducted by a Ministerial review panel, the approved budget allocation under Vote 7: Department of Higher Education and Training, and the approval of the NIHSS Annual Performance Plans, including the 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan approved by the Minister.

Notwithstanding the above, management notes a material uncertainty relating to project funding historically received from the National Skills Fund (NSF). The NSF has not funded the NIHSS from the 2023/24 financial year to date, and the funding application submitted in June 2025 remains unapproved. Although the NSF has not formally indicated that it will not fund the NIHSS, the continued delay creates uncertainty regarding the timing and likelihood of future NSF funding and may affect the NIHSS's ability to implement NSF-funded activities at the planned level without alternative funding arrangements, cost containment, reprioritisation, or further financial support. Based on the approved baseline funding and available financial information, management remains satisfied that the going concern basis remains appropriate. Management will continue to engage with the Department and the NSF and monitor the impact on operations, commitments, cash flows, and service delivery obligations.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

27. Events after the reporting date

No event after reporting date was identified during the 2025/26 financial year.

28. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Figures in Rands	Notes	2026	2025
Opening balance as previously reported		496 094	498 194
Less: Amount recovered - current		(1 801)	(2 100)
Closing balance		494 293	496 094

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is presented inclusive of VAT.

2025/26

Opening balance of Fruitless and wasteful expenditure relates to the following:

1. The employee continues to make payments, Fraudulent transactions that were done by a former staff member in the 2016/17 financial year. The former employee has been paying back the funds owed from the 2017/18 financial year to date.
2. Also included is an amount of R177 069 which was as a result of a cyber crime that occurred prior year (The matter is still under investigation with SAPS).
3. Condonment memorandum submitted to the board for approval. A penalty to an amount of R32 658 as a result of late payment of the PAYE, sdi and UIF during the fourth quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.
4. Condonment memorandum submitted to board for approval. An erroneous payment of R29 712.70 was made to a former employee of the NIHSS in the prior year. Steps were taken to recover the funds from the relevant employee and the institute is considering other avenues in having the matter resolved.
5. The former employee committed theft where tablets to the value of R143 462 were stolen from the premises of the institute. The employee has signed an acknowledgement of debt.

In 2025/26 there were no new additional fruitless and wasteful expenditure identified.

2024/25

Opening balance of Fruitless and wasteful expenditure relates to the following:

1. Fraudulent transactions that were done by a former staff member in the 2016/17 financial year. The former employee has been paying back the funds owed from the 2017/18 financial year to date.
2. Also included is an amount of R177 069 which was as a result of a cyber crime that occurred prior year (The matter is still under investigation with SAPS).
3. A penalty to an amount of R32 658 as a result of late payment of the PAYE, sdi and UIF during the fourth quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.
4. An erroneous payment of R29 712.70 was made to a former employee of the NIHSS in the prior year. Steps were taken to recover the funds from the relevant employee and the institute is considering other avenues in having the matter resolved.
5. The former employee committed theft where tablets to the value of R143 462 were stolen from the premises of the institute. The employee has signed an acknowledgement of debt.

In 2024/25 there were no new additional fruitless and wasteful expenditure identified.



NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

29. Irregular expenditure

There was no irregular expenditure incurred during the 2025/26 financial year.

30. Budget differences**Differences between budget and actual amounts basis of preparation and presentation**

Item	Reason
Other income	Refunds from unspent budget in a commitment contract was paid back to NIHSS.
Interest revenue	Funding for 2025/26 was not received resulted in reduction in interest received.
Government funding	The full allocation of funding for operations(including BRICS funding) was received during the financial year. Of the total allocated budget of R119 330 000 for the 2025/26 no funding has been received for the financial year. R419 953 is income recognised after utilizing conditional funds resulting in reduction of deferred revenue.
Operational expenditure	General expenses were incurred during the financial year and in line with budget. The R3 834 870 budget under spending is as a result of applying measures to cut costs and save funds.
Project expenses	The NIHSS did not receive 2025/26 funding from the NSF, for project expenditure. As such, the expenditure is below budget. Projects were funded from reserves and also utilising operations funds.

31. Prior year period error

Figures in Rands	Balance as per previous report	Corrections	Restated Balance
2025 Commitment registers			
Other projects Commitment register	16 752 349	(9 087 735)	7 664 614
Sahuda Commitment register	10 080 136	(1 600 000)	8 480 136
	26 832 485	(10 687 735)	16 144 750

This is a correction of prior period error affecting Other projects commitment register where an annual report for 2024/25 reflected an incorrect closing balance of R16 752 349 instead of R7 664 614, the commitment balance was overstated by R9 087 735.

Sahuda commitment register for Post Doctoral contract (of Prof Hurst), the expenditure of R1 600 000 recognised correctly in the correct period and the payment was recorded correctly as well on 18 March 2022. However we have realised that it was not recorded correctly on Sahuda commitment register, as a result the opening balance was showing an overstated figure of R1 600 000.

Figures in Rands	Balance as per previous report	Corrections	Restated Balance
2025 Finance lease obligation			
Non-current liabilities	416 502	(132 243)	284 259
Current liabilities	-	132 243	132 243
	416 502	-	416 502

This is a correction of prior period error where the whole amount of Finance lease obligation was shown as non-current liability, a correction has been made where a split between an amount payable within one year, and the amount payable after one year to the fifth year, will be disclosed under non-current liabilities.



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Email: info@nihss.ac.za

Tel: +27 11 480 2300

Fax: +27 11 482 3068

2nd floor, 24 St Andrews Road

Johannesburg, Parktown

Gauteng

2193

Postnet Suite 413

P/Bag X30500

Houghton

2041