



DDP Executive Director: Dr Rama Naidu

Message from the Director

What a start to the year! And a victory for the voice of citizens who made their voices heard in every corner of the country, across race, political parties and gender about holding our leaders to account. More than ever before, citizens across the country have begun to realise the cost of not taking an interest in the changing political landscape. **Never** again would we want to find ourselves in a place where elected leaders believe that they are not accountable to each one of us as citizens.

How do we ensure that we continue to make our power and voices heard when it comes to accountability and governance?

Although many of you have been attending and participating in our workshops, dialogues and political forums and know our work well, but there is now a sense of urgency to reclaim the spaces for civil that have been steadily eroded over the years. The challenge!

- Attend our forums and dialogues and participate actively.
- Challenge us to do more work in your community.
- Use the resources that we have produced to educate yourself and others within your circle.
- Partner with us when necessary to increase our reach and depth.
- Engage us about new ideas and possibilities to activate citizens whether it is through the Arts, drama or any other modality.
- Join your voices with ours on issues requiring citizen advocacy.
- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook ([@ddpdemocracy](https://twitter.com/ddpdemocracy) / [DDP Durban NPC](https://www.facebook.com/DDP-Durban-NPC)) so that we have a much stronger online presence.

Rama

DDP NEWSLETTER-ISSUE ONE

EDITOR

Sthabiso Mdledle

CONTRIBUTORS

*Dr Rama Naidu
Brian Bhengu
Daniel Dunia
Melusi Mahlaba
Mbali Manaka*



Democracy Development Program NPC
www.ddp.org.za

*We would love to hear from you!
Leave a comment!
[@ddpdemocracy](https://twitter.com/ddpdemocracy) | [Facebook.com/ddpdemocracy](https://www.facebook.com/ddpdemocracy) /
[Twitter.com / Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/ddpdemocracy) | you
can also visit our website at
ddp.org.za and share your stories!*



***@ddpdemocracy & DDP Durban
NPC***

*DDP is Funded by the Konrad -
Adenauer- Stiftung (KAS)
Foundation*

*Follow @KAS_SA Facebook and
Twitter*



DDP NEWS

“The best part of the speech for me was the quoting of the Thuma Mina song by the late Hugh Masikela however, the speech gave me no idea of the South African position in the world”.

This was said by political analyst and research fellow at the Hellen Suzman Foundation Aubrey Matshiqi, at the Democracy Development Program (DDP) and Diakonia SONA (State of the Nation Address) dialogue last week.

To read more, [click here](#).

Below right: KZNCC CEO Dr Douglas Dziva with DDP Executive Director Dr Rama Naidu at the re-launch of KZN’s Democracy and Election Forum in Durban.

Picture: Xola Nkabinde

Democracy Development Program in partnership with the KZN Christian Council convened a meeting with civil society and religious leaders who have an interest in participating in a civil society initiative with regards to the upcoming national elections in South Africa.

To read more, [click here](#)

MATSHIQI UNPACKS THE THUMA MINA CHALLENGE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN KZN



Above: DDP’s Dr P Kariuki, Diakonia’s Nomabelu Dandala, Aubrey Matshiqi-Political analyst, DDP’s Dr R Naidu, KAS’s Michaela Braun, Cyril Mwandla- Diakonia and Brian Bhengu from DDP.

Picture: Sthabiso Mdledle

RE-IGNITING THE KWA-ZULU NATAL DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION FORUM



DDP NEWS

Lindelani Youth Forum (LYF) in partnership with the Democracy Development Program (DDP) and Africa Unite (AU), conducted a community conflict mediation to assist the eThekweni municipality in building a library for the (Inanda, Ntuzuma, KwaMashu) INK Creative Arts Centre earlier this year.

According to the founder and Chairperson of LYF, a youth development organization that is based in Ntuzuma at Lindelani Township Melusi Mahlaba, their organization.....[click here for more](#)

Below right: Delegates at the ASONET skill sharing/workshop at Isipingo, North of Durban on the 12-14 January 2018

Picture: Daniel Dunia

The Africa Solidarity Network (ASONET) recently hosted a training for social cohesion practitioners at Isipingo on the 12-14 January 2018.

The aim of the workshop was to train participants on how to demonstrate competency in community-based social.....[click here for more](#)

LYF INITIATIVE TO GET LIBRARY FOR COMMUNITY



Above: Lindelani community members with Lindelani Youth Forum, in partnership with Africa Unite and DDP members at the site for the new park-home library in Lindelani Ntuzuma-

Picture: LYF

ASONET SOCIAL COHESION WORKSHOP



DDP NEWS

Societies have long had an interest in the ways in which their young are prepared for citizenship and in how they learn to take part in civic life. Today that interest might better be described as a concerning

fact as a growing concern, particularly in democratic societies. There is evidence aplenty that no

country, including our own, has achieved the level of understanding and acceptance of the rights and

responsibilities among the totality of its citizens that is required for the maintenance and

improvement of any constitutional democracy.

DDP CIVIC EDUCATION FOR ALL



Participants at the DDP Civic Education Training at Blue Marlin.



Participants at the DDP Civic Education Training at Blue Marlin during group discussions.

As part of its 2018 themed year, Democracy Development Program (DDP) held a 3-day Civic Education training at the Blue Marlin Hotel in South Coast, from 3-5 April 2018.

The workshop used DDP as well as a partner's (Street Law) learning/ educating material on community building.

The objectives of this workshop were to improve fundamental principles and values underlying democracy in a society, promote awareness of current issues and controversies relating to democracy, [...Click here for more](#)

DDP NEWS

This consultation was convened by the Democracy Development Program, to identify biggest areas of concern for political parties in KZN and their needs in terms of capacity building.

The principal objective of this information session was to firstly, familiarise political parties with

the work of DDP and the KZNDEF and then secondly...[click here for more](#)

CONSULTATION WITH POLITICAL PARTIES IN KZN



*Representatives of political parties in KZN with Dr R Naidu from DDP
Picture: Mbali Manaka*

CITIES ALLIANCE THEATRE PERFORMANCES

The Last Country ran another week of performances during 19th – 25th February 2018 in what the Mercury newspaper described as an “astonishing, moving and profoundly brilliant” performance. The script sensitively adapts the stories of women migrants hailing from DRC, Zimbabwe, Somalia and KwaZulu-Natal....[Click here for more](#)

EXPLORING STEWARDSHIP, REPLACING CONTROL AND POWER WITH PARTNERSHIP

Dr Rama Naidu, Executive Director of the Democracy Development Program (DDP) has been nominated to be part of the Common Good Fellowship Pilot in Cincinnati, Ohio.

According to the fellowship, the nomination came highly recommended by well-known American author, consultant, and speaker, Peter Block.....[Click here](#)

FEATURED

In this section we profile one of our staff, partner organisations in the Civil Society Sector.

This term we profile one of our own, Brian Sphamandla Bhengu and his journey with DDP.

LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH IN THE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR: PROFILE OF BRIAN BHENGU



Pictures: Brian Bhengu facilitating the DDP & Diakonia SONA Forum 2018 at Elangeni Hotel.

Pictures: Sthabiso Mdledle



Brian Bhengu currently serves as the project coordinator at the DDP. In this portfolio, he is responsible for the implementation of projects that have an impact on the capacity of community based organizations (primarily those run and are working with young people), on interacting with local municipalities in KwaZulu Natal province, as well as representing the organization in various forums and conferences.

During Bhengu's time at DDP, he has developed an astute attitude towards the realisation of open democratic societies where human rights are not just protected, but are advanced by all members of the society, regardless of ethnicity, language and gender..... [Click here for more](#)

