



NEWSLETTER



EDITION 1
June 2014

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
KAS COUNTRY PROJECT SOUTH AFRICA

Upcoming Events

19 JUNE 2014

THE CONSTITUTION AND GOOD PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

BREAKFAST DISCUSSION SERIES

KAS in cooperation with the School of Public Leadership Public Leadership Forum (SPLPLF), the Centre for Constitutional Rights (CFCR), the School of Public Leadership (SPL) at the University Stellenbosch and the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute (FVZS) supports another working breakfast of the event series 'The Constitution and good public leadership'. Participants will discuss the role of South African universities in producing, leaders who speak up for the common good. Panellists will be the Vice-chancellor of the University of Stellenbosch Prof Russel Botman and Wayde Groep of the Students' Representative Council. [More information...](#)

19 – 20 JUNE 2014

LAND REFORM AND FOOD SECURITY

THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO LAND AND THE
RIGHT OF ACCESS TO FOOD

The aim of this conference is to provide critical insights into access to land and to find possible solutions to the realisation of the right; especially in light of proposals made in terms of the 2011 Green Paper on Land Reform and its eventual successes in addressing issues related to land reform. [More information...](#)

Land Reform and
Food Security
19 & 20 June 2014



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Previous Events

29 MAY 2014

POLITICAL RIGHTS SINCE 1994

SOUTH AFRICAN AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

In the year 2014, which marks 20 years of constitutional democracy in South Africa, KAS with its partner SAIFAC organised a conference to stimulate academic research on political rights in South Africa. [More information...](#)





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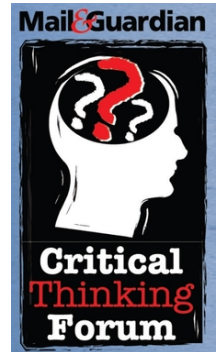
www.kas.de/suedafrika/en/

27 MAY 2014

MAIL & GUARDIAN CRITICAL THINKING FORUM

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE LABOUR MARKET – VISION 2030 –
LESSONS FROM THE PAST 20 YEARS

KAS in partnership with the Mail & Guardian hosts a series of public forums to promote debate on youth unemployment in South Africa. Panellists from government, unions, academia and business were invited to share their views. [More information...](#)



16 – 17 MAY 2014

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN SOUTH AFRICA

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW BY FOLLOWING THE GERMAN MODEL?

Legal scholars from Germany and South Africa discussed the implementation of international law in South Africa. A comparison of the two countries served as a basis for the debate. [More information...](#)

16 APRIL 2014

FREDERIK VAN ZYL SLABBERT HONORARY LECTURE

WITH JAY NAIDOO

This year's lecture took place shortly before the fifth general elections in South Africa's young democracy. KAS supported this annual honorary lecture of the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development to promote public dialogue on current political issues. Jay Naidoo, former minister in the Nelson Mandela Cabinet shared his political insights and experiences with the audience. [More information...](#)



11 APRIL 2014

DISCOURSE CAFÉ

WITH PROF. RUSSEL BOTMAN

The FVZS Institute in cooperation with KAS organises a Discourse Café series, providing students with the unique opportunity to meet renowned representatives from politics, academia, civil society and the media. [More information...](#)

9 APRIL 2014

WATER LAW AND GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

Experts in water law as well as representatives of environmental organisations and local government discussed recent amendments to the national water legislation. During the workshop the experts developed suggestions for improvement. [More information...](#)





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31 MARCH – 4 APRIL 2014

14TH INTERNATIONAL WINELANDS CONFERENCE

INNOVATION FOR THE URBAN AGE

The international conference explored innovative approaches in managing challenges related to rapid urban growth. Focus areas included: sustainable service delivery, innovative leadership and governance practice as well as economic development. [More information...](#)

19 MARCH 2014

**BREAKFAST DISCUSSION WITH FORMER SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT
FW DE KLERK**

The Centre for Constitutional Rights (CFCR) in collaboration with the School of Public Leadership (SPL) organises a series of breakfast discussions on Good Public Leadership. Keynote speaker at the last event was former President FW de Klerk. This working breakfast was organised by the KAS office in Cape Town. [More information...](#)



6 – 8 MARCH 2014

WOMEN'S INNOVATION TRADE FAIR 2014

IGNITING ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES FOR WOMEN

The Woman's Innovation Trade Fair 2014 brought together women in entrepreneurship and business from all spheres, locally and internationally, with a common interest to improve lives. The overarching topic of this trade fair was the role of Social Entrepreneurship in the economic empowerment of women with the following sub-topics: Education, health/nutrition, food security/environmental sustainability and social justice. [More information...](#)



17 – 21 FEBRUARY 2014

CARNEGIE WORKSHOP

OVERCOMING POVERTY & INEQUALITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Experts and members of civil society focused on four policy areas, in which South African communities are facing a number of challenges: Employment, education, drug abuse and housing. The workshop aimed to showcase solutions and best practice models that already exist in South Africa. [More information...](#)



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3 – 5 FEBRUARY 2014

THINK TANKS AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF AFRICA

THE FIRST AFRICAN CONTINENTAL THINK TANK SUMMIT

At the first African continental Think Tank Summit in Pretoria representatives of more than 50 research institutes and civil society organisations discussed the challenges for the further development of the regional Think Tank landscape. [More information...](#)



31 JANUARY 2014

SOUTH AFRICA AT 20

THE NEED FOR REAL TRANSFORMATION

Transformation plays an important role in the government's policies and is essential for the future success of South Africa. 20 years after the end of apartheid participants of this symposium discussed strategies for real social and political transformation in South Africa. [More information...](#)



At a gala dinner the FW de Klerk Foundation gave its goodwill award for outstanding community engagement.

KASNews

KAS office Johannesburg sent observers to the 2014 general elections

The country project of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in South Africa on its webpage reported extensively on the 2014 General Elections, which took place on 7 May 2014. On Election Day the KAS office Johannesburg sent two election observers, who had been officially



The KAS election observers Dr Holger Dix and Marius Glitz in front of a voting tent in Alexandra, Johannesburg.

accredited by the South African Independent Electoral Commission. KAS country director in South Africa Dr Holger Dix and Trainee Marius Glitz got the opportunity to monitor the elections at a number of voting stations in the central Gauteng province. The two KAS personnel visited various voting stations in the Johannesburg districts Houghton Estate, Yeoville, Braamfontein and Alexandra as well as in the South Western Townships (Soweto) and the township of

Bekkersdal. In their opinion the electoral process was well organised and transparent. Talk-



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ing to volunteers, party agents and members of other election observer missions, KAS could deduce that there was satisfaction from all participants. Despite concerns in the media after the elections the KAS members did not observe any obvious signs of fraud. Challenges to security had been expected especially in Bekkersdal with its 50,000 inhabitants as several violent service delivery protests had been taking place there since the beginning of the year. On the eve of the elections two tents of the electoral commission were torched as a result of such service delivery protests. Hence, the police and the military had to ensure a peaceful election process. [More information...](#)

Focus of work

KAS annual slogan 2014 'Turning points in history – An agenda for the future'

In 2014 the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung focuses its work for the second time on a specific annual topic.

This year's annual slogan will be called 'Turning points in history – an agenda for the future' (German: 'Zeitenwenden – die Tagesordnung der Zukunft')

which focuses on a couple of important commemorative events like the Fall of the Berlin Wall 25 years ago. Remembering turning points in history should help with lessons for the future as well as to motivate social transformation. In this perspective KAS is debating future challenges like the digital culture or the role of the western countries in global politics. On a more general level the foundation tries to contribute to the creation of a social consciousness, which allows for changes and transition and opens space for creativity and new ideas. Thereby, KAS highlights the importance of pragmatic and value-based politics.



In light of the annual agenda the KAS country offices in Johannesburg and Cape Town pay special attention to the anniversary of 20 years of democracy in South Africa. On 31 January at the annual conference organised by KAS and its partner the FW de Klerk Foundation representatives of science, politics and business discussed the need for real transformation in South Africa. On 29 May KAS in cooperation with the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC) discussed the right to political participation and the state of political rights since 1994. Midyear, KAS also organises a high-level panel discussion with its South African partner Brenthurst Foundation at the KAS academy Villa La Collina in Cadenabbia at Lake Como, Italy. Participants in this workshop will discuss the impact of the end of the Cold War on the political landscape in sub-Saharan Africa.



Publications

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

IMPACTS ON LONGER TERM POLITICAL STABILITY

Since its first democratic elections in 1994, doomsayers within and outside of South Africa have predicted a fate akin to that of many other failed post-colonial African states for the country. Despite quantifiable evidence of developmental progress; an economy that has maintained a steady growth trajectory (with the exception of 2009, when it, like many of its peers, briefly dipped into recession as consequence of the global economic crisis); and a sustained commitment to the rule of law, it did not deter those who continued to entertain scenarios of impending chaos. [More information...](#)

SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES TWO DECADES ON FROM APARTHEID

HISTORICALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

Two decades on from the end of apartheid, South Africa remains ethnically divided where the distribution of wealth is concerned. A larger black middle class is definitely capable of making changes to this unsatisfactory situation – but this will not necessarily affect the cityscape. There is no shortage of suggestions for solutions to create a more inclusive city. But the last 20 years have shown that large parts of the plans have proved ineffective in removing the historic barriers in real life. [More information...](#)

Voices from South Africa

IN THE HEADLINES

LONGEST WORKERS STRIKE IN SOUTH AFRICAN HISTORY

The ongoing miners strike in the South African platinum belt has not yet reached the end. On 23 January 2014 70,000 mine workers downed their tools demanding a minimum wage of 12,500 Rand (about 875 EUR) per month. Mediation talks between the Association of



Striking mine workers at the Lonmin platinum mine near Marikana, © dpa.

Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) and the mine operators Impala Platinum, Lonmin as well as Anglo American Platinum failed in the end of April when AMCU refused to accept the companies' last wage offer. This would have included a gradual wage increase to level claimed by the workers until 2017 as well as extra vacation days, though not including allowances for health insurance, pension fund and other financial support.



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According to an agreement between AMCU and the mine operators; workers in essential sectors of production are not allowed to strike at all. On 27 February the Labour court ruled that all miners had to return to work by 12 May 2014. Consequently, Lonmin called on its workers via SMS to return to work and fired 235 of them, who had failed to follow instructions. Many families suffer from the long-lasting wage loss and those who intend to return to work fear that they will be attacked by the striking miners. Despite the high police presence four pitmen have already been killed by marauding workers.

In the seventeenth week all parties involved agreed to hold mediation talks at the national employment tribunal. According to calculations made by Lonmin the strikes have cost the platinum producers nearly 20 Billion Rand (about 1,4 Billion EUR) so far, which is valued at a third of the expected annual profit. On the contrary, workers face a wage loss of 9 Billion Rand (about 624 Mio. EUR). As a result this strike has already been declared the longest and most expensive one in the history of South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA'S VIOLENT PROTESTS

The media often describes South Africa as being the 'protest capital of the world'. In the past years South Africa records a dramatic increase in protests. According to statistics more than two million people have taken to the streets since 2008 to protest against a lack of service delivery. In most cases people criticise state housing policies and the poor quality of basic services like water, sanitary and electricity supply. Informal settlements are the worst affected by these problems. Every day on an average 20 protests take place throughout the country, which often end in violence and even death. Civil unrest reached a tragic peak in August 2012 when 34 workers were killed by the police in a wildcat strike in the Marikana mining district.



Some political analysts, among others the often quoted columnist Steven Friedman, state that the cause of violence in South African protests dates back to the 1970s. In their opinion during the heyday of the anti-apartheid movement a violent culture of protests was formed in South Africa, which continues even today. It seems that a part of the population views violence as the only way to publicly express their dissatisfaction. KAS is worried about recent developments, which see especially 20 to 29 year old young South Africans, who suffer most from unemployment and lack of prospects, participating in violent protests. KAS in cooperation with its South African partners aims to illustrate meaningful alternatives to express personal and political interests and concerns in a peaceful way.

Impressum

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European and International
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