

EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

SOUTH AFRICA

TILMANN FELTES
KATHARINA VAN DER WALT
DECEMBER 2015

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The Development of Values in South Africa

KAS-SAIIA Alumni and Network Dinner

Dr. Holger Dix, resident representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in South Africa, made the welcoming remarks, introducing the evening's keynote speaker Professor Hennie Kotzé and honoured guest, Mr. Klaus Streicher from the German Embassy in Pretoria. Dr. Dix welcomed all current and former KAS-alumni as well as close KAS-partners by inviting them to use this event as an opportunity to network and to continue with the already happening debates as debate and exchange is key to success and development at the same time.

The following dinner-speech by **Professor Kotzé** involved a detailed breakdown of the World Value Survey results in South Africa, focusing on various democratic and constitutional values, such as attitudes towards income equality; the merit of a system in which government officials are democratically elected; attitudes towards gender violence; and the degree of tolerance towards foreigners. **The results are alarming and the report shows a negative trend with regard to appreciation for democratic processes and trust in government institutions since 1995:** A surprising 63.1% of respondents stated a preference for a strong leader who did not have to bother with parliament and elections - a significant increase since the last survey in 2006, where 39.1% of those interviewed preferred this option. This is especially staggering if

viewed in the context of 1995, when 29.9% of the representative sample population showed a preference for more authoritarian rule. In conjunction to the above, an alarming 46.6% of South African respondents in 2013 were in favour of a political system in which the army ruled – constituting a 25.5% increase since 1995. These results were supported by respondents' attitudes towards having a democratic political system, which decreased from 92.4% in 1995, to 73.4% in 2013.

Professor Kotzé explained that these patterns are due to the lack of government accountability, combined with high levels of mismanagement of state resources and blatant, widespread and enduring corruption. **Mr. Klaus Streicher**, the deputy German Ambassador to South Africa, ended on a note of appreciation for the insights derived from the World Values Survey report, adding that the results are shocking but they are especially relevant in the current context of South African and global political movements and occurrences.

The **lively discussion** that followed had contributions from all participants, and notably the youngest participant at the event, last year's KAS-SAIIA-Scholar Michelle Barbour, added to the insights on the evening. The discussion led to a variety of questions relating to the methodology, the definitions of terms such as democracy, and the bias that can occur as a result of heterogeneity of the respondents' interpretations and understandings of the questions that were posed to them. Professor Kotzé assured that the survey partic-

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Participants were well-informed about the concepts and terms used, that their responses were recorded and that it sometimes took up to four hours to complete one survey.

Overall the event was very well received and especially the extended invitation to close KAS-partners added great networking value for the scholars. The networking event provided a great opportunity for our partners and scholars to end the year with valuable connections and ideas.