



Brief Curriculum Vitae

Of

Professor Sijekula Mbanga

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Department of Building and Human Settlement Development

In the

Faculty of Engineering Built Environment and Technology

Professor Sijekula Mbanga is a Professor of Human Settlements in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Technology, School of Built Environment and Civil Engineering, Department of Building and Human Settlement Development at Nelson Mandela University, in South Africa. He also holds the Chair for Human Settlement Development and Management, a research, innovation, and engagement entity within the university. His research focuses on the development and management of functional, efficient, resilient, just, equitable and sustainable human settlements. His research effort is situated in the interplay between people, the environment and the economy, aimed at generating context-specific solutions to daunting global development challenges such as the undesirable effects of climate change, natural resource management and depletion, widening income inequality and exclusive urban space production policies and practices.

Professor Mbanga commenced his primary education at Zakhele Primary School in Tsomo, proceeded to Tsomo Junior Secondary School and matriculated in 1987 from Tsomo Senior Secondary School, with university exemption. All these schools are in Intsika Yethu Local Municipality, Chris Hani District in the Eastern Cape. After completing matriculation with a university exemption, his highest marks were in Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Biology, which were his favourite subjects throughout his schooling. Since his parents could not afford the costs of his tertiary education, and all attempts made to secure university study finance, with the support of people such as Advocate Dilizo (who was a Senior Magistrate in Tsomo) and Mr Mqokeleli Ndude (who was a Social Worker) were in vain, he spent two years after matriculation serving as a Mathematics and General Sciences Temporary Teacher at Bengu JSS in Tsomo and Mtyamde JSS in Cofimvaba. While teaching at the rural schools he got employed by the former Transkei Department of Works and Energy as an administrator in Queenstown. Due to his undying passion for education, Sijekula immediately enrolled for a Bachelor of Public Administration and Industrial Psychology degree with the University of South Africa, bearing his university study fees. He completed his part-time undergraduate studies with several distinctions.

Sijekula rose through the management ranks in the Eastern Cape Provincial Administration, employed in government departments such as the Department of Roads and Public Works, Office of the Premier, Department of Housing Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Department of Housing which was later changed into the Department of Human Settlements. While working Sijekula became active in the trade union movement and was appointed to Regional and Provincial leadership positions. On the other hand, he was furthering his studies and completed a Master of Public Administration (Cum Laude) qualification in 2005, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration in 2011, at the former Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

In his doctoral studies he was supervised by Professor Heather Nel, the current Senior Director for Institutional Strategy in the university, and Professor Kishore Raga. In his doctoral thesis he focused on alignment theory and practices in inter-governmental planning, development and management, utilising the Eastern Cape 2004-2014 Provincial Growth and Development Plan and Sector Delivery Plans as a case for scrutiny. For his PhD studies, Professor Mbanga was partly-financed by the National Research Foundation, under the Scarce Skills Scholarship for People Living With Disabilities, and the Canon Collins Educational Trust.

The academic career of Professor Mbanga commenced in 2015 when he was employed at Nelson Mandela University as an Associate Professor and Chair for Human Settlements, based in the School of Built Environment and Civil Engineering, Department of Building and Human Settlement Development. Since his employment at the university in 2015, Prof Mbanga has supervised to completion 65 x Honours, 18 x Masters and 9 x Doctoral students. He has hosted and mentored 6 x Postdoctoral Research Fellows, drawn from different disciplinary backgrounds which hinge on and have influence over, the development and management of human settlements. It is important to note that, in the nine years of his stay at the university, Sijekula has led the development and implementation of short learning programmes on various aspects of the human settlement delivery value chain, in which municipality officials, councillors, traditional leaders and Members of Parliament have participated. In 2021, against the background of COVID-19, Sijekula initiated and launched an Affordable Housing and Real Estate Development Global Classroom in partnership with the USA University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, as a flagship project of the US-Africa Collaborative project in which he serves. The Global Classroom was initially intended for students at the two collaborating universities, but later students from other universities in South Africa and housing practitioners from both countries participate in these free online lectures.

Sijekula is widely published, nationally and internationally, in his field. He has and continues to present papers at national and international conferences. He is a Guest Editor and Reviewer in Housing, Built Environment and Urban Development Journals, and has co-authored three books in the last five years. He is currently co-editing a Book which will be released by the end of 2024, entitled *'Housing the Nation for Sustainable Cities in the South.'*

Professor Mbanga examines Masters and Doctoral theses for numerous universities in South Africa and internationally. He is a reviewer for NRF Rating applications in his field, and serves on NRF Panels for the five-year evaluation of South African Research Chairs (SARChI). Prof Mbanga continues to contribute to public policy development and debates in his field, and is an occasional commentator on press and other media

platforms in this regardCountry . He recently served as an expert reviewer in one of the Chapters of the South Africa 30 Year Review Report, having been commissioned by the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation in The Presidency.

SJ, as he is affectionately known in academia and industry, has received several awards in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of housing, human settlement and community development. The most recent awards are the 2023 Faculty of EBET Research Excellence Award, and the 2023 USA-NAHRO International Research and Global Exchange Award. Sijekula serves on numerous university committees, industry advisory panels and is the Board Chairman of the Institute of Human Settlement Practitioners South Africa, an entity that advocates for the professionalisation of the housing and human settlement sector for improved delivery of public services through an ethical and capable workforce. He serves on the Board of Governors of the US-Africa Collaborative, and has quite recently been appointed by the Programme Committee of the Chartered Institute of Building to lead a CIB Commission on Affordable Housing, Informal Settlements, Water and Sanitation. CIB is an international research and innovation network in the built environment, with membership situated on no less than three continents.

To be cited in his active and inspiring international engagement projects are:

- The Ndlambe EcoSUN Green Village, underway for completion at Ekuphumloeni Township in Ndlambe Municipality in the Eastern Cape. Together with his research collaborator, Professor Konrad Soyez of the University of Potsdam in Germany, supported by the Germany Department of Education and Research, the South African Department of Science and Innovation, the Department of Human Settlements and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, SJ is exploring the incorporation of green building principles and decentralised circular solutions for water provision, renewable energy, and solid waste management in the upgrading of informal settlements.
- The Affordable Housing and Real Estate Development Global Classroom that he is implementing in partnership with Professor Maria Day-Marshall from the USA University of Maryland, as a flagship initiative of the US-Africa Collaborative.

SJ makes a statement, worth noting, in his comprehensive CV, that 'his academic career did not begin in 2015 when he joined the Nelson Mandela University, and neither his interface with the academic project on curriculum development, research and innovation.' His teaching career started at the age of 14 when he had to make use of his parent's homestead rondavel at Ntsongeni Village in Tsomo, for Saturday

afternoon Maths coaching sessions for other learners in his home village. Also, while doing Standard 9 (the current Grade 11) at Tsomo High School, he was requested by the School Principal to take care of his own class and provide Mathematics tutorials, when their teacher, of Pakistani origin, was involved in a car accident and hospitalised for almost three months. His academic writing and publication career also started, while working in the government sector, when he wrote and published two books, entitledc, *'Icamagu Livumile* (IsiXhosa Poetry, Vivilia Publishers), ' and *'Yindab'Akwamkhozi* (IsiXhosa Essays, Hibbard Publishers).'

Prof Sijekula Mbanga who considers himself as a life-long learner, is currently self-enrolled for higher education studies in the Faculty of Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He aims at completing a second doctoral degree in Higher Education Management in the near future.

*"Born for This: So We Rise by Lifting Others"* is his running motto

Into the Sustainable Futures.