

eNewsletter No. 09

September 2014

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1. From the Director's Desk

Dear Readers

Greetings from PACSA

In this eNewsletter we give a glimpse of the activities and public events that PACSA was part of during September. The PACSA Film and Arts Festival is a major event on our annual calendar and much of this newsletter is devoted to the activities that formed part of the festival.

We hope that you find this newsletter of interest.

Regards

MERVYN ABRAHAMS
PACSA Director

2. PACSA News

· 2014 PACSA Film and Arts Festival

About 900 people attended the various events hosted as part of the 2014 edition of the PACSA Film and Arts Festival which took place on the main campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg. Our Film and Arts Festival this year had the theme, "People live here. . .20 Years into Democracy" and was hosted in collaboration with the Alan Paton Struggle Archives. We chose this theme because twenty years on, the grand narratives of democracy threaten to render the ordinary person both invisible and irrelevant.



[Read the full article here \(with a gallery of photographs\)](#)

· Roundtable dialogue on Household Food Insecurity and Hunger in South Africa

PACSA and OXFAM GB jointly hosted a Roundtable on the 16th September attended by 40 people on household food insecurity and hunger in South Africa. Oxfam Great Britain made presentations



on "Hidden Hunger in South Africa". According to OXFAM's research, one in four South Africans goes hungry daily (13 million people), mostly due to unemployment and extremely low incomes and 2 in 4 (28 million people) are at risk of hunger. South Africa has enough food for everyone; the problem is that 46% of South Africans cannot afford to buy the food they need to live a dignified life.

[Read the full article \(with a gallery of photographs\) here](#)

· **Roundtable on Social Cohesion and Social Mobilisation at Rhodes University, Grahamstown**

Mervyn Abrahams participated in a discussion on 'Social Cohesion and Social Mobilisation' jointly hosted by the Allan Gray Centre for Leadership Ethics (Rhodes University) and the Goedgedacht Forum for Social Reflection. He



argued that the use of the term 'social cohesion' is more often than not used to paper over the structural divisions and fault lines, the violence and inequity that exist in our society. Our society is being fragmented by neo-liberal capitalism that produces economic and political inequality, Mervyn said.

[Read the full article \(with a gallery of photographs\) here](#)

· **Sheba Bokamoso 2014: Managing Diversity Youth Event**

After Bopha Siykhona 2010 and Sheba Bokamoso 2012, our third Diversity Camp has taken off last Sunday. Over 300 young people of different backgrounds from four SA provinces are gathering for one week at Back to Basics Camp near



Grabouw in Western Cape. After a long 22-hours trip, finally six KZN youth groups reached Back to Basics Camp to receive a warm welcome by Camp staff and be led to campsite and their tents as their outdoor home over the next six days.

[Read the full article here \(with a gallery of photographs\)](#)

· **PACSA Photograph Exhibition "People live here. . .20 Years into Democracy"**

The PACSA Photography Exhibition "People Live Here . . . 20 Years into Democracy" is on display at the Msunduzi (Voortrekker) Museum until the 31st October 2014 from 10.00am to 3pm on weekdays and 10.00am



to 1pm on Saturdays. The exhibition is done in collaboration with the Msunduzi Museum. "The exhibition is an opportunity for people to be privy to 30 'moments' arising out of these two months during which time I have travelled around and gained access to the lives of people and communities.

[Read the full article here](#)

[View the Exhibition poster with details here](#)

3. Upcoming Events

- **Media Briefing and Release of the 2014 PACSA Food Price Barometer**

DATE: Wednesday, 15th October 2014

TIME: 10h30 for 11h00

VENUE: Protea Hotel Imperial. 224 Jabu Ndlovu Street
(Parking is available through the Burger Street entrance)

Please RSVP by Tuesday 14th October to: Sonia Nunthoolall
at 033 342 0052 or via email sonian@pacsa.org.za

4. PACSA in the Media

The following media pieces, in which PACSA featured, appeared over the past month:

- *The poor cannot afford their daily bread* published on 18 September in The Witness.
[Read the full article here](#)
- *PACSA Film and Arts Festival for Pietermaritzburg* published on 22 September in the Southern African Life Blogspot.
[Read the full article here](#)
- *Gloves come off as grocery sales slide* published on 16 September in The Witness.
- *Dissecting the spike in food prices* published on 16 September in The Witness.
- *Local Flavour at PACSA Fest* published on 23 September in The Witness.
- *PACSA Film and Arts Festival starts this Friday* published on 24 September in The Maritzburg Fever.
- *Capturing the dignity of ordinary South Africans* published on 02 October in The Witness.
- *Success at the annual PACSA Film Festival* published on 03 October in The Maritzburg Sun.

PACSA also featured on radio interviews. During this month, Mervyn Abrahams was interviewed by two radio stations; SABC radio on President Zuma's visit to Pietermaritzburg, and on Good News Community Radio, a Durban based Community radio, on PACSA's social justice work.
