



eNewsletter No. 07

July 2014

CONTENTS:

1. From the Director's Desk
2. PACSA News
3. PACSA in the Media
4. Feature Article
5. Upcoming Events

Address:

170 Hoosen Haffejee (Berg) Street,
Pietermaritzburg 3200, South Africa

P O Box 2338 Pietermaritzburg 3200, South Africa

Tel: +27 - (0)33 - 342 0052

Fax: +27 - (0)33 - 342 0303

Email: admin@pacsa.org.za

www.pacsa.org.zawww.facebook.com/PACSAPMB

1. From the Director's Desk

Dear Readers

Greetings from PACSA

This short eNewsletter comes at the end of a busy but exciting month. We are nearing the end of our external evaluation process which stimulated a lot of reflection on the past three years and surfaced much learning. We are now preparing for our strategic planning which takes place in the first week of August and which will be facilitated by Davine Thaw, an OD practitioner from Durban.

As you will read in the news part, we launched our monthly Food Price Barometer, a project we have been working on for some time now. The feature article is a reflection by Mandla Gcwabaza who reflects on dialogue, humanity and democracy.

We hope you will find the bits of news useful and feel free to engage us on any of the issues discussed.

Regards and best wishes

MERVYN ABRAHAMS
PACSA Director

2. PACSA News

· PACSA launches a monthly Food Price Barometer

In July 2014 we launched the first of our monthly PACSA Food Price Barometer, starting with June 2014, which will complement the annual barometer we release on the 16th October (World Food Day) each year. Like the annual barometer, the monthly barometer serves as an index for food price inflation during the preceding month and provides insight into the affordability of food and other essential household requirements for working class households in a context of low wages, social grants and high levels of unemployment.

[Read the full article and the June 2014 Barometer report here](#)

· **'What is a man?' Reflecting on the meaning of masculinity**

Thirty-five participants took part in the second round-table on Masculinities on the 22 July 2014, co-hosted by PACSA and the Goedgedacht Forum for Social Reflection, and sponsored by OXFAM Australia. The objective



of this round-table was to deepen the kinds of questions asked with regard to masculinity, explore a theoretical framework, and begin to suggest further steps for transformative gender work with men.

[Read the full article \(with notes from the roundtable and gallery of photographs\) here](#)

· **Empowering Community Voices: Research Studies from South Africa and Bangladesh**

In 2013 PACSA was invited by OXFAM Australia and Monash University to collaborate on a project to develop a community consultation model using the National Health Insurance policy as framework. Numerous CSO's and others conduct research for policy input but in the process the voices of those who suffer the issue gets lost in technical data. In order to avoid this we decided on a process that foregrounds the human experience of public healthcare.

[Read the full article and the report here](#)

· **Mandela Day events**

Nelson Mandela International Day (or Mandela Day) is celebrated annually on the 18th of July, the late Nelson Mandela's birthday. This year a number of our community partners had events around Mandela Day. Sizonqoba



group in Gezibuso had a joint event with the The Chatsworth Youth Centre, Revolution Motorcycle Club, Pink Drive and Art of Living Foundation from Durban. Together they cleared land for a new garden and fenced it.

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

· **PACSA participates in the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race**

The Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race brings together academics, church leaders, students, and community activists to explore the role that churches play in the construction of identities in societies where issues of race and ethnicity are played out in the public sphere. The 2014 round-table focused on Social Struggle and Faith-Based Activism and took place at the University of South Africa, Pretoria, from 10 to 16 July.

[Read the full article here](#)

As a result of the release of the Food Price Barometer, the following are media articles in which PACSA featured over the past month:

- **Rising food prices cause more wage strikes** *Business Day*, 22 July 2014

[Click here to read the article](#)

- **Rising food prices could lead to more strikes** *eNews Channel Africa (eNCA)*, 22 July 2014

[Click here to read the article](#)

- **Rising basic food prices puts strain on families** *The Star*, 22 July 2014

[Click here to read the article](#)

- **PMB Folks in a pickle: Price of basic foods up by about 20% by June** *The Witness*, 23 July 2014

[Click here to read the article](#)

- **PACSA Monthly Food Price Barometer** *SANGONET*, 22 July 2014

[Click here to read the article](#)

- **Rising food prices 'could cause more wage strikes'** *South African Labour News*, 22 July 2014

[Click here to read the article](#)

- **Rising food prices 'could cause more wage strikes'** *World News Network (WNN.com)*, 22 July 2014

[Click here to read the article](#)

- **Food prices unaffordable: Inflation compounds cycles of poverty** *The Daily News*, 30 July 2014

[Click here to read the article](#)

- **Going out in style: burial insurance** *The Daily News*, 30 July 2014

[Click here to read the article](#)

4. Feature Article

Reflections on Dialogue in the World

Over the past few months the Sakhubuntu Youth Development Group in Sobantu has been reflecting on the meaning of dialogue and democracy in their context. In this feature article, Mandla

Gcwabaza, a member of the group shares his reflection with us. [Read the full article here](#)

5. Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

• **Round Table on Food Insecurity and Hunger in SA**

This round-table, jointly hosted by PACSA and OXFAM Great Britain, will take place on **Monday, 15 September 2014 from 9.00 to 3.30pm** and will discuss the OXFAM GB report on hunger in SA and the 2013 PACSA Food Price Barometer on food affordability levels. The aim is to devise a strategy to mobilise the broad public into a campaign that highlights this issue in the public space. *More information to follow.*

• **PACSA Film and Arts Festival**

The 2014 edition of the PACSA Film and Arts Festival, hosted in collaboration with the Alan Paton Struggle Archives, will take place at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (PMB) main campus from **Friday 26th September to Sunday, 28 September 2014**. The festival will include:

- PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION by the well-known photographer Cedric Nunn on 'People live here - 20 years of Democracy'
- FILMS include a feature-length documentary on the bread price-fixing debacle, entitled Crumbs: Toppling the Bread Cartel as well as a PACSA documentary on food price unaffordability in Pietermaritzburg and a number of local and international films
- Community theatre, workshops on film productions, etc.
- Jazz concert and discussion forums

The full program will be released shortly.
