



# **African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)**

## **Progress Report**

**13 January 2006**

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**Period Ending: 13 January 2006**

### **Introduction**

Some APRM activities continued running during until the end of December and at the beginning of January 2006. Some stakeholders spent most of their time during the holiday season try to finalise lyrics for the APRM song to enable the artists to start with the rehearsals and recoding during the first week to the third week of January 2006.

Stakeholders continued with preparatory work to strengthen the mobilisation and consultation processes in the first week of January, hence a number of activities were implemented in the second week of January 2006. Such activities include the consultation conference for the Disability Sector (11-12 January 2006) and planning for other forthcoming sectoral consultations, which are listed later in the report.

This concise report provides an update on activities implemented during the first two weeks of January 2006. The report should be read in conjunction with the previous progress report for the period ending 22 December 2005.

### **APRM Structures**

The APRM National Governing Council (NGC) is fully functional and many of the NGC members have attended more than one NGC meeting. Attendance of NGC meetings is expected to be more consistent in 2006.

Provincial Governing Councils (PGCs) were fully established in eight Provinces and partially established in the Western Cape. The Western Cape PGC is partially established because the nominations for council were submitted to the Premier's Office, however, the composition of the council has not been finalised and the council has not been formally inaugurated.

In six Provinces the PGCs have meet at least twice and some have met more than four times. In the Free State the PGC met once, however, the KZN PGC that was formally inaugurated in November 2005 has never met. The National Governing Council is addressing the challenges that are inhibiting the satisfactory functionality of the affected PGCs.

As illustrated through the databases, the composition of the PGCs differs from one province to the next. The differences are in terms of size and constituency representation. For example, in some provinces Traditional Leaders and Practitioners

and in other political parties are also represented. These differences demonstrate that there is no blue print to guide the composition of the council, whether at provincial or national level. The differences also illustrate the need to adapt the composition of the council to the local context in order to ensure representivity and inclusivity.

In provinces that have already prepared their reports or are already working on their reports, the PGCs have drawn up schedules to report back to the constituencies. These report back sessions will take place between January and March/April 2006.

Beyond March/April 2006, the challenge will be to keep the PGCs operational and effective and the APRM debate/process ongoing until August 2006 and beyond. This issue will be discussed and agreed by the debated NGC and the PGCs during the second quarter of 2006.

A comprehensive database of the established Provincial Governing Councils (PGCs) for eight provinces has been established. It is currently being verified with the Provinces before it is posted on the website.

## **Provincial mobilisation and consultations (Plans for 2006)**

The North West and Gauteng Provinces have already developed schedules to guide their report back activities.

Other Provinces are still working on their reports and its expected that once the draft reports have been prepared, these will be discussed with the stakeholders before submissions to the NGC. Broad report back sessions to the majority of the constituencies is likely to take place after the submissions of the provincial reports to the NGC.

### ***Extract from Previous Report (22 December 2005):***

Below is an example of the draft report back sessions and conferences from North West and Gauteng Provinces.

#### ***Draft North West Report Plan***

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Faith Based Organisations	January 2006
Alliance Partners Two workshops	January 2006 February 2006
Dikgosi	January 2006
Farm Workers Two workshops	January 2006 February 2006
Disabled	February 2006
Youth	February 2006
Business	February 2006
SAWID and SANGOCO One workshop per district	February 2006

### ***Proposed Date for Gauteng***

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Consultative Conference	19 January 2006

## **Sectoral consultations**

As reported in the previous progress report, there were two sectoral consultative conferences in December 2005, one for the Civics and one for the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sectors. In January, there was only one sectoral consultative conference for the Disability sector.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Representation</b>
11-12 January 2006	Consultative Conference for the Disability Sector	Invited practitioners, NGC members and Secretariat

The three sectors that have already had their consultative conferences are currently working on their submissions. Some of the sectors have solicited technical expertise from institutions such as SAIIA to assist with the development of the submissions, based on the issues raised by their constituencies during the conference.

Other sectors will convene their sectoral conferences before the end of January 2006.

## **Country Support Mission - Follow up visit**

The report of the follow up country support missions (CSM) have been finalized and will be posted on the website before the week ending the 20 January 2006.

## **Research and data collection**

### ***Research strategy***

To date thirteen institutions have submitted expressions of interest to serve as research partners in line with the research strategy. The Secretariat is following up on the other invited institutions.

A list of all research partners will be put on the website once the closing date has passed and the theme papers have been received from all interested parties.

### ***Submissions Received***

Key government departments have submitted their inputs, however other government departments have not submitted. These departments have been reminded to make their submissions as soon as possible. Only North West Province has submitted its report and reports from other provinces are expected in the next two to three weeks.

Few submissions have been received from civil society. As indicated earlier, many of the sectors are expected to submit their inputs after their sectoral conferences and workshops before the end of January 2006.

The Secretariat is compiling a list of all submissions received. This will be posted on the website before the end of January 2006.

### ***Promotional Materials***

The APRM leaflets and posters are currently distributed through the ongoing conferences and workshops. Copies of these materials were also sent to the Provinces for distribution to different government departments and district offices.

## **Media and communications**

### ***APRM website***

The APRM website is operational and a number of documents were posted on it in December 2005. These include the report of the First National Consultative Conference, the Secretariat's progress report to the National Governing Council and completed papers by opinion authors.

The Secretariat is finalising other documents, which will be posted on the website as well. These include

- Report of the follow up Country Support Mission (4-8 December 2005)
- Composition of the Provincial Governing Council (PGCs)
- A report of the Public Management Conversation
- Summary of issues raised in already received submissions

### ***Media coverage of the APRM Process: 23 December to 13 January 2006***

Media coverage for the APRM process has generally improved during the period 23 December 2005 to 13 January 2006. Most of the coverage, which came in the form of "letters to the editor" and opinion articles, were carried in The Star and Sunday Times newspapers.

On 23 December 2005, The Star carried a letter to the editor, under the headline: "Afro-pessimist's contribution missed the point". Replying to Tom Odhiambo's opinion article that said the APRM process would only serve to "entertain fantasy". The letters' author, Madibeng Kgwete, wrote that: "Odhiambo's argument that NEPAD and the AU should emulate the European Union in its entirety as an economic forum is misguided. Members of the same EU have arrogantly derailed progress at the World Trade Organisation negotiations in Hong Kong, where they tactically refused to practice the fair trade they preach across the world".

In a critical article, "Citizens missing the boat" (Sunday Times, 01 January 2006) journalist Brendan Boyle wrote that: "Interested South Africans need to seize control of the review from a government whose instinct is more to manage the public voice than to listen to it".

Boyle went on to write: "Responding to very tight schedules imposed in the APRM founding documents, Public Service and Administration Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, appointed by Mbeki to run the first phase of the review, has moved ahead of civil society."

Joining the APRM debate in an opinion article in The Star, "Peer review will benefit all" (The Star, opinion and analysis, 04 January 2006), Lulamile Mapholoba touched on the important role that he said government can play towards making the APRM process a success.

In his response to the Sunday Times article by Boyle, "Government knows peer-review process cannot sail without citizens" (Sunday Times, 08 January 2006), Dr. Mataywa Busieka of the International and African Affairs unit in the DPSA wrote that: "The entire APRM is anchored on four interrelated fundamentals, namely participation, consultation, transparency and education".

Dr. Busieka rejected journalist Boyle's point that civil society should have driven the APRM process, saying: "We again go separate ways on the assertion that civil society must wrestle control of the APRM process away from the government and take centre stage. It is in the interest of government that the APRM process is technically competent without damaging the tenets of transparency, participation and consultation".

On 12 January 2006, SA fm had a debate on the Vuyo Mbuli show about the APRM process. Listeners called in and expressed their opinions about the country self-assessment process.

The coverage is generally fair and invites the much-needed debate on the APRM process. The challenge now is to maintain the coverage and also ensure that it does not come from one source. Contributions by other members of the Governing Council is still needed.

### ***Communication***

The Secretariat is still negotiating for slots with popular programmes such as Asikhulume.

## **Funding**

Of the projected R20, 5 million, government has contributed R9 million and UNDP has committed approximately R1, 2 million, of which about R500, 000 is earmarked for the production of a promotional song for the APRM.

It is worth stating that many provinces funded the initial consultations processes in their provinces and some are continuing to do so. However, some provinces are getting financial assistance from the R9 million government allocation, which is disbursed and accounted for through the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA).

As planning for the follow up feedback sessions in provinces and the national research process unfold, discussions with potential funders continue.

## **Forthcoming events/activities**

Below is a list of forthcoming events, in addition to the Provincial report back conferences and feedback sessions planned for January-February 2006.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2006 (KZN)	Sectoral Conference for the Religious Sector
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2005	Fourth Summit of the APRM Forum
24 January 2006	Presentation to the heads of the Buddhist Religious Sector
27 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2006 (Mpumalanga)	Sectoral Conference for the Youth
27 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2006 (Eastern Cape)	Sectoral Conference for the Wome's sector
25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2006 (Gauteng)	Sectoral workshops Fedusa
27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2006 (Gauteng)	Sectoral workshop for Nactu
28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2006 (Gauteng)	Sectoral Conference for Sangoco

Consultative conferences and workshops for the following sectors have not be confirmed:

- Cosatu
- Media
- Professionals
- Aged and children