



# INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL AFROCENTRIC THINK TANK

## CALL FOR PAPERS

## 2022



In Collaboration with  
Association of Public Administrators Tanzania (APAT) and  
Zanzibar University, Tanzania

Venue: Hotel Verde Zanzibar

THEME:

RETHINKING THE CONTOURS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF  
AFRICAN STATES – FOCUS ON POST-COVID 19 SOUTH AFRICA

## Background

The first function of any government committed in theory and practice to the advancement of national security is to protect its citizens. Central to this primary function of government is the advancement of the satisfactory material conditions and rights of the citizens. This is to ensure that citizens should serve as the active participants in the maintenance and expansion of their national security. The state through government cannot successfully advance national security without the active participation of the citizens who are informed about the national security imperatives of their countries.

## The state of national security of South Africa: national, regional and international context

South Africa is more developed than any other African country. It is Africa's qualitatively largest and the most diversified economy and the relatively developed infrastructure. This state of the country's development makes its national security more vulnerable than that of any other African country, particularly upon concerted efforts by either internal forces or external forces which cause damage to its economy and infrastructure. It is for this key reason that the requisite measures to safeguard South Africa's national security must always summon the attention of its policy makers.

The role of scholars is to organise conferences (also read as think tanks) aiming, among others, firstly, to bring scholars and practitioners to exchange and share their experiences and research results on key aspects of national security. Secondly, to provide platform for scholars and practitioners to present and discuss the most recent trends and concerns as well as challenges faced and opportunities enjoyed in advancing national security. This is the best and most effective way not only to forge and sustain a closer working relations between scholars and practitioners in the field of national security. But also, of great importance to involve citizens in the national security of their country as active participants.

Meanwhile, in July 2021, South Africa's roads were barricaded; malls and other properties were also looted by violent protestors in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal provinces. Some observers have linked this unrest to the arrest of former President Jacob Zuma while others viewed it as a manifestation of a ticking time bomb of socio-economic crisis in South Africa. In October 2021, a lethal weaponry was also allegedly branded by Eastern Cape based Somali shop owners in their conflict with local taxi drivers. Fast forward to January 2022, the building of the country's National Assembly in Cape Town was badly damaged by fire under mysterious circumstances. In the same month, considerable damage was controversially done to the entrance of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. That the execution of the damage closely coincided with the release of part one of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the State Capture Report raises fundamental questions about the state and quality of national security in the country. In all of these four incidences mentioned above, suspects have been apprehended and it remains to be seen as to whether they shall be successfully prosecuted or not. What is common about all of these incidences is that they escaped pre-emption by the intelligence and security services of South Africa; a factor that raises questions about the national security of South Africa and other nation states which regard South Africa as a success story of liberal democracy.

The failure and/or unwillingness of intelligence and security services to spot some of the serious security threats before their escalation in South Africa warrants a rethinking of the individual and collective intelligence and security capabilities of African states. The foregoing observation should be understood within the context that South Africa is a pivotal state of strategic importance not only regionally in Southern Africa and continentally in Africa, but also globally. As such, its intelligence and security lapses have profound and potentially dire consequences for the national security of its African Union (AU) partners. Inasmuch as intelligence constitutes a small fraction of national security, it remains a critical matter deserving urgent strategic attention. Thus, South Africa's national security is meaningless unless it is linked to that of the entire African continent. This view is central to the Pan-African position that African countries face one problem. This problem is interference of Europe and the United States in their internal affairs. This problem is made worse by the fact that African governments have been made to regard Russia, Cuba and China as posing threat to their national security, while these countries have never been involved in regime change agenda in Africa. Directly related to this reality is that they have been supporting the struggle to decolonise the continent in general and the national liberation movements which are governing political parties in Southern Africa in particular.

These movements have carried the hopes and aspirations of the majoritarian populations of their nation states. It was hoped that national governments would provide quality education, descent primary health care, jobs, transport, water and energy services. The practical realities on the ground suggests that up to date, most of them did not transform the colonial structures of their economies to meaningfully benefit the previously marginalised majoritarian groups. Instead, they have adopted policies that are not conducive to intensive economic growth and development. As such, most of the African states are globally ranked well in terms of political governance and social welfare; but their economic growth and development rate is below the par and the decline has even become worse in the age of Covid-19. For these reasons, there are projections by the World Bank, other institutions and organisations that unless something drastic is done to change the economic growth and development model of South Africa; the country is destined to become a failed state by the year 2030. This position is contested by other observers who maintain that South Africa is far from becoming a failed state; instead it is just a political risk- a characterisation that cannot be delinked from rampant corruption, stubborn socio-economic decline, government administrative malaise and violence. Depending on the epistemic location of the observer, it is safe to argue that the current political and socio-economic crisis of South Africa represents clear characteristics of a failing state. Whether South Africa's situation will soon shift from a "failing state" to a "failed state" remains a key conundrum among scholars, analysts and policy makers.

Issues related to intelligence in South Africa rarely receive an adequate scholarly attention due to the veil of secrecy that has been internalised within the security establishment in Africa. Whatever the dictates of intelligence operations in terms of secrecy, the same protocol has been deliberately abused to avoid accountability. Given that South Africa's national security doctrine and the White Paper on Intelligence are the by-products of Section 198, Act 108 of 1996 (of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa), it is expected that democratic South Africa should lead by example in terms of inculcating the culture of transparency in the national security discourse. The Constitution makes it clear that the intelligence services do not have a monopoly over the national security of South Africa. This task primarily rests in the hands of the members of the South African society whose national responsibility is to make practical efforts to create a secure state.

It is against this background, that the International Afrocentric Think Tank (IATT) has been coined with the theme on topical issues of the national security of the African states and South Africa in particular. As such, this conference is envisaged to attract papers that reflect inter-generational knowledge exchange and a blend of African perspectives on the fundamental questions evolving from national security scholarly, policy and public discourses. This conference is also poised to take stock of the role, status and legacies of liberation movements in the maintenance of national security. This platform is timely as it takes place against the backdrop of the 110 anniversary of the African National Congress (ANC) - the old liberation movement in Africa which has served as a model for the establishment of other continental liberation movements. The platform is also unveiled at the time when Africa celebrates 59<sup>th</sup> years anniversary since the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)- a pre-runner of the African Union (AU) which equally ought to play a role of optimising the national security of its individual member states into African security.

**In contextualising the theme of the conference, the following sub-themes are developed:**

1. National Security Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evolution of the discipline.</li> <li>• The relevance of traditional view of national security protection.</li> <li>• Democratisation of national security protection and intelligence gathering and sharing i.e. private intelligence services, private military outfits and etc.</li> <li>• Role of universities and research organisations in the scholarship of National Security Studies.</li> <li>• Risk analysis and threat perceptions in South Africa.</li> </ul>
2. De-politicisation of administration and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Abuse.</li> <li>• Professionalisation of intelligence and security agencies.</li> <li>• Covid-19 Vaccine nationalism.</li> <li>• Territorial integrity; Sovereignty.</li> <li>• ANC's National Security Strategy i.e. Apartheid and/or neo-colonialism, Resistance, Ideology, Interests.</li> </ul>
3. Doctrine of national security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes and strategic value of continuities.</li> <li>• Pros and cons of the review of the White Paper on Intelligence and/or related legislations.</li> <li>• Internal conflict.</li> <li>• Regional security dynamics- collective security.</li> <li>• Combat readiness of the defence force.</li> </ul>

4. National Security Management Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dynamics and implications of amalgamated or de-amalgamated intelligence service.</li> <li>• (De)locating the intelligence service from the Presidency.</li> <li>• International best practices i.e. USA, Canada, Zimbabwe, Germany, Cuba and etc.</li> <li>• Intelligence failures in South Africa.</li> </ul>
5. Emerging contours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyber warfare.</li> <li>• Space and astronomical, etc.</li> </ul>

The co-hosts of the International Afrocentric Think Tank invite you to the inaugural conference to be held at the Hotel Verde Zanzibar, Tanzania. It is important for authors to strictly follow the theme of the conference because this will be one of the main criteria when making decisions whether to accept or reject your abstract or manuscript. Two types of presentations will be considered during the conference.

### Firstly, Panel discussions

**This is to allow selected leading academics and retired practitioners in National Security Studies and Public Affairs to make submissions about their ideas related to the conference theme.** In essence, presenters will have a dedicated session to present and interrogate their scientific ideas and/or research findings with some of the leading scholars and practitioners in Africa and beyond.

### Secondly, individual submissions

These are normal individual submissions which are required to focus on any of the conference sub-themes. In this case, research papers, will be considered.

### Submission Of An Abstract And Registration

**Abstracts of between 250-350 words should be submitted on or before the due date: 30 March 2022.**

**For submission and registration, E-mail:** [iatt2022@yahoo.com](mailto:iatt2022@yahoo.com)

Cc: [Kgothatso.Shai@ul.ac.za](mailto:Kgothatso.Shai@ul.ac.za)

**Website:** [www.iatt.co.za](http://www.iatt.co.za)

### The submission date for full papers is 30 June 2022

**All papers submitted by the due date shall be circulated anonymously to specialist referees for evaluation.** It is only on the basis of the referees' reports that the Editor may either accept or reject any paper submitted for possible publication **in a peer reviewed, accredited and subsidy generating publication. Except in special cases where prior permission has been obtained,** papers should not exceed 6000 words.

Prospective contributors are specifically requested to ensure that the language and technical aspects of their contributions are of a high standard.

Papers should be submitted electronically; typed in 1.5 line spacing,

12pt Times New Roman and accompanied by an English abstract of between 250 and 350 words.

Since papers are circulated anonymously for evaluation, the name and affiliation of the author(s) should be on a separate page. Only the Harvard style will be accepted for references.

By submitting a paper, authors certify that all co-authors are aware of the submission and consent to the presentation of the work. No author can submit more than two papers (sole or co-authored) for publication consideration. All submissions must be in Microsoft word. Include the contact information for all authors on the first page of the document.

### Benefits of attending the conference

The conference provides access to the formal communication network with APAT, Zanzibar University and partner organisations' members, and ample opportunity for networking and building bonds between practitioners, academics, researchers and other professionals in the discipline of National Security Studies and Public Affairs.

**Important dates** (must be received at our office by)

Submission of abstracts : 31 March 2022

Notification of acceptance/non-acceptance : 5 April 2022

Submission of full papers : 30 June 2022

Arrival date : 24 May 2022

Event dates : 25-27 May 2022

Excursion date : 28 May 2022

Departure date : 29 May 2022

### Presentation Equipment

Please bring along your laptop. However, each conference room will be equipped with an LCD projector.

### Conference Registration Fees

**Deadline: 30 April 2022**

Conference registration fees are not refundable or transferable. Conference registration fee of

400 USD (Global South resident academics and practitioners) are payable.

265 USD (All Students and proof of registration for 2022 must be attached)

550 USD (Global North resident academics and practitioners) are payable.



**Please note that this amount does not include accommodation. The booking and payment of accommodation is a (separate) responsibility of the delegate.**

**Please note that this is a prepaid event.**

### **Gala Dinner**

**Gala dinner will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**