



NIHSS QUARTERLY REPORT TO DHET

1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2020

(QUARTER 1 of 2020/21)

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences concluded the first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year on 30 June 2020, having achieved the following:

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unimaginable challenges for our nation and the world. Our country's response has been decisive in preventing the spread of the virus and minimize its impact. At the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, we acknowledge that it cannot be business as usual. Our focus and priority continue to be serving and supporting the humanities and social sciences community in any way we can, particularly when requested. The NIHSS has responded to the pandemic by coordinating Humanities and Social Sciences responds from scholars, authors, poets, artists, playwrights and alumni on their contribution and thoughts on what they know and what can be done during and after the COVID-19 crisis facing our country, continent and the world. Submissions in the broad themes were received i.e. (psycho-social dynamics, effects and interventions; solidarity & collective action; national, regional & global developments; teaching, learning, assessments, virtual supervision and mentoring). The insights from the submissions shed more light in defining and understanding dynamics in the humanities and social sciences landscape, the NIHSS has as a result put together a booklet titled: ***COVID-19, Humanities and Social Sciences Responds***, as the outcome of the contributions received.

Since the Institute is cognisant of the fact that with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not business as usual; the Institute has undertaken to review all targets that require interaction i.e. colloquiums/ conferences hosted or co-hosted by the NIHSS. An alternative is that the events be hosted on virtual platforms.

The NIHSS's undertaking in preparation for the 5-year Strategic Evaluation and corresponding regularly with DHET has yielded positive results. The Strategic Five-Year Evaluation of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) commenced on during the quarter under review. The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has appointed a panel of four academics to undertake the Review, namely: Prof Relebohile Moletsane, as chair of the panel; Prof Shireen Hassim, Prof Andre Keet and Dr Ebrima Sall. The panel has begun their work and are engaging with various stakeholders across the higher education sector. As such, the remaining three targets within Strategic Objective One, being the Institute's decadal plan, comprehensive risk assessment and the 2025 business plan, will be completed once recommendations that would stem from the findings of the Strategic Review are tabled.

The Institute through the Scholarship directorate is continuing to ensure that the throughput rate grows. A total of twenty-eight (28) SAHUDA graduations were reported during this quarter. This brings the cumulative total of South African graduates to two-hundred and nine (209). A total of eleven (11) CODESRIA graduations were reported during this quarter. This brings the cumulative total of non- South African graduates to fifty-nine (59). Students who have completed their doctorate continue to deposit their thesis in the online Thesis Repository, making their research accessible to everyone.

The Research directorate reported twelve (12) research outputs during the first quarter, consisting of nine (9) journal articles, two (2) books and one (1) internal publication. Generally, the NIHSS' publications output continues to grow.

The NIHSS continues to face challenges regarding the delay in payment of funding for 2020/21. The APP for 2020/21 was approved by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande on 10 March 2020, however NSF funding of R 123 044 482 is still outstanding at the end of June 2020. This poses a serious challenge in terms of fulfilling the NIHSS mandate and strategic objectives.