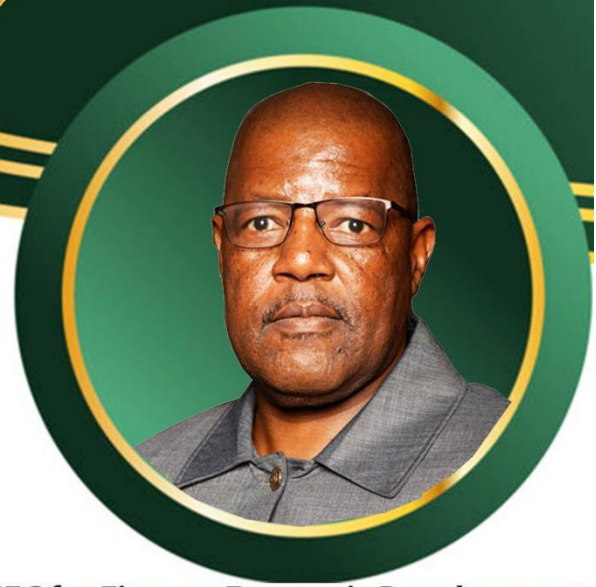




**Free State Premier**  
Hon. MaQueen Letsoha-Mathae



**MEC for Finance Economic Development  
& Tourism**  
Hon. Ketso Makume

# **FREE STATE PROVINCIAL Research Colloquium 2025**

## **PROGRAMME**



FREE STATE PROVINCE



Central University of  
Technology, Free State



UFS

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA



NEDBANK



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SOUTH AFRICA 2025

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Free State Provincial Research Colloquium

**Theme: Towards an Inclusive Economic Recovery and Long-Term Growth**

**Venue: Central University of Technology (CUT), Bloemfontein**

**Dates: Tuesday, 7 October 2025 and Wednesday, 8 October 2025**

## Day 1 — Tuesday, 7 October 2025

Time	Item	Speaker/Details
08:00–08:30	Registration and Arrival Tea	Check-in desk opens in the foyer Virtual lobby opens at 08:00
<b>Opening Plenary (Moderator: Acting HOD:PT)</b>		
08:30–08:45	Opening and Welcome	Vice-Chancellor, CUT
08:45–08:55	Purpose of the Day	Acting HOD: FS Provincial Treasury
08:55–09:30	Keynote Address	Hon. MEC MK Makume
<b>Session 2 — Planning &amp; Spatial Levers (Moderator: Acting HOD:PT)</b>		
09:30–10:30	Guest Speaker	Mr I. Matshego (Nedbank)
10:00- 10:30	Guest Speaker	Tinah Mohlamme   Business Development & Strategic Partnerships Manager Old Mutual
10:30–10:55	Strategic technological Modernisation for inclusive Growth: A case for AI-Driven Healthcare Infrastructure Management in the Free State.	E. Mohlahlo & A. B. Ngowi
10:55–11:20	What’s the real Price? Unpacking the Opportunity Cost of Mangaung Airport Development Node	S. Oke & G. Masuabi
11:20–11:35	Session Q&A	
<b>11:35–11:50</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	<b>Refreshments in the foyer</b>
<b>Session 3 — Resilient Growth &amp; Development (Moderator: Dr Nolwazi)</b>		
11:50–12:20	FSGDS Vision 2050	Office of the Premier
12:20–12:50	Spatial Development Framework	Department of Rural Development & Land Reform
12:50–13:10	Session Q&A	



13:10–13:50	Lunch	Lunch is served
<b>Session 4 — Municipal &amp; Township Economy Innovation (Moderator: Ms C Moshane)</b>		
13:50–14:15	Reimagining local municipalities in the Free State, South Africa, through the lens of smart city development as a driver of economic growth	S. Dintsi, T. Kukuni, S. Ramphoma, V. Adonis, F. Mothamaha
14:15–14:40	E-Government as a catalyst for effective service Delivery in Free State Province	F. J. Sonkwane (DSACR)
14:40–15:05	Impact of Resilience on the utilisation of Technology Innovations by Local Governments for Sustainable Small and Medium Enterprises recruitment.	T. Kukuni, S. Dintsi, S. Ramphoma, V. Adonis, F. Mothamaha
15:05–15:30	Application of AI in the allocation of low-cost housing in two municipalities within Free State Province.	T. Kukuni, S. Dintsi, S. Ramphoma, V. Adonis
15:30–15:50	Session Q&A	
15:50–16:00	Day 1 Closing Remarks	Acting HOD, DESTEA: Mr L Kalane



## Day 2 — Wednesday, 8 October 2025

Time	Item	Speaker/Details
08:00–08:30	Arrival and Tea	Virtual lobby opens at 08:00.
08:30–08:45	Recap of Day 1 and Programme for Day 2	Chief Director, SRM
<b>Session 5 — Climate-Smart Agriculture &amp; Agricultural Economics (Moderator: Acting HOD: Agriculture &amp; Rural Development)</b>		
08:45–09:10	Training on Smart Farming in Free State, South Africa: Enhancing Agricultural Productivity through Digital Transformation.	E. Bhebe
09:10–09:35	Back to Basics: Mitigating the Harmful Effects of Droughts for Efficient Livestock Productivity in the Grasslands of the Central Free State in South Africa	T. E. Mokhesengoane, H. C. van der Westhuizen, J. A. van Niekerk
09:35–10:00	Climate-smart Aquaculture Nutrition: Evaluating Ovine Bloodmeal as a Cost-effective Alternative in African Sharptooth Catfish ( <i>Clarias Gariepinus</i> ) and Mozambique Tilapia ( <i>Oreochromis Mossambicus</i> ) Diets	LM. Mbokane, N.A.G. Moyo, E.M. Raphalo
10:00–10:25	Residents' Perception of Municipal Water Quality in Bloemfontein	P. Moja, S. Oke, T. Gumede, T. Magudumani
10:25–10:45	Session Q&A	
<b>10:45–11:00</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	<b>Refreshments in the foyer</b>
<b>Session 6 — Fiscal Sustainability (Moderator: Ms A Xaba)</b>		
11:00–11:25	Can Industrial Clusters Lead to the Recovery of the Free State Economy?	Mr T. Makhele (DESTEA)
11:25–11:50	Revisiting the Effects of Major Budgetary Expenditure Components on Provincial Economic Growth in the Free State Province using	Dr O. Omoshoro-Jones (FS Provincial Treasury)



	Auto-regressive Distributed Lag Model	
11:50–12:15	Inequality and Its Effects on the Macro-economy of South Africa	Dr T. Mokoena (DESTEA)
12:15–12:40	A multi-level conceptual framework for evaluating the functionality, sustainability and affordability performance of IBT-enabled affordable housing in South Africa.	N. Qumbisa, R. Nemakhavhani, B. Awuzi
12:40–13:05	Developing a twin-based support system using an ensemble of artificial intelligence techniques to reduce system downtime	K. Matjato, J. Coetzer, R. B. Kuriakose
13:05–13:35	Session Q&A	
13:35–13:45	Colloquium Closing Remarks	Acting Director General: Dr Phera
<b>From 13:45</b>	<b>Lunch and Departures</b>	