

Report for This Day Foundation

Expenditure and Impact of Grant Funding
October 2023

1. Introduction

The This Day Foundation generously granted the New South Institute 85 000 pounds, payable over 12 months, to strengthen public policy capacity in Parliament and create a leadership programme for MPs and portfolio chairs. The grant was also unrestricted.

2. Background

South Africa is in the grip of a profound and long-term crisis of government. Over the last two years, however, and especially in 2023 there have been several important developments that hold out the prospect of tackling the causes of these institutional problems. In particular, a number of Bills are or have been before parliament dealing with the professionalisation of the public service and with improvements in public administration more generally.

At the same time there are moves by the Secretary of Parliament to improve the policy analysis capacity of the institution by making available to MPs and portfolio chairs high-quality, independent data and developing a leadership programme to assist them engage with such information.

Taken together, there is a historical opportunity to work with parliament, MPs, and portfolio chairs to 1) assist in passing important new legislation and 2) play an active role in monitoring its implementation.

3. Progress to Date

The New South Institute and parliament have, over the last few months, been negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement covering, amongst others, the following items:

- i. *Capacity Development*: NSI shall assist Parliament in augmenting its ability to supply independent information to MPs and portfolio committees.

- ii. *Research and Analysis*: NSI commits to offering Parliament high-quality content and analysis, including reports and data.
- iii. *Training and Capacity Building*: NSI will offer training and capacity-building activities for parliamentary staff and parliamentarians, including developing training materials, conducting sessions, and providing technical assistance. NSI will also design and implement a mentorship program, pairing experienced staff with MPs and portfolio committee members. Regular training sessions on relevant topics will enhance staff's professional skills and knowledge.

The MOA has been finalised and it will be signed in the coming days.

Over the last several months the NSI has written two policy briefs on public service reform aimed at parliamentarians and at political parties. The *first* situates the current crisis of government in the context of vulnerabilities in public institutions and motivates for a major programme of public service reform.

In the meantime, the New South Institute signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Office of the Public Service Commission to assist in implementing the professionalisation framework that the cabinet approved in September 2022. Over and above the professionalisation framework, several important and potentially far-reaching pieces of legislation have been developed to 1) reduce political control in public administrations, 2) establish the Public Service Commission as an independent body with powers to oversee norms and values in government entities. In this regard, the *second* NSI policy brief reviews these Bills and considers the extent to which they are progressive or not.

Both policy briefs have been circulated amongst MPs and portfolio chairs and we are waiting for a date and opportunity formally to table them in parliament. The brief motivates for supporting some of the Bills and it proposes changes to others.

Accompanying this work, the NSI has published several Opinion pieces ([Sunday Times](#); [Global Government Forum](#); [Daily Maverick](#)), and participated in numerous radio and TV shows to publicise these developments with a view to building public interest and support for reform efforts (see in the [media room](#) on our website). The NSI has also been meeting with and addressing [political parties](#) to encourage them to make public administrative reform an election issue in 2024.

On the 14th of June, the NSI launched its report on [police reform](#) to a large audience in [parliament's library](#). It was the first time in more than 15 years that a policy institute had done something like that at parliament. The audience included numerous MPs as well as police officials, representatives of community and civil society groups and academics.

As we work to strengthen policy capacity in parliament, we have started to develop a leadership programme, aimed, in the first place, at parliamentarians. After consultation with officials in parliament it became clear that a training programme with MPs and portfolio chairs would have greater purchase if the course was formally accredited.

In this regard, Ivor Chipkin has been in conversation with the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS Business School) about developing a public policy programme. They have agreed as part of him formally joining the faculty on a part-time basis. His appointment as a full professor is currently underway.

In the meantime, NSI has started to produce the outlines of a leadership curriculum, which will be further developed once formalities with GIBS have been concluded.

In terms of this partnership NSI will remain a distinct and independent organisation, though its staff will be able to join as adjoint faculty and develop courses should they want to. Moreover, GIBS has offered NSI office space on its very attractive campus in Johannesburg.

4. Conclusion and Impact

The New South Institute has made good progress in strengthening public policy capacity in Parliament and creating a leadership programme for MPs and portfolio chairs. In particular, we have:

- 4.1. Concluded an MOA with parliament, which will formalise our role in the institution and give us access to MPs and portfolio chairs.
- 4.2. We are producing policy content for MPs and Portfolio Chairs
- 4.3. Concluded an agreement with the GIBS Business School to develop a public policy programme in the faculty, which involves appointing Ivor Chipkin as a part-time full professor. The leadership programme for MPs and portfolio chairs will be housed within this programme.

5. Financials

Programme	YTD costs
1. Migration Governance	£33 318
2. Strengthening Parliament's Public Policy Capacity	£21 921
3. Leadership Programme for MPs and Portfolio Chairs	
4. State of the Coal Corridor/Similar Project using AI	
5. Building NSI into the Brookings of the Global South	

Address: NSI Office, The Link, 173 Oxford Road, Rosebank 1F, 2196

Tel: +27 10 157 2037 | **Email:** info@nsi.org.za | **Website:** nsi.org.za

Directors: IM Chipkin, A Makhanthisa, OM Ngoye