



Dr Rendani Ladzani  
National Research Foundation  
Meiring Naude Road  
Pretoria 0001  
[rendani.ladzani@nrf.ac.za](mailto:rendani.ladzani@nrf.ac.za)

20 November 2018

Dear Dr Ladzani,

**Re: Management Response to the DST-NRF CoE-MaSS Mid-term Evaluation Report**

The Centre would like to thank the DST-NRF and the external reviewers for providing us with the Final Evaluation Report for the CoE-MaSS Mid-term Evaluation Review.

We respond below accordingly to the recommendations made and our desire to implement them given that we are renewed for a further 5-10 years with adequate level of funding in the new cycle. We wish to implement the recommendations as given in the Evaluation Report as per the sections outlined below:

Section A: Implementable immediately with the current annual budget

1. To increase the proportion of South African postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows that are awarded new awards by the Centre (after the re-award of those foreign students who are current award holders in our capacity development pipeline) to be aligned with the *DST Ministerial Guidelines for Equitable Distribution of Bursaries and Fellowships*.
2. To aim to increase the accurate reporting of the number of publications affiliated to the Centre through our various reporting structures and Focus Areas.
3. To improve the skewness in international collaborations of our Subsidiary Partnership tier through relooking at our MoU's so that collaborations are not limited to only certain regions of the world.
4. To improve on the research activities of the Focus Areas in Mathematical Physics, Modelling and Analysis in the Life Sciences, and Statistics.
5. To actively encourage the increase in physical/virtual attendance of the CoE-MaSS Weekly Research Seminar Series through the Focus Area Coordinators and Node Leaders.
6. To improve the visibility and benefit of the Centre via the organization of student meetings/workshops/communities of practice, and via the Focus Areas and Node Leaders.

Section B: Implementable with increased budget, as per recommendation of the Evaluation Panel

7. To establish more Collaborating Partners, through our MoAs, from the Historically Disadvantaged Universities in the country in order to increase collaborations with postgraduate students and the researchers within these universities.
8. To increase research funding to researchers and their postgraduate students through our Focus Areas so that there is a healthier balance of funds spent on research vs. bursaries and fellowships.

9. To develop new Focus Areas further to include important and well-developed research areas with existing pockets of excellence in the country, such as Graph Theory.
10. To actively encourage a culture of regular workshops across all Focus Areas from 2020 (as the activities for 2019 have already been approved and budgeted for accordingly).

We are indeed very thankful to the DST-NRF and to the independent external Reviewers for their valuable inputs.

Yours sincerely



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Prof Fazal Mahomed  
CoE-MaSS Director  
fazal.mahomed@wits.ac.za

CC: Ms Caryn McNamara (CoE-MaSS Manager); Prof Rob Veale (Acting Dean of Science, Wits); Mr Manfred Molomo (Business Manager: Faculty of Science, Wits); Ms Beverley Manus (Wits Research Office); Ms Waheeda Bala (Wits NRF DA: Research Office); Robin Drennan (Director: Research Development, Wits); Prof Zebulon Vilakazi (DVC-Research, Wits); Mr Nathan Sassman (NRF RCCE); Dr Makobetsa Khati (NRF RCCE).