

# ROOTED NEWS

## Ideas & impact from the African Continent

A space where governance meets humanity—where stories of purpose, discipline and leadership reminds us that systems change begins with how we focus our attention each day.

APRIL 2026

### vol.7

- Governance
- Sustainability
- Inclusion
- African-led

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## REGENERATIVE SYSTEMS: Governance Beyond Extraction

### EDITOR'S NOTE FROM SURVIVAL TO REPAIR

Volume 6 ended with a question disguised as a statement. We argued that the goal is not survival — it is institutional advantage. The capacity to emerge from permacrisis stronger than institutions that were merely reactive. We named the transmission chain. We modelled the compound exposure. We traced how a geopolitical event six thousand kilometres away becomes a broken pipe on a South African street. We did all of this in the language of defence.

a necessary question. It is also, ultimately, an extractive one. Survival orients every decision around the preservation of what already exists rather than the regeneration of what has been depleted.

The shift from stewardship to regeneration is not incremental. It is architectural. Stewardship protects the institution. Regeneration repairs the system the institution operates within — the depleted infrastructure, the fractured social trust, the human capability written off as a cost rather than recognised as a compounding asset.

Volume 7 changes the question. Survival asks: how much can we absorb before we break? It is



### SPOTLIGHT ON IMPACT

## NDEBELE GOVERNANCE — THE ART OF STRUCTURAL DISCIPLINE

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*“Regeneration repairs the system the institution operates within — not just the institution itself.”*

In the African context, this distinction is not theoretical. South Africa's infrastructure backlog does not merely reflect a failure to maintain. It reflects decades of extractive governance — systems designed to take from communities rather than return to them. The repair of that backlog is not a technical problem. It is a governance design problem.

And governance design problems require a different kind of leadership. The kind that does not wait for harm to become evident before taking action. The kind that invests in risk knowledge before the crisis arrives. The kind that builds systems which return more to communities than they take from them.

We anchor this volume's regenerative thesis in the work of Dr Katlego Ncongwane — biometeorologist, climate scientist, and one of South Africa's foremost voices on climate-health governance. Her career is itself a regenerative architecture: disciplines that compound rather than compete, each investment in knowledge returning more

capacity than it consumed.

Dr Ncongwane's work in biometeorology is fundamentally anticipatory. She does not wait for heat to kill before measuring its risk. She does not wait for communities to collapse before placing scientific infrastructure in their midst. The Cofimvaba biometeorological station — installed at a rural science centre visited by thousands of learners — is not simply a data-collection node. It is a regenerative investment: it generates observations, builds STEM awareness, and returns scientific capability to the community that hosts it.

That design logic — infrastructure that does not extract from a community but returns to it — is the thread running through every section of this volume. The Regeneration Multiplier is not an abstraction. It is the arithmetic of what Dr Ncongwane has spent her career building: early warning systems that prevent harm rather than respond to it, monitoring networks that empower communities rather than serve only distant institutions, interdisciplinary capability that

holds across the transitions an African career will inevitably demand.

Volume 6 gave practitioners the transmission chain — the path from global shock to local consequence. Volume 7 gives practitioners the Regeneration Multiplier — the path from local investment to systemic return.

The Warrior named the problem. The Architect begins to build the repair. To govern for 2050, we must stop asking how much we can endure. We must start asking what we owe the systems — and the people — that have been depleted in our name.

**Welcome to the discipline of repair.**

### Enjoy Volume 7

*Katlego Majola*

FOUNDER: KM NALA ADVISORY



# What Extraction Has Cost

## NAMING THE NUMBER: What Extraction Has Cost

Volume 6 established that unnamed risks are unmanaged risks. Volume 7 applies that discipline to the regeneration argument. Before we can model the return

on repair, we must name the cost of extraction — precisely, and in rand terms. South Africa’s infrastructure MTEF spending plan is estimated at R943.8 billion (National Treasury

2024). That figure encompasses both new infrastructure investment and the accumulated cost of deferred maintenance — extraction masquerading as fiscal restraint.

**R943.8BN**

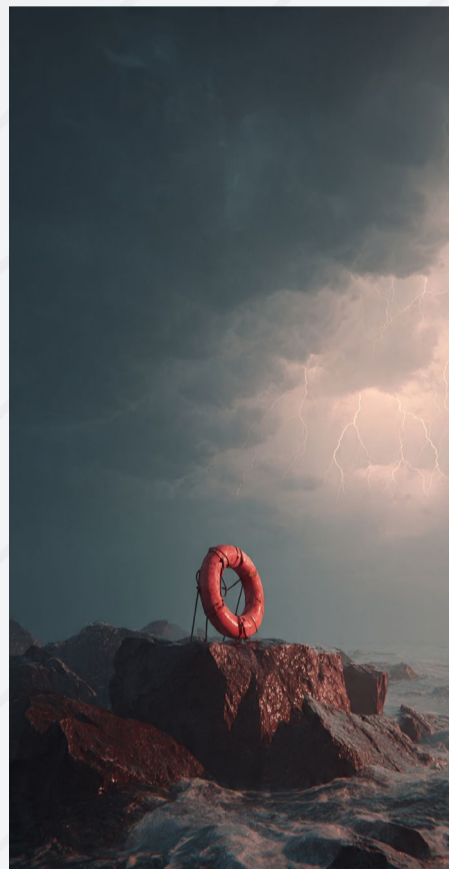
MTEF Infrastructure Spending Plan — National Treasury 2024

**37%**

Treated water lost to leakage — DWS 2023

**R3-R6**

Reactive cost ratio per R1 spent



These are not three separate problems. They are one compound extraction — the same logic that produces the Iran-to-municipality transmission chain produces the maintenance-to-backlog depletion chain. The causes are systemic; the consequences are local; and the accountability gap lives in the space between.

Dr Ncongwane’s work adds a dimension that infrastructure accounting alone cannot capture: the human health cost of that extraction. Heat stress — the consequence of urban heat islands, inadequate shelter, and water scarcity — is not a weather event. It is an infrastructure governance outcome. Every rand of deferred maintenance on water systems, every unshaded taxi rank, every school without ventilation is a heat-health liability accumulating on community balance sheets that no municipal budget reflects.

In 2015 alone, seventeen heat-related fatalities were recorded in the Northern Cape. These deaths did not appear on any infrastructure backlog spreadsheet. They are the hidden cost of extractive governance — the expenditure that never shows up until it is paid in lives.

**The Regeneration Multiplier**  
The Regeneration Multiplier (Rm) is the ratio between the long-term systemic return and the initial regenerative investment. It translates the governance philosophy of repair into a number a municipal treasurer can put in a budget motivation. Dr Ncongwane’s anticipatory governance framework — sense risk before it manifests; invest in early warning before harm arrives; place scientific infrastructure where it compounds community capability — is precisely the design logic the Rm is built to quantify.

EXTRACTION COST	REGENERATION RETURN	REGENERATION MULTIPLIER (Rm)
<p>Reactive municipal maintenance: Every R1 spent reactively costs R3–R6 in downstream repair (SALGA infrastructure data)</p> <p>Heat-health liability: Unquantified community health costs — hospitalisation, lost labour, mortality — accumulate invisibly in under-monitored districts (Ncongwane heat-stress research)</p> <p>Skills extraction: Centralised procurement exports 60–70% of contract value outside the local municipal economy (National Treasury SCM data)</p>	<p>Proactive infrastructure investment: Reduces lifecycle cost by 40–60%; extends asset lifespan 2–3x (World Bank)</p> <p>Anticipatory health surveillance: Biometeorological monitoring and heat-health early warning systems reduce harm before it manifests — the Cofimvaba model applied to governance</p> <p>Localised skills investment: Every R1 invested in local skills retention generates R2.20–R3.40 in community economic multiplier (ILO)</p>	<p><math>Rm = \frac{\sum (Vs_{saved} + L_{created} + H_{avoided} + H_{protected})}{C_{initial}}</math></p> <p>Modelled baseline: <b><math>Rm \approx 2.2x - 2.8x</math></b></p> <p>for closed-loop municipal systems with anticipatory health design</p> <p><math>V_{saved}</math> = Value of resources reclaimed (water, energy, soil) <math>L_{created}</math> = Livelihood value of local vs. outsourced employment <math>H_{avoided}</math> = Institutional failure costs avoided through proactive design <math>H_{protected}</math> = Human health costs prevented through anticipatory surveillance</p>

The modelled Rm range of 2.2x–2.8x for closed-loop municipal systems is conservative. This volume introduces a fourth variable — Hprotected — derived from Dr Ncongwane’s heat-health research. The cost of heat-related illness, lost labour, and premature mortality in under-monitored districts represents a real but unmeasured extraction. When anticipatory surveillance systems prevent those costs, the Rm rises. The discipline of repair begins with measurement.



The Regenerative Architect

THE REGENERATIVE ARCHITECT

A conversation with Dr Katlego Ncongwane

Dr Katlego Ncongwane is a biometeorologist and climate scientist whose career spans the South African Weather Service, national research institutions, and regional climate-health governance across SADC. She is one of Africa's leading voices on the intersection of atmospheric science, human vulnerability, and anticipatory governance. Her work – placing scientific infrastructure in rural communities, building heat-stress early warning systems, and developing the evidence base for heat-health policy – is a practitioner embodiment of the regenerative thesis: science that does not extract from communities, but returns to them.



Dr Katlego Ncongwane.

**1. What does climate extraction actually cost South African communities in human health terms – and why has that cost remained largely invisible to governance decision-makers?**

In South Africa, climate extraction is already costing communities their health, productivity, dignity and, in severe cases, their lives. It is felt through dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, worsening cardiovascular and respiratory illness, kidney strain, mental stress, and reduced capacity to work and function safely. The burden falls hardest on vulnerable groups, including older persons, children, low-income households, outdoor workers, and people living with pre-existing illness. My research, alongside that of other scholars, shows that heat stress risk is increasing across larger parts of South Africa and the broader southern African region.

This means heat is not a distant projection; it is already reshaping everyday life in vulnerable communities. During the 2015/2016 period, seventeen heat-stroke fatalities were reported in the Northern Cape alone.

Heat is especially dangerous because it is often an invisible crisis. Unlike floods or storms, it

does not always leave visible destruction. Instead, it enters quietly through exhaustion, worsening chronic illness, lost labour capacity, and deaths not always recorded as heat-related. The challenge is not that heat is unknown, but that it has remained visible to science and insufficiently visible to decision-making.

**2. The Cofimvaba biometeorological monitoring station is a specific example of regenerative investment – scientific infrastructure placed in a rural community to protect human health from climate risk. What did it take to design a system that genuinely serves that community rather than simply extracting data from it?**

What it took, first, was a personal conviction that scientific infrastructure should not remain distant from the people it is

meant to serve. Growing up, I had never seen a weather station. It was only when I joined SAWS as a scientist in 2008, working under the Global Atmosphere Watch directorate, that I began to understand how important observation systems are – and yet how invisible they often remain to ordinary communities. I carried that burden with me. When the Cofimvaba Science Centre – officially the Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu Science Centre – was being finalised, DSTI invited entities to submit proposals for exhibits, and SAWS used that opportunity to expand the reach of science through a biometeorological installation. Because the science centre is visited by thousands of learners, the station was not only about generating data; it was also about making science visible, practical, and educational. It allowed students to engage directly with the instruments

“Truly regenerative infrastructure does not simply extract data from a community – it returns knowledge, STEM capability, resilience, and opportunity.”



## The Regenerative Architect

and to understand how systems are used to measure weather parameters and support knowledge on climate and health risks.

What does that reveal about what regenerative governance infrastructure actually requires? It reveals that regenerative governance infrastructure requires more than equipment on the ground.

It requires intentional placement, public purpose, and the ability to return value to the community that hosts it. Infrastructure must not only generate observations, but also help build the next generation of scientists, thinkers, and problem-solvers. Truly regenerative governance infrastructure does not simply extract data from a community – it returns knowledge, STEM capability, resilience, and opportunity.

**3. Much of South Africa's climate governance responds to events after they have caused harm. Your work in biometeorology is fundamentally about sensing risk before it manifests as a health crisis. What would South African governance look like if it applied that same anticipatory logic to social, economic, and institutional risk?**

If South African governance were to apply the same anticipatory logic that underpins biometeorology, it would no longer wait for harm to become evident before taking action. Rather, it would invest proactively in risk knowledge, local vulnerability mapping, heat-health surveillance, impact-based early warning systems, and clearly defined response protocols across sectors such as health, disaster management, labour, education, water, and urban planning. This is the approach I have sought to advance through my work: generating heat-stress evidence, identifying hotspots and vulnerable districts, and strengthening the baseline required for evidence-based policy, preparedness, and risk communication. South Africa is not starting from zero. The work on the Gauteng Heat Early Warning System and Heat Action Plan demonstrates that effective anticipatory systems depend on inter-agency coordination,



health-sector preparedness, and warning systems that trigger action before impacts escalate. What is preventing this shift is not a lack of evidence, but fragmented systems and underinvestment. Heat still falls between weather, health, planning, disaster management, labour, and development – even though it cuts across all of them. The barrier is implementation: translating knowledge into joined-up governance, backed by targeted funding for observation, surveillance, early warning, and local response, and deliberate human-capacity development. Without funded, skilled, and coordinated systems, anticipatory governance remains more aspiration than practice.

**4. Volume 6 of Rooted closes with this line: "The industry changes; the human capability endures." Your career spans physics, meteorology, health science, and public policy. What is the human capability you have built that has endured across those transitions?**

The human capability that has endured across those transitions is the ability to connect disciplines without losing scientific rigour. Whether in physics, meteorology, health science, or public policy, I have tried to build the capacity to move from observation to meaning, and from evidence

to action. In practical terms, that means understanding environmental signals, interpreting their implications for people and systems, and then helping translate that knowledge into decisions that protect lives and strengthen resilience. That capability is both technical and relational. It requires quantitative discipline, systems thinking, and the ability to work across institutional and disciplinary boundaries. It also requires humility: recognising that no single field can fully address complex African challenges such as heat, health, climate risk, or inequality. My work in biometeorology has always required linking atmospheric science with public health, local vulnerability, governance, and communication. What this suggests for the next generation is that Africa should invest not only in specialised expertise, but in integrative capability. We need strong STEM foundations, yes, but we also need mentorship, interdisciplinary training, community-facing science, and opportunities to work at the science-policy interface. The scientists and governance practitioners we need for the future are those who can generate knowledge, connect it across systems, and apply it in service of society. That is the kind of human capability that endures.

**The industry changes. The human capability endures. – Mabutho Ndlela, Volume 6**

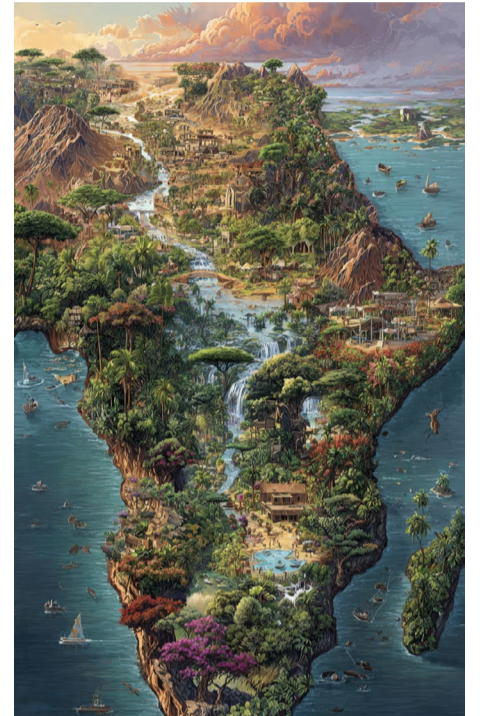


## CASE STUDY

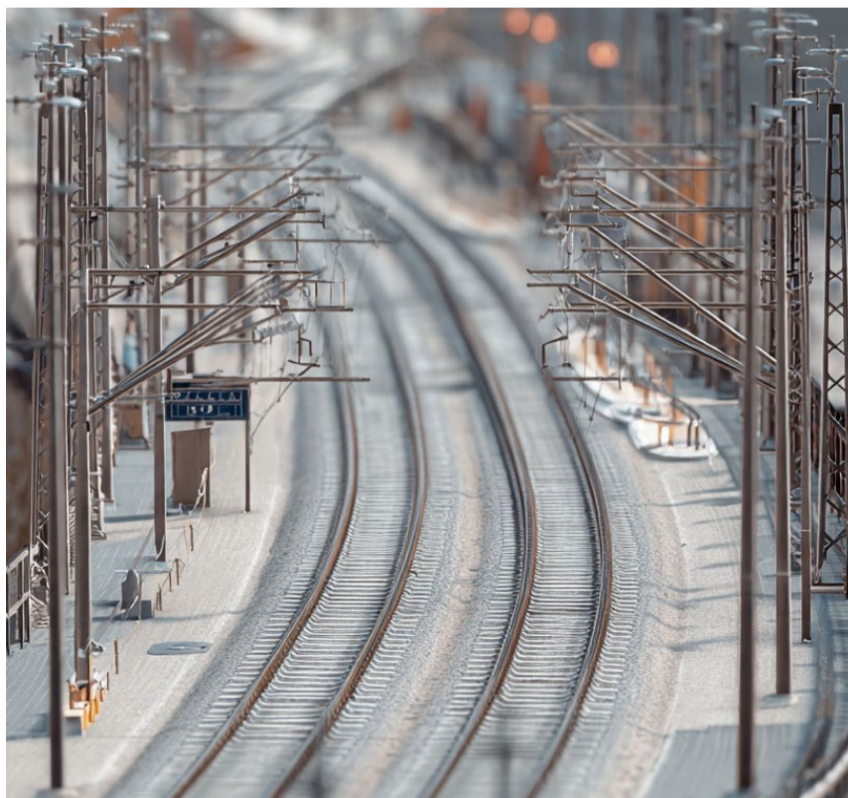
### THE FOURTH ARCHETYPE: The Regenerative Institution

Volume 6 introduced three municipal archetypes – the Personality Municipality, the Compliance Municipality, and the Systemic Stewardship Municipality. The distance between the second and third was named as a design gap, not a resource gap. Volume 7 introduces a fourth archetype. The Systemic Stewardship Municipality governs well under pressure. The Regenerative Institution does something harder: it returns more to the system than it takes from it. This is not semantics. The distinction has a measurable expression. A Systemic Stewardship Municipality absorbs a shock without failing.

A Regenerative Institution uses the shock as a signal to redesign – emerging with stronger infrastructure, deeper community trust, and higher Rm than before the shock arrived. Dr Ncongwane’s work offers governance decision-makers a template for what that redesign looks like in practice. The Gauteng Heat Early Warning System is not merely a climate response tool. It is a governance architecture: it coordinates health, disaster management, labour, urban planning, and education across a single early warning trigger. When the heat signal comes, the system responds – not reactively, but by design. That is the Regenerative Institution in operation.



THE PERSONALITY MUNICIPALITY	THE COMPLIANCE MUNICIPALITY	THE REGENERATIVE INSTITUTION
Extracts from individuals. Depends on one exceptional person. When they leave, the repair knowledge leaves with them. Infrastructure is managed reactively. Budget is consumed by crisis rather than invested in return. Regeneration capacity: None. Deterioration accelerates post-departure.	Extracts from compliance. Systems exist on paper. Maintenance schedules are documented but not followed. Procurement rules are observed but not designed to regenerate local capacity. Audit passes; infrastructure fails. Regeneration capacity: Minimal. Stability only under normal conditions.	Returns to the system. Maintenance is proactive. Procurement retains value locally. Skills are built institutionally. Heat-health surveillance is embedded in planning. Every investment is assessed for its Rm before it is approved. Regeneration capacity: High. Shocks strengthen rather than deplete. Rm > 2.0.



The distance between the Compliance Municipality and the Regenerative Institution is the same design gap Volume 6 named – but applied one level deeper. Compliance municipalities have the foresight layer. What they lack is the regenerative design layer: the mechanisms that ensure every investment returns more to the system than it consumes. Dr Ncongwane names the barrier precisely: it is not a lack of evidence. It is fragmented systems and underinvestment. Heat falls between sectors. Infrastructure maintenance falls between budget lines. Community health falls between reporting frameworks. The Regenerative Institution resolves this not by adding more bureaucracy, but by designing the connective tissue between systems – the early warning protocol that triggers the health department and the water utility and the schools simultaneously.

“Stewardship protects the institution. Regeneration repairs the system the institution operates within.”



SPOTLIGHT

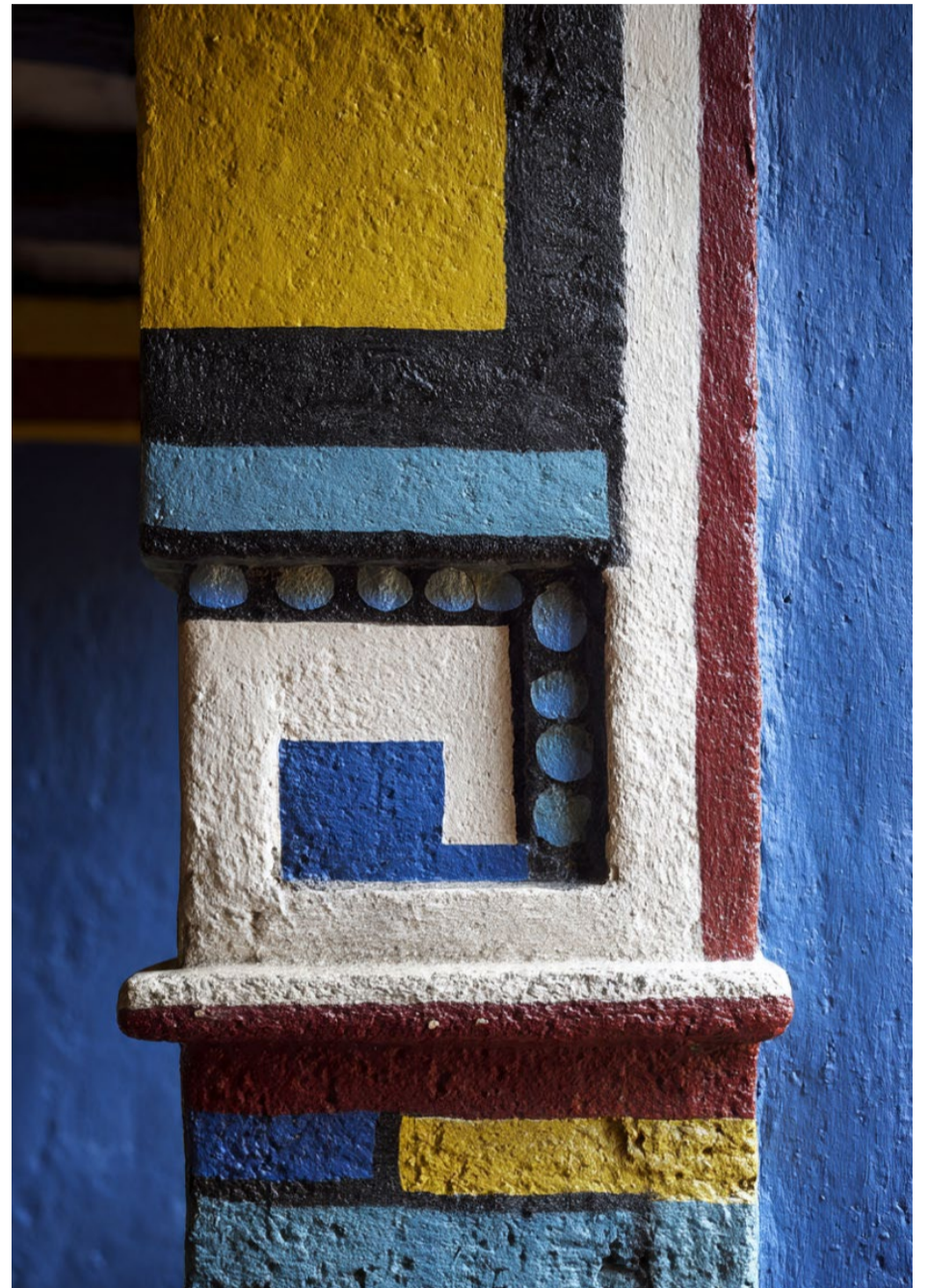
SPOTLIGHT  
ON IMPACT

NDEBELE GOVERNANCE-  
THE ART OF STRUCTURAL  
DISCIPLINE

## NDEBELE GOVERNANCE: The Art of Structural Discipline

Before it was art, it was architecture. Before it was admired, it was functional. The painted walls of Ndebele homesteads – bold, geometric, and instantly recognisable – are more than an aesthetic; they are a spatial governance system. The Umuzi as Institutional Design Traditional Ndebele society was organised around the umuzi – the homestead – as the primary unit of social, economic, and cultural governance. The umuzi was a designed system: spatially arranged to reflect Ukuphilisana (the art of right-relationship), protect resources, and enable collective decision-making. The physical layout followed precise rules. The indlunkulu – the Great House – anchored the compound. As the sanctuary of the Mother of the Homestead, it served as the “True North” from which all other structures derived their alignment. Subsequent dwellings were arranged in a relational hierarchy that mapped the family’s social structure onto physical space. Livestock kraals occupied the centre, protected by this ring of dwellings. Visitors entered through a single gateway, read the spatial language of the compound, and understood the institutional order before a word was spoken. This was governance by design. Authority was visible. Responsibility was spatially assigned. No single personality sustained the system – the architecture did.

The Wall as Policy Document The painted walls emerged from this structure. Ndebele women were the primary architects of this visual language, passing the tradition from mother to daughter. This was a governance transfer: the knowledge of which lines to draw, how to balance the geometric panels, and how to extend the design as the homestead grew. The black outlines – the structural skeleton of every composition – were learned first. In Ndebele thought, this represents (the discipline of the boundary). These are the constitutional layers: the hard rules within which creative



variation is permitted. A daughter learned to hold the line before she learned to fill the colour. The discipline of the structure preceded the freedom of expression. In South African municipalities today, the inverse often operates: colour (spending, activity) precedes structure. The result is systems that depend on personalities rather than architecture, collapsing when an individual leaves because the structural discipline was never embedded. Adaptation Without Extraction Ndebele wall art has evolved across generations. Commercial paints brought new colours; urban migration brought new

geometries. Yet the tradition remains recognisably itself because the structural discipline held. This is the governance lesson: scenarios are not predictions; they are structured variations. The black lines hold; the colour changes; the institution endures. Dr Ncongwane’s anticipatory governance framework operates on this logic. The monitoring network is the “black line” – the structural layer that must be in place before the variation arrives. When the heat event comes, the governance system does not improvise. It activates a pre-designed response held within a structure built to absorb it.



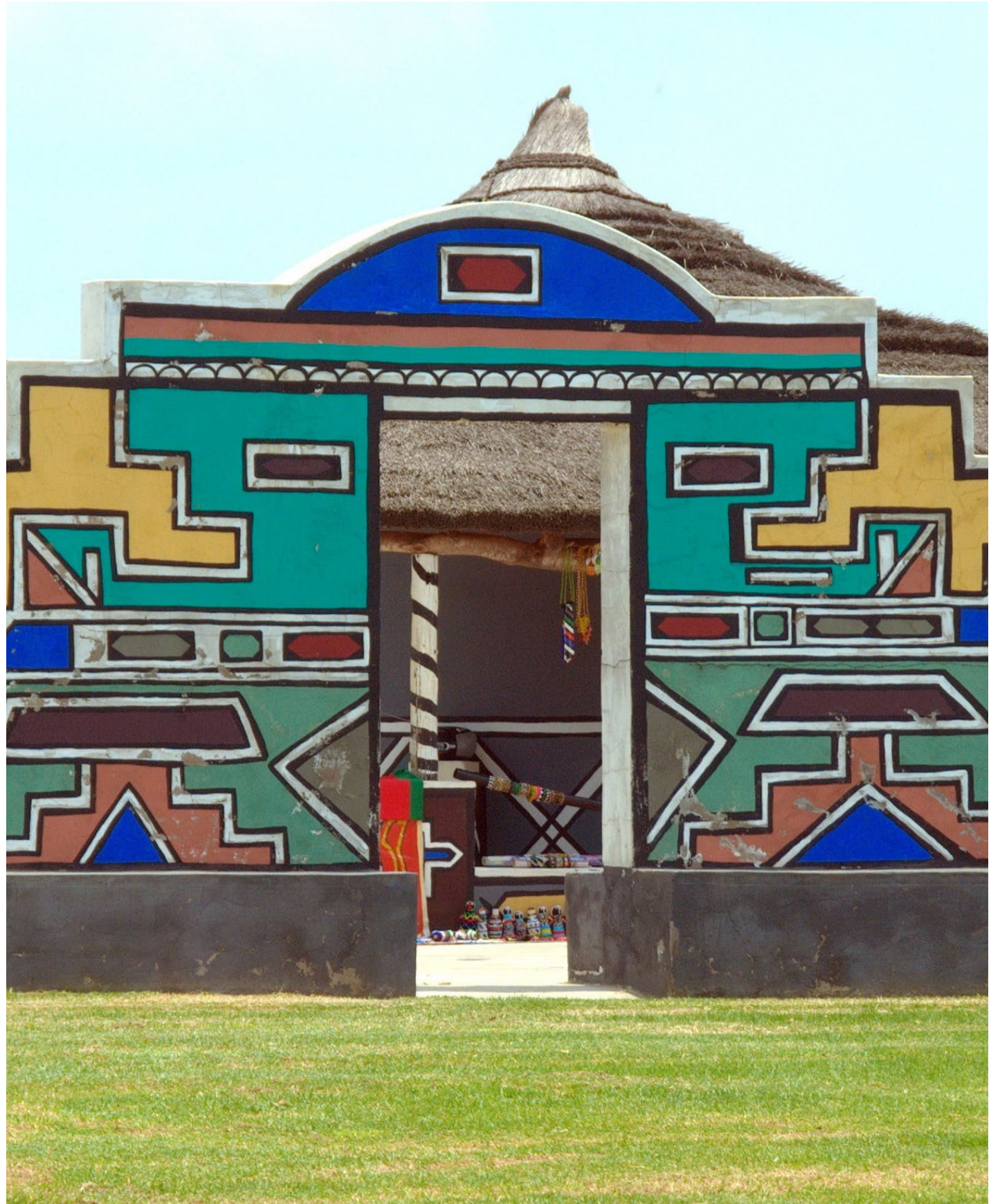
*“The black lines hold. The colour changes. The institution endures.”*



## SPOTLIGHT

### SPOTLIGHT ON IMPACT

### NDEBELE GOVERNANCE- THE ART OF STRUCTURAL DISCIPLINE



#### What the Ndebele Governance Tradition Offers

Three principles from this tradition are directly applicable to regenerative institutional design:

##### 1. Structure Before Expression

The constitutional layer – the rules, protocols, and early warning triggers – must be established before the crisis arrives. You cannot draw the pattern and lay the structure simultaneously.

##### 2. Knowledge Transfer as Governance

The tradition survived colonisation, forced removals, and urbanisation because the logic was held in people, not just buildings. Human capability – not infrastructure – is the regenerative asset.

##### 3. Adaptation Within Discipline

Innovation does not require abandoning the structural logic. The most creative Ndebele compositions are also the most structurally rigorous. Regenerative governance innovates within a system strong enough to hold the variation.

The Ndebele homestead survived the twentieth century because its governance logic was embedded in spatial design and structural discipline – not in any single individual’s authority. That is the architecture Volume 7 is building toward.



## BEAD & BLUEPRINT

### NDEBELE GEOMETRY & SCENARIO ARCHITECTURE

The Bead & Blueprint is a recurring feature in Rooted that pairs African cultural intelligence with quantitative governance rigour. Each pairing must pass one test: does it change how a

practitioner thinks, or does it merely look beautiful? This is the inaugural pairing. The Spotlight introduced the governance philosophy of the Ndebele tradition – the umuzi, the indlunkulu, that makes

the wall a constitutional document. The Bead & Blueprint takes that philosophy and turns it into a working instrument: two practitioner tools a scenario architect can apply today.

*“The system is not the pattern. The system is the discipline that makes infinite patterns possible.”*

The Instrument: From Philosophy to Practitioner Tool  
The black line is not a metaphor. In scenario architecture, it has a precise technical meaning: the structural assumptions that must hold across all scenarios for the planning exercise to remain coherent. Identify them incorrectly and your scenarios are not different futures – they are different institutions, each designed for only one world. The Ndebele artist does not begin with colour. She begins with the boundary. The scenario architect must do the same: before constructing any future, name what cannot change across all futures. These are your black lines. Once they are drawn, the colour – the radical variation in outcomes, drivers, and responses – can be as bold as the situation demands. Dr Ncongwane’s biometeorological monitoring network is the black line of climate-health governance. It is the structural layer that must be in place before any scenario – heatwave, drought, infrastructure failure – arrives. Without it, every event is a surprise. With it, governance activates a pre-designed response rather than improvising under pressure. The monitoring network does not predict which future comes. It holds whichever one does.



- If any of your scenarios require a different answer to that question, you do not have a scenario set – you have several different institutions. Redesign accordingly.

- Are your black lines genuinely structural – or are they assumptions you are uncomfortable testing? The discipline of the Ndebele tradition is to draw the line precisely where it must be, not where it is comfortable.

Tool 2: The Colour Discipline  
Once the black lines are drawn, the failure mode is not ambition – it is timidity. Scenario planning fails most often not because practitioners explore too many futures, but because they do not explore variation boldly enough within their structural assumptions.

- Within your structural assumptions, construct the widest variation you can genuinely defend. The optimistic path and the extractive path should feel genuinely different – not like minor variations on the same trajectory.

- For each scenario, ask: what

would a municipality that had embedded the discipline of the boundary – do differently from one that had not? That difference is your regenerative design target.

- Apply to your IDP: identify the structural assumptions that must hold across all planning scenarios, then check whether your current plans depend on assumptions that change between scenarios. Where they do, you have found your design gap.

For South African municipalities facing compound risks – climate, fiscal, social – scenario planning without structural discipline produces only anxiety. The practitioner sees the range of possible futures and has no framework for choosing between them. Structural discipline resolves this: you do not need to predict which future arrives. You need to build a system strong enough to hold whichever one does. The Ndebele artist resolved this question generations ago. The lines hold. The colour thrives. The pattern endures beyond any single hand that painted it.

Tool 1: The Black Line Test  
For any scenario framework, work through three questions before constructing any scenario:

- What assumptions must hold across all scenarios for this institution to remain functional? These are your black lines. Write them down explicitly.



• THINK • LISTEN • ACT

THINK



LISTEN



ACT



## The Discipline of Repair

Systemic stewardship begins with a shift in the question. Not: 'What is the plan?' But: 'What is the system within which the plan will have to survive?' Regenerative governance begins with a further shift. Not: 'How do we protect what we have?' But: 'What do we owe the systems and people we serve?'

Dr Ncongwane adds a third question that biometeorology has been asking for decades: 'What is the risk already accumulating in our system — and how much of it will we only see after it has cost lives?' The discipline of repair begins here: in the courage to measure what governance has been unwilling to name.

### THINK

- Read Cradle to Cradle (Braungart & McDonough) — the foundational text on regenerative design applied to industrial systems
- Read Doughnut Economics (Raworth) — reframing prosperity as regeneration within planetary and social boundaries
- Read the SADC Regional Heat-Health Assessment literature — understand how extreme heat functions as an 'integrator hazard' across food, water, energy, labour, and urban systems simultaneously
- Ask: what has your institution extracted from its community in the last five years — and what has it returned?
- Ask: does your IDP contain a single anticipatory investment — or only reactive maintenance and compliance items?
- Ask: where in your municipality are heat-health liabilities accumulating invisibly, and who is bearing that cost?

### LISTEN

- The Investec Focus Podcast: episodes on regenerative agriculture and circular economy in the African context
- The Good Governance Africa Podcast: practitioner voices on systemic stewardship at ground level
- CSIR Built Environment Research — South Africa's infrastructure maintenance cost differential studies
- Water Research Commission publications on municipal water loss and the cost of reactive infrastructure management
- South African Weather Service biometeorology publications — Dr Ncongwane's heat-stress hotspot research and the Gauteng Heat Early Warning System development

### ACT

- Calculate your institution's Rm — now including the Hprotected variable. Identify one system currently operating in extraction mode and model what a regenerative redesign would return over five years
- Map one district in your municipality for heat-health vulnerability. Use SAWS data and DWS water access figures to identify where climate extraction is accumulating as unrecorded community cost
- Replace one outsourced contract with a locally-held skills development arrangement. Measure the difference in budget retention
- Run a Regeneration Audit: classify every asset as extractive, neutral, or regenerative
- Apply the black line test to your IDP: identify the structural assumptions that must hold across all planning scenarios — and check whether your current plans depend on assumptions that change between scenarios
- Convene a Kgotla around one depleted community asset. Design the process so community input changes the outcome. Present the result as a regeneration investment, not a cost line

A note on the Regeneration Audit: many institutions will find, on first attempt, that they have no regenerative assets at all — only extractive and neutral ones. This is not a failure. It is a baseline. Volume 7's contribution is the framework. The regenerative design happens in the work that follows.



WHAT'S ON OUR RADAR

## UPCOMING FROM KM NALA ADVISORY



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### VOLUME 8 PREVIEW

## The Human Architecture: Leadership as a Relational Craft

Volume 7 argued that regeneration is a design discipline. Volume 8 asks the harder question: who is the person inside the design? Governance ultimately lives in human beings – in the decisions they make at 06h00 when the system is under pressure, in the relationships they hold when the institution is fracturing, in the daily discipline of long-term thinking inside a short-term political environment.

Volume 8 introduces the Weaver archetype – the leader who integrates the logic of risk frameworks, the wisdom of African governance philosophy, and the precision of behavioural science into a coherent practice. We explore what neuroleadership research says about decision-making under deep uncertainty, and what Ubuntu, the Kgotla, and intergenerational stewardship offer as genuine governance advantages rather than cultural footnotes.

Bead & Blueprint Vol.02: Zulu Basketry and the Behavioural Risk Index – the geometry of containment and the science of decisions under pressure.



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS



## Got something to say? CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS

### CONTRIBUTION CALL — VOLUME 7

We invite essays, case studies, and practitioner reflections on:

- Regenerative economic systems and what they require of governance
- Climate accountability beyond charity and compliance
- Governance structures that survive political cycles
- Global institutional reform from African perspectives

**Submission deadline: 20 APRIL 2026**

info@kmnala.co.za

**Length: 600–800 words | Include a 2-sentence bio**

**We prioritise practitioners, continental voices,  
and builders over commentators.**

**FINAL NOTES +  
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**“Leadership begins when we choose to act  
with purpose, not just power.” – KM Nala**

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