



UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

**UPDATE REPORT
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS CENTRE (IKSC) OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND**

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1. Introduction

This update report has been compiled at the request of the National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office (NIKSO) and covers the period from the 1/10/2009 to the 31/1/2010. According to the University Calendar, all administrative staff had to take compulsory leave as from the 15/12/2009 to the 4/1/2010.

2. IKSC staff

When the Indigenous Knowledge Systems Centre (IKSC) was established, the need for a Research Assistant was to be considered for appointment to the IKSC. In pursuing this matter, the responsibility of who was to fund the Research Assistant was problematic: Unizulu was of the opinion that the IKS Trust Account (DST/NIKSO sponsored) was to pay for the research Assistant.

It must also be mentioned that Mrs. PP Hlongwa, the IKSC secretary had been on maternity leave from the 12/10/09 to the 27/11/09 and our attempts (through the Executive Dean) was not successful in securing a suitable secretarial substitute for the period of absence of the secretary. Nevertheless, Mrs. Dorothy Njiraine had to be asked to man the secretarial desk.

3. Report on activities of the IKSC

3.1. Three Community MoU's

A workshop was organised to work on and finalise the three communities MoU's. This workshop was attended by representatives of the three communities, the representative of the Richards Bay Science Centre, the IKSC and its volunteers. The finalised MoU's were then referred to the Legal Committee after approval by the Rector/ IKS team meeting.

It was only after the 30/11/09 that a response from the Legal Committee was received, with the following general remarks:

- a) considered document M166/09; M167/09; M118/09;
- b) pointed (out) that the document is flawed in that the Municipality is cited as a party to the agreement but has no rights or obligations under the agreement (Memorandum of understanding);
- c) recommended that where the University wishes to initiate projects under the main Science and Technology agreement individual contracts should be considered with the parties concerned."

On studying the response from the legal committee, it was realised that the Legal Committee considered the Nkandla MoU which was the only one to cite the Municipality and thereafter drew generalisations to the other two MoU's.

In order to facilitate the finalisation of the MoU's the three community representatives agreed on a meeting held on the 25/2/2010 to attend the deliberations after the MoU's had been returned back to the Legal Committee meeting scheduled for the 3 March 2010.

3.2. Delivery of Audiovisual equipment to the three communities

Audiovisual equipment was delivered to the three communities:

Mr A Dlomo, of the Nkandla community signed for the following audiovisual equipment:

Digital cameras (x2) with two memory cards and chargers
Digital voice recorders (x1)
External hard drive (x1) 500 gigs and charger
Video camera and a charger

Mr S Tembe, of the Mhlabuyalingana community signed for the following audiovisual equipment:

Digital camera (x2) with two memory cards and chargers
Digital voice recorders (x1)
Video camera and a charger

Miss B Mkhwanazi, of the Mkhwanazi community signed for the following audiovisual equipment:

Digital camera (x1) with a memory card and a charger
Digital voice recorder (x1)
Video camera and a charger

Subsequently, the IKSC volunteers recommended the hiring of six sets of two audiovisual equipments, namely the digital cameras (x6) and the digital voice recorders (x6) for the three communities. As there were no funds for hiring these audiovisual equipments the idea which was not cost effective at all could not be supported even by the procurement department.

3.3. Allocation of research funds to the three communities

The access of research funding from the IKS Trust Account (DST Sponsored) for allocation to the three communities, namely Nkandla, Mhlabuyalingana and Mkhwanazi has been extremely problematic.

Initially, the undersigned was advised to apply for an advance on behalf of the communities. These communities could not apply on their own because they were not Unizulu staff members. The person applying for these advances had a responsibility of providing all receipts of expenditure within 30 days to the finance department, failing which the advance amount was to be recouped from the salary of the applicant.

Despite the risks in applying for an advance, the undersigned because of pressure especially from the three communities and the IKSC volunteers, an amount of R10 000-00 (ten thousand rand) was applied for and allocated as follows:

Mr A Dlomo of Nkandla community	R 3 500-00
Mr S Tembe of Mhlabuyalingana community	R 3 500-00
Miss B Mkhwanazi of Mkhwanazi community	R 3 000-00
Total	<u>R 10 000-00</u>

With the allocation given, the communities the recording process commenced. By the middle of November 2009, two communities, namely Nkandla and Mhlabuyalingana, had utilised all their research allocation of R 3 5000-00 each. All receipts have been submitted and processed to the finance department. With kwaDlangezwa up to now, their allocation of R 3 000-00 has not yet been accounted for.

The implication is that since the Mkhwanazi community has not yet exhausted their allocation, no more funds could be applied for by the undersigned pending the

production of receipts for the R 3 000-00 allocated to Miss Mkhwanazi.

After few meetings with the Director of Finance, a set of forms were given to the undersigned for completion. With these completed forms, the three community representatives were to be enabled to get an allocation of funds from the Human Resources Department.

The first allocation of R 20 000-00 (disregarding an advance already granted) for the month of November 2009, was applied for and had to be paid to the two community representatives namely, Mr A Dlomo of Nkandla community and Mr S Tembe of Mhlabuyalingana community.

To our dismay, when the new academic year commenced on the 5/1/2010, research funds for the two mentioned communities had not been paid. Hopefully these research funds would be paid to the two mentioned communities for the month of January 2010.

3.4. Links with private and public bodies

The following links have been established/ maintained:

a) Science Centre, Richards Bay

IKSC exhibits IKS material during the Science week and Mr Derrick Fish supports the dissemination of information regarding IKS as a role of the Science Centre. A request for an expert to capacitate the Science Centre (Richards Bay) and the IKSC on how to operate the Digital doorway and proper signage of the Digital Doorway is requested so that the Portal could be activated and IKS material stored (see picture of the Digital Doorway below).



Regular meetings have been held with the Science centre representative, Mr Nxumalo.

b) Freedom Park

On the 6/10/09 the Chief Executive Officer of the Freedom Park, Dr Wally Serote visited Unizulu. Among other things, the visit was aimed at the briefing Unizulu management about the Freedom Park and to share ideas on IKS. The IKSC was invited to pay the Freedom Park a visit. This visit has been planned for the first term of 2010.

c) KwaZulu-Natal Premier's Office

On the 23/11/09 two officials from the KZN Premier's Office, namely Mr Mnculwana and Miss Mazibuko visited the IKSC. The Executive Dean of Arts was represented by Prof Ocholla. Officials of the Premier's Office had come to familiarise themselves of what the IKSC was doing and indicated that they would be conducting an audit on public and private organisations engaged in IKS initiatives.

They indicated that they were counting upon the collaboration of the IKSC in their task of arranging an IKS Exhibition within the Province of KwaZulu-Natal this year (last year it was organised by the Limpopo Province). Full support was pledged by the Unizulu IKSC.

d) IKS Centre of Excellence, North-West University

At a workshop held at the Protea Hotel, Eshowe on the 1-3/12/2009, an invitation was extended by Prof Qalinge and Mr Koitsiwe of the IKS Centre of Excellence (North-West) to a workshop to be arranged sometime before the end of March 2010. The workshop will be planned by the two Centres. The IKSC agreed in principle to attend the meeting pending the availability of funds.

e) Ingwapele Technology

A meeting was held with Mr Louis Bapela (standing in for Rensie van Rensburg of Meraka) on 4 December 2009. The discussion centred on the possibilities of a collaborative venture involving the DST, Meraka and the IKS Centres.

It was agreed in principle that with the information at our disposal it would appear that Meraka's Infopreneur™ model and their (IKSC) approach to achieving their objectives have more commonalities than contrasts and that collaboration would be supported from both sides.

3.5. Workshop on "Strengthening traditional leadership roles in Southern Africa"

The IKSC received an invitation to a workshop which was held from the 1-3 December 2009 at Shakaland Protea Hotel, Eshowe in KwaZulu-Natal. The theme of the workshop was on "Strengthening traditional leadership roles in Southern Africa". The IKSC was asked to make a presentation on "Paired indigenous Knowledge with the institutions of learning".

A joint presentation was made by Prof TAP Gumbi and Prof DN Ocholla. The presentation was well received and the presenters had to respond to a number of questions. Among the participants of the workshop, there were members of the Portfolio Committees of government.

Since the IKSC was invited to present a paper to the workshop, no financial implications were incurred for the IKSC.

3.6. Signage boards showing direction to the IKSC

When the IKSC moved to its new offices at the ground floor of the library, three (3) signage boards were ordered through the Facilities Management Department. Two (2) boards have been put in place, namely the one along Mdoni Street the other at



the entrance of the IKSC.



The one to be place along Mvuzevuze Road is still outstanding.

3.7. Recordings collected by community representatives of Nkandla, Mhlabuyalingana and Mkhwanazi by the 31/1/2010

On several occasions, community representatives of Nkandla and Mhlabuyalingana maintained their stand regarding recordings being kept within their communities. This position was supported strongly by the IKS Centre's volunteers as well.

At a workshop held at the Protea Hotel in Empangeni on the 12 November 2009, the IKSC which by then had acquired few recordings from Nkandla was asked to return them back to Nkandla. The IKSC complied in returning them back to Nkandla.

The IKSC has no record of the documents and records collected by the three communities.

At a meeting of the IKSC, the Richards Bay Science Centre and the three Community Representatives held at the IKSC on the 12/1/2010, the two community representatives were to update the IKSC Manager of the number of recordings collected by collected by them at the end of January 2010. This information will be forwarded to DST as soon n as it is available.

3.8. IKSC Manager appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of “Inkanyiso”: The Journal of Humanities and Social Science (Unizulu Publication)

During October 2009, the IKSC Manager, was appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of a newly established Journal of Humanities and social Science (ISSN 2077-2815, Volume 1 Number 1 2009).

It must be mentioned that the cover page picture was taken from one of the many IKSC artifacts kept at the IKSC. Plans are underway to have the “Inkanyiso” Journal accredited.

4. Provisional IKSC Financial report

The IKS Trust Account showed a credit balance of R 246 050-04 as at the 31 December 2009.

An amount of R 271 754-59 budgeted and earmarked for research purposes by the three selected communities which was earmarked for research purposes by the three selected communities, has not yet been released to the communities by the university (see paragraph 3.3).

Credit balance as at 31/12/2009	Committed funds for research by the three communities(ring fenced)	Total amount of funds budgeted and earmarked for research purposes by the three communities as at 31/1/2010
R 246 050-04	a) Allocation of research funds to Nkandla R 90 381-60 b) Allocation of research funds to Mhlabuyalingana R 92 192-99 c) Allocation of research funds to Mkhwanazi R 89 180-00	R 271 754-59

A summary IKS Trust Account Cost Centre is attached to this report as Annexure A.

5. Conclusion

As indicated in this report, a great deal of time has to be spent on making follow-ups on things that should have been done already, for example, the processing of research funds to the three community representatives.

Regrettably, because of the constant delays in the processing of funds, the perception has been created among our community partners that the Finance and Human Resources Departments, have more powers in controlling the release of the IKS Trust Account (DST Sponsored).

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