

The Dean and Head of the Graduate School of
Business and Leadership

Professor Theuns Pelser

cordially invites postgraduate students and Local Economic Development
Practitioners to an interactive seminar with

Ms Phila Xuza

Director: Centre for Small Towns Regeneration

Theme

THE ROLE OF SMALL TOWNS IN THE POST-APARTHEID SA



Date

Thursday, 12 April 2018

Time

09h30 for 10h00 until 12h00

Venue

Lecture Theatre 1, GSB&L,
Westville Campus, UKZN

RSVP

[Click here](#) to confirm
attendance



Phila is a leading strategist, scholar and practitioner of spatial economic development in African small towns. A Masters graduate from the University of the Witwatersrand, she fulfilled the role of founding CEO of Aspire (Amathole Economic Development Agency) from 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2012.

During that time the developmental model of Aspire became a national prototype for the development of small towns' economies in South Africa. Phila has been responsible for the formulation and implementation of numerous developmental local and regional development strategies, and during her 7-year tenure as CEO of Aspire the organisation received clean audits from the Auditor General. Her funding applications raised nearly half a billion rands between 2005 and 2012, which was effectively managed and distributed to strategic development projects.

Phila is currently the Director for the Centre for Small Towns Regeneration (CSTR), an entity she founded in 2012 which provides evidence-based and high-quality advisory support services to municipalities and Development Agencies in SA, Botswana and Namibia. Phila is also a Research Associate at the UJ's School of Tourism and Hospitality – and has published a number of articles in international journals and books.