



MEDIA ADVISORY

Poverty in Africa Scrutinised

The challenges faced by Africa due to extreme poverty will be scrutinised at the 12th Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA) to be jointly hosted by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) next week.

The eradication of poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. Sub-Saharan Africa which accounts for a large proportion of those living in extreme poverty also faces threats brought on by climate change, conflict and food insecurity.

This year AMASA, under the theme Poverty Reduction, will bring together some 100 stakeholders, including policymakers, scientists (established and young), members of academies of science in Africa and beyond, civil society and others to discuss a topical societal issue through a scientific conference. The theme is tied to the Sustainable Development Goal, Ending Poverty in All its Forms.

AMASA will be held at the Garden Court, OR Tambo International Hotel on 7 – 8 November 2016.

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ENDS

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) celebrates its 20th year as official academy of South Africa this year.

ASSAf was inaugurated in May 1996. It was formed in response to the need for an Academy of Science consonant with the dawn of democracy in South Africa: activist in its mission of using science and scholarship for the benefit of society, with a mandate encompassing all scholarly disciplines that use an open-minded and evidence-based approach to build knowledge.

ASSAf thus adopted in its name the term 'science' in the singular as reflecting a common way of enquiring rather than an aggregation of different disciplines. Its Members are elected on the basis of a combination of two principal criteria, academic excellence and significant contributions to society.

The Parliament of South Africa passed the Academy of Science of South Africa Act (Act 67 of 2001), which came into force on 15 May 2002. This made ASSAf the only academy of science in South Africa officially recognised by government and representing the country in the international community of science academies and elsewhere.

For more on the [history of ASSAf](#).