

# Thematic Session 5

## **Views of pride, promise & priorities in the national system of innovation (NSI)**

Theme leader - Dr. Lindile L Ndabeni

Executive Director: MeyAgri

# Framing the presentation

1. Declare own bias which results from my own academic background
2. Analysis is informed by studies of innovation systems
3. Presentation as a whole highlights key insights from the HSRC report
4. Conclusion

# Own bias

- Academic background in History (study of change and continuity), Applied Linguistics (Language use), and Economic Geography (distribution of economic activities and their impact on society)
- This bias can translate into innovation geography (which can be described as the studies that focus on the distribution of innovation activities and their impact on society)

# Emphasis in this presentation

1. The policy intent of the state is to achieve a science-literate and science aware society
2. Achieve the promise of S&T skills especially for youth
3. Set priorities for S&T research

# Pride in South African S&T achievements

1. 58% of the public expressed pride in S&T achievements
2. Highest levels of pride came from youth, learners and students
3. They also reported high levels of home education support and exposure to S&T information



# Views of pride

1. Low levels of pride was reported among those with limited home education support
2. Those with primary and no formal education
3. And those living in marginalized settings such urban informal settlements

# Promise of S&T skills for young people

1. Those with higher levels of education expressed high hopes in S&T
2. Indeed young people are encouraged to acquire S&T skills in order to respond to socio-economic challenges facing them such as employment and employability

# S&T research priorities for South Africa

1. Highest research priority was energy supply
2. Followed by cleaner and better supply of water
3. The third highest S&T research priority was quality of education
4. The lowest research priority as highlighted in the report was research on space and stars
5. Indeed the three highest research priorities reflect the top challenges of development facing the country



# In conclusion

1. What can be done to improve pride in S&T across race, class, gender, rural, and urban areas
2. What roles should government, business, universities, science councils, civil society play in order to achieve the promise and priorities set in the National System of Innovation
3. I thank you for your kind attention