

# Fixing South Africa's Intelligence Services

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TEAMS



Chair: **Prof Hussein Solomon** (CGAS)

**General Eeben Barlow** served in the SADF in numerous conventional, unconventional and covert units. He was the founder and chairman of Executive Outcomes, and also served as chairman of STTEP International. He is the author of 4 bestselling books on conflict, war, and intelligence operations in Africa. He has overseen several African government military campaign strategies, structured their forces, developed their doctrines and overseen training to ensure successful ending of conflicts. As the chairman of the newly rebirthed Executive Outcomes, he remains a trusted political, military and intelligence advisor to several African governments where he holds the rank of Maj Gen in 3 African armies. He served as the Honorary Consul of São Tomé and Príncipe to South Africa from 2019 to 2022. He has contributed to numerous academic papers and book chapters and is a regular speaker at foreign conferences and seminars. Additionally, he frequently lectures at military colleges and universities across Africa and abroad and remains a trusted advisor to several African governments and military and political leaders. He is a Research Fellow with the Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University and works with the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA) of Stellenbosch University on landward security governance.

**Dr Edward L. Mienie** is the Executive Director and Professor of Strategic and Security Studies in the Department of Political Science and International Affairs at the University of North Georgia. Dr Mienie has more than 25 years of experience working in international relations and business, media relations, and coalition building. He earned a bachelor's degree in law from the University of South Africa and received his doctorate in international conflict management while teaching and leading the academic exchange program with South Africa at Kennesaw State University. He is fluent in English, Afrikaans, and German. He served in the Diplomatic Corps of South Africa from 1987–1998, including four years as Deputy–Ambassador to Switzerland, four years as the Political Advisor to the Ambassador, and US Government and Congressional Liaison, Washington, D.C., 1989–1992. Dr Mienie is also a veteran of the South African Defence Force, having served four years' active duty during the Angolan War in the early 1980s. His research interests include State Fragility; National Intelligence; Role of Public Diplomacy in Conflict Management; and Nuclear Non–Proliferation.

**Capt (SAN) GW Plint** is a researcher at the Centre of Military Studies at the Faculty of Military Sciences at Stellenbosch University. He lectures on Cyberwarfare and teaches research methodology at SANDF training institutions. His research includes the militarisation of society, and the citizen–soldier. He holds a MMIL from the University of Stellenbosch and a BA Honours in Strategic Studies from UNISA. He has 30 years' experience in Defence Intelligence which includes intelligence analysis, counter–intelligence, collection and training.

**Chaile Seretse** studied BA (Law) and LLB. He is currently studying for his Masters in International Trade. He completed numerous foreign programmes related to peacekeeping, intelligence, security and conflict resolution. He is no stranger to the field of intelligence. He is currently a Risk Management and Security advisor and practitioner. He worked extensively locally and internationally investigating intelligence and security failures and providing alternative solutions. He has designed several conflict transformation programmes for African governments and their security structures to help counter destructive foreign infiltrations and actions. He continues to provide assistance, input and support to secure corporate security, and prevent nefarious activities in those spheres.

**Dr Thys (MA) van den Berg** is a senior professional intelligence officer (Ret) with practical experience in intelligence and counterintelligence ranging from research and analysis to operations and investigations within the South African civilian intelligence environment. He also has experience in intelligence education and skills training. His academic qualifications include a PhD (NWU) in Political Science / intelligence Studies.

**Joe van der Walt** is the Founder and CEO of Focus Group. With a background in the defence force of the South African military (Military Intelligence), Joe has specialised in private–sector security and risk management in Africa and the Middle East for over 20 years. He has particular expertise in the oil, gas and mining sectors as well as the anti–poaching industry. He has planned, coordinated and implemented operations in Sub–Saharan, Eastern and Western Africa, the oil fields of Kurdish–controlled Northern Iraq, as well as in Asia. Joe has been responsible for the implementation and management of high–level security for asset protection and personnel involving several multinationals operating in Africa and the Middle East. He has also delivered high–level threat assessments, including for a major gas line construction project in the United States.

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