Greetings Fellow SAHS Members

As you all know, we have been for the last weeks confronted by enormously difficult times. The rapid spread and cumulative fatalities connected to COVID-19 pandemic continue to cause enormous shock, and anxiety in our respective communicates. In South Africa, we have now entered fourth week of national lockdown, which is an extension from the original implementation date of the 26th March. Ever since that day, it has been almost impossible to carry out normal academic and university functions. Universities have also been compelled to place suspensions on hosting events, and it has been impossible for fellow academics to travel. All other public facilities which include libraries, museums and archival repositories that we normally use for our researches, and other networks, are also closed as a result of the lockdown regulations.

The prevailing situation has also unfortunately led to the cancellation of a June 2020 Conference that has been organised by our colleagues, the Historical Association of South Africa (HASA), and this was to be hosted by Sol Plaatje University. We, the SAHS executive have extended our compassion to our HASA contemporaries, and in realising the efforts already put in preparations, have decided to concede June 2021 for the rearranging of their conference. Essentially, we all are hopeful that HASA will now host their conference in June 2021, and ours will be in June 2022, a year later. We acknowledge this may inconvenience some of you who were already thinking ahead, but we trust that adjustment will enable members from both societies to attend and support both rearranged conferences. We also believe these alterations are for growth, and enduring interest on the discipline of history, which both societies aspire for.

We will continue to monitor the national situation for further updates. We will also follow further developments from different universities through Universities South Africa (USAf). As per norm the SAHS will continue with its relationships with Editorial Committees, Taylor & Francis Group, and our associated Journals; the South African Historical Journal and Journal of Natal and Zulu History.

We trust that you are keeping safe, and we also wish you good health during these testing times.

Sincerely Yours,

Luvuyo Wotshela

President SAHS