

Dr. Liile Lerato Lekena-Bayaga

Acting Senior Director: Institutional Planning and Research | Higher Education Strategist | SAAIR Vice President and President(2021–2024)

Contact: Email: Lekena.liile@mut.ac.za

Executive Summary

I am a visionary leader with over a decade of experience in institutional research (IR), strategic planning, and governance. From 2011 to 2020 at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), I held key roles, including Institutional Researcher and Quality Advisor: Surveys and Institutional Research, where I developed policies, conducted strategic stakeholder surveys, and ensured compliance with national standards. My expertise extends to quality assurance, fostering institutional effectiveness, and aligning strategic goals with operational priorities.

As President of the Southern African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR), I drove membership growth and promoted collaboration across regions. Currently, I serve as a Peer Advisory Committee Member at MANCOSA, providing strategic input on quality assurance and policy alignment. My leadership spans data-driven decision-making, stakeholder engagement, and policy development, positioning me to advance higher education institutions towards sustainable growth and innovation.

Key Professional Roles

President (including Vice Presidency) , SAAIR (2021–2024)

- Achieved record-breaking membership growth in 2023 during the 30th celebration through strategic outreach and engagement campaigns.
- Oversaw the strategic direction of the association, fostering collaboration and advancing IR practices in Southern Africa.

Acting Senior Director: Institutional Planning and Research, MUT (2024–Present)

- Led the integration of institutional strategies across divisions, ensuring alignment with national priorities and operational goals.
- Oversaw institutional research, reporting, and compliance, driving data-informed planning for institutional growth and efficiency.

Peer Advisory Committee Member, Management College of South Africa (MANCOSA) (2023–Present)

- Provided strategic input on quality assurance, academic processes, and policy refinement.
- Reviewed and enhanced frameworks to align with national and international quality standards.

Director: Strategic Planning, MUT (2021–Present)

- Successfully developed and executed institutional strategies, eliminating the need for external consultants.
- Conducted mid-term reviews of strategic plans, optimizing institutional alignment with evolving educational trends.

Institutional Researcher, Tshwane University of Technology (2011–2020)

- Managed institutional research portfolios, providing key insights for strategic decision-making.
- Developed policies and conducted stakeholder surveys to align goals with institutional priorities.

Key Skills and Competencies

- Strategic Planning and Execution | Governance and Policy Development | Resource Management
- Institutional Research and Data Analytics | Quality Assurance | Stakeholder Engagement
- Advanced proficiency in BI tools, including PowerHEDA and Excel

Education

- PhD in Science and Technology Studies, Stellenbosch University
- MPhil in Corporate Strategy, University of Pretoria
- MEd by Research, University of KwaZulu-Natal
- BA and BA Honours in Development Studies, English Language and Linguistics, National University of Lesotho

Professional Achievements

- Spearheaded the development of the next MUT Strategic Plan (2026–2030).
 - Facilitated institutional strategies that enhanced teaching, learning, and resource allocation.
 - Hosted SAAIR's highly acclaimed annual conferences, promoting cross-regional collaboration.
-