

## **HEAD OF DEPARTMENT PROFILE**

Dr Hans Kekana (PhD) is an accomplished public servant, academic and development practitioner with extensive experience in government administration, sustainable development, land reform and public sector leadership.

Dr Kekana holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education, a BA Honours in Environmental Impact Assessment, a Master of Arts in Land Reform for Agricultural Development, and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Sustainable Development. His academic and professional interests span key developmental sectors including transport, human settlements, waste management, and land degradation.

He began his professional career at the Land Claims Commission, where he served as a Researcher on Land Restitution, contributing to South Africa's land reform programme. In 2002, he was appointed Director in the Department of Agriculture, where he played a significant role in agricultural development and rural transformation initiatives.

In 2005, Dr Kekana advanced to the position of Chief Director for Human Settlements, leading strategic programmes focused on sustainable housing and integrated human settlement development.

From 2023 to 2026, he served as Head of Department for the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, providing executive leadership in public safety, mobility systems and transport governance.

In 2026, Dr Kekana was appointed Head of Department for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, where he continues to drive policies and programmes aimed at strengthening agricultural productivity, rural livelihoods, and sustainable land use.

Dr Kekana is widely recognised for combining academic scholarship with practical governance experience, contributing meaningfully to sustainable development and public sector innovation in South Africa.