

MEDIA ADVISORY

The 4th Annual Colloquium “*WIPHOLD-Brigalia Bam Chair in Electoral Democracy in Africa*”

ATTENTION: EDITORS, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REPORTERS

DATE: 19 / APRIL / 2017

South Africa is rated amongst the best in hosting successful free and fair elections since April 1994. This year marks the 23rd anniversary of freedom in the country. To commemorate this, the University of South African (UNISA) is hosting the 4th annual Wiphold-Brigalia Bam Chair in Electoral Democracy in Africa Colloquium. Supported by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the theme for 2017 is “*Local Government Democracy Dynamics in Africa: What Works, What Doesn’t, and Why?*”

The Colloquium will assemble members of election management bodies, students and academics, civil society organisations, members of the diplomatic corps, research bodies and think-tanks, government officials, election management personnel, and democracy and human rights champions and activists to examine the elections, democracy and governance issues from the perspective of local government spheres in Africa.

The WIPHOLD-Brigalia Bam Chair hosted in Unisa’s College of Human Sciences was established in 2012. The Chair has played (and continues to play) a critical role in South Africa’s evolving democratisation and Africa’s elections. It has contributed immensely to our understanding of contemporary debates, innovations and dilemmas of democratisation through elections in Africa.

Since its inception, the Chair and the annual colloquium has tackled topics ranging from the evolving role of elections and democracy in Africa, role of election management bodies (EMBs) in Africa’s democratic consolidation, to ethics, accountability and fairness in Africa’s elections. The Chair has produced publications in accredited periodicals, a book, and hosted numerous seminars and initiated an election observer mission to train Unisa staff, students and members of civil society on elections in Africa. These initiatives are in line with its mandate of promoting electoral democracy regionally



and continentally through the Chair's four main pillars of research, capacity building, community engagements, and academic citizenship.

Additionally, the discussions of the annual colloquia have resulted in conference papers, articles in accredited publications and a book. Such Colloquia have also cemented relations with election management in SADC and other parts of Africa, the African Union and other international election bodies and role-players.

This year the Colloquium will take place as follows:

Date: 24 - 26 April 2017

Time: 08:30 to 16:00

Venue: Kgorong Function Hall, 4th Floor, Kgorong Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus

Members of Media are invited to attend the event

END!!

For RSVP please contact Tommy Huma, on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 6390 and Edgar Rathelele on 082 059 9243 / 012 429 6930

ISSUED BY UNISA MEDIA AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

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