



MEDIA ADVISORY

Unisa TM School to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the International Journal of African Renaissance Studies (IJARS): Reviving the African Renaissance debate

Approved for public release
Thursday, 10 September 2026

The International Journal of African Renaissance Studies (IJARS) published by Unisa Press in collaboration with Taylor and Francis, and the Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs (TM-School) as Proprietor, is marking its 20th anniversary with a special issue and seminar to be held on Thursday, 17 September 2026 at Unisa Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria

Themed "*The African Renaissance: Past, Present and Future*," the anniversary issue revisits one of the most consequential intellectual movements in contemporary African history — a vision that traces back to Cheikh Anta Diop and was given political expression by former President Thabo Mbeki. Twenty years after IJARS was launched to carry that debate forward, it is as much an occasion to look ahead as to look back.

The 20 years of IJARS provide an opportunity to celebrate what has been achieved, and more importantly, to revive the discussion around one of the most crucial intellectual movements in Africa's contemporary history.

The special issue is guest-edited by **Prof Toyin Falola** (University of Texas, USA) and **Prof Peter Githinji** (Kenyatta University), and features 20 commissioned contributions from scholars and thought leaders working on the African Renaissance across the continent and its diaspora. In keeping with the journal's commitment to African intellectual sovereignty, several articles will be published in African languages, including Kiswahili.

The full issue will be published **open access**, and contributing authors will present their work at the seminar.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the seminar to be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, 17 September 2026

Time: 09:00

Venue: Functions Hall, 4th floor - Kgorong building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria.

-Ends-

For inquiries, please contact Senior Media Officers: Mr. Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / humatm@unisa.ac.za OR Mr Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / ratheme@unisa.ac.za



**ISSUED BY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA
Media Affairs
Department of Institutional Advancement (DIA)**

