

MEDIA ADVISORY

Unisa to Host the 15th Annual Es'kia Mphahlele Memorial Lecture

Approved for Public Release

Date: Monday, 02 September 2024

The University of South Africa (Unisa) will on Saturday, 07 September 2024 host the 15th Annual Es'kia Mphahlele Memorial lecture, in commemorating the legacy of the renowned literary figure Prof Es'kia Mphahlele. This year's lecture will be delivered by **Professor Siphamandla Zondi**, Director of the Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation (IPATC), one of the University of Johannesburg's Global Excellence and Stature 4.0 flagship institutes. The lecture will be presented on the topic, "**Es'kia Mphahlele in search of a decolonial turn**" under the theme "**The African Writer as a Prophet and Social Critic in Contemporary Times**"

The purpose of the memorial lecture is, amongst other things to:

- To honour the legacy of the late Professor Es'kia Mphahlele and to acknowledge his contributions to literary discourse and social development.
- To generate debate that contributes to public discourse.
- To promote academic intellectualism.
- To stimulate intellectual dialogue on literary discourse and contemporary issues.
- To advance Unisa's social impact through teaching.

The 2024 guest speaker, Professor Siphamandla Zondi has served as the Executive Director of the Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD) from 2009 to 2016. He holds a BA and Higher Diploma in Education from the former University of Durban-Westville and earned his MPhil and DPhil in African Studies from the University of Cambridge, UK. His extensive experience includes leading IGD's Africa Studies and South African Foreign Policy Analysis programs, as well as coordinating the Africa Institute of South Africa's regional integration and sustainable development programs. His research interests include regional integration and governance, South Africa's international relations and foreign policy, and public health policy.

Previous guest speakers for this lecture include Dr Reuel Khoza (Chairman of Dzana Investment), Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng (Retired Chief Justice, South Africa), Dr Mosibudi Mangena (former leader of Azapo and former Minister of Science and Technology), Dr Mamphela Ramphele (former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town), Dr Xolela Mangcu (Professor of Sociology at the University of Cape Town), Professor Muxe Nkondo (Former Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Venda), Professor Tshepo Madlingozi (Commissioner, South African Human Rights Commission), Professor Adebayo O. Olukoshi (Director for Africa and West Asia, International IDEA), Professor Itumeleng Mosala



(former Director General of the Department of Arts and Culture and former leader of AZAPO) and last year, Professor Tinyiko Maluleke (Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Tshwane University of Technology).

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the lecture as follows:

Date: Saturday, 07 September 2024

Time: 15:30

Venue: Unisa North Eastern Region, Clifford Tleane Building, 23A Landros Mare Street,
Polokwane

- Ends-

For RSVP and interviews requests, please contact Tommy Huma (Unisa: Senior Media Officer) on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / humartm@unisa.ac.za OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / ratheme@unisa.ac.za OR Bessie Molokomme (Unisa Regional Communication Officer) on 082 567 7607 / 015 290 3445 / Moloknb@unisa.ac.za

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