

MEDIA ADVISORY

Renowned author, columnist, and cultural critic Sandile Memela to deliver the 13th Annual Percy Qoboza Memorial Lecture at Unisa.

Approved for public release.

Date: Tuesday, 17 October 2023

This year marks the 46th anniversary of Black Wednesday, which commemorates the day in 1977 when the apartheid regime silenced independent voices by closing certain publications. To reflect on the importance of this day, the National Press Club, in partnership with the University of South Africa (Unisa) and the family of the late social activist Percy Qoboza, will host the 13th Annual Percy Qoboza Memorial Lecture tomorrow, 19 October 2023 in Pretoria.

The memorial lecture is held annually in commemoration of 19 October 1977, the date on which the apartheid government banned *The World*, *Weekend World* and other publications. The lecture also honours the late Percy Qoboza, editor of *The World* and later of *City Press* newspapers.

This year's lecture will be delivered by a writer, columnist, editor, and cultural critic **Sandile Memela**, under the theme "*Ethical Journalism vs Survival of Journalism*" with the following sub-themes:

- The modern-day journalist
- Shrinking newsrooms and its impact of quality reporting
- Bullying of journalists as a form of regulation
- Responsibility of journalists in covering elections.

Sandile Memela is a seasoned journalist, an expert in the communications field, and a former Acting Editor of Sunday World (2005,) a newspaper he helped found and launched. Previously, he spent over a decade at the City Press newspaper where he rose to become Showbizz Editor and, later, Opinion & Features Editor.

Memela joined Government in 2006 but continues to pursue his passion for critical writing. He focuses on the role of the middle class, the soul of black folks, the character of the Rainbow Nation, and celebrates the prevailing confusion that is post-apartheid South Africa. He has published 7 books, including His master's voice (Mamelang Publishing, 2012) that explores the plight of journalists in corporate media.

His forthcoming book is Soweto - Life is Going On (CEM Publishers, 2024) will be a highlight to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Soweto during the 30th celebrations of democracy next year.

He was awarded fellowships to Wales University (1992), Maryland University (1997) and Duke University (2000) to broaden his horizons.

The memorial lecture will take place as follows:



Date: Thursday, 19 October 2022

Time: 10:00

Venue: Unisa Muckleneuk Campus, Senate Hall, 3rd floor, Winnie Madikizela Building, Preller Street, Muckleneuk

Members of the media are invited to attend the lecture.

/Ends.

ISSUED BY UNISA MEDIA AFFAIRS

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

