

MEDIA ADVISORY

Renowned academic and socio-political commentator, Professor Tinyiko Maluleke to deliver the 14th Es'kia Mphahlele Annual Memorial Lecture

Approved for public release.

Date: 10 October 2023

Professor Tinyiko Maluleke, the renowned socio-political commentator and a leading and internationally-recognised researcher and academic, specialising in religion, politics as well as black and African theologies, will deliver the 14th Es'kia Mphahlele Annual Memorial Lecture set to be held in Polokwane, Limpopo on Monday, 16 October 2023 at 18:00.

Professor Maluleke, who is also the incumbent Vice Chancellor and Principal of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) will deliver the lecture under the theme: ***“The African writer as a prophet and social critic in contemporary times”***.

The topic/title of his presentation is: ***“Down Second Avenue, Second Time Around: Learning from Es'kia Mphahlele Today”***.

The lecture is hosted by the Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa (Unisa), Professor Puleng LenkaBula and the Unisa North Eastern Region. Its purpose is to –

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

This annual memorial lecture was conceptualised thirteen years ago in honour of the late Professor Es'kia Mphahlele, the renowned South African writer, educationist, artist and activist celebrated as the Father of Humanism and one of the founding figures of modern African literature.

Previous guest speakers for the lecture include Dr Reuel Khoza, Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, Dr Mosibudi Mangena, Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Dr Xolela Mangcu, Professor Muxe Nkondo, Professor Tshepo Madlingozi, Professor Adebayo Olukoshi and Dr Itumeleng Mosala.



About Es'kia Mphahlele

Professor Es'kia Mphahlele received a BA degree in 1949, followed in 1956 by a BA Honours degree and in 1957 by an MA degree (with distinction). He studied for his three degrees by correspondence with the University of South Africa (Unisa). In 1968 he received his doctorate from the University of Denver in the USA. He worked at various institutions on the African continent, France and in the USA. He was given the name Ezekiel Mphahlele at birth but changed his name to Es'kia in 1977.

Mphahlele is the illustrious author of two autobiographies, more than thirty short stories, two verse plays and a fair number of poems. Some his work includes the following titles:

- Down Second Avenue
- In Corner B
- Chirundu
- Renewal Time
- Father Come Home
- The Wanderers

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

Date : Monday, 16 October 2023

Time : 18:00

**Venue : Unisa North Eastern Regional Hub, Clifford Tleane Building, 23A Landros
Mare Street, Polokwane, Limpopo**

/Ends.

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