

**Media Advisory - Unisa to host the 4<sup>th</sup> OK Matsepe Memorial Lecture**

**Approved for public release**

**Date: 03 May 2023**

The University of South Africa (Unisa) North Eastern Region in collaboration with College of Economics and Management Sciences (CEMS) will host the 4th OK Matsepe Memorial Lecture. This year's lecture will be presented by Professor Mokgale A Makgopa under the theme: ***Maintaining OK Matsepe's Legacy: Preserving African cultures, traditions and languages in the global village.***

Prof Makgopa is a full Professor and former Dean of School of Human and Social Sciences at the University of Venda. He is also an internationally renowned scholar, and a prolific writer in literature and folklore. He is also a C3 NRF rated researcher and currently a Research Fellow in the College of Humanities, Unisa, Board member of the Creative and Advisory Panel (DHET), where he chairs the literary panel, member of the Responsible Research and Innovation Team, LSME College, United Kingdom, as well as Founder and Director of MMM Youth Empowerment Project.

Previous speakers of the OK Matsepe Lecture include Professor Malegapuru Makgoba and Professor Sekgothe Mokgoatsana

Mr "OK" Matsepe is a distinguished and renowned author who has contributed to the body of indigenous language knowledge using the Sepedi language to contribute to the knowledge economy. He was a novelist and poet who was twice awarded the S.E Mqhayi Prize by the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns (South African Academy for Arts and Science). He is the author of books such as; Megokgo ya Bjoko, Kgati ya Moditi, Kgorong ya Mošate, Todi ya Dinose, Lešitaphiri and Tša ka Mafuri.

The public lecture is part of a partnership, in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement, between UNISA and the Limpopo Provincial Government and Administration that was signed and launched in May 2018. Both parties at the time agreed to collaborate on matters pertaining to sharing information, research and capacity building.

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

**Date:** Saturday, 6 May 2023

**Venue:** Functions Hall, 2nd Floor, Clifford Tleane Building, 20 Market Street, Polokwane.

**Time:** 15:00

The lecture will be preceded by graduation ceremonies which will take place at Bolivia Lodge. There are about seven graduation sessions scheduled to take place starting from, Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 and Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> with 3 sessions each, while on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 will have only one session that will be presided by, The Principal and Vice Chancellor of the Unisa, Professor Puleng LenkaBula.

The university will also use the occasions of the Lecture and graduation ceremonies to celebrate its 150th Anniversary. Since its establishment on 26 June 1873, Unisa has played a significant role in shaping the futures of many ordinary and illustrious people in the country and on the African continent and has been at the forefront of the spawning of the university system in the country.



**/Ends.**

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For enquiries, please contact Senior Media Officers Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / [humatm@unisa.ac.za](mailto:humatm@unisa.ac.za) OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / [ratheme@unisa.ac.za](mailto:ratheme@unisa.ac.za)

