

## **A reflection on South Africa struggling to come to grip with its young democracy**

26 May 2017 is Africa Day, to commemorate the day , The University of South Africa (Unisa) Art Gallery will conduct a public exhibition to reflect on some political events that took place pre-1994 and beyond. The displayed exhibition material will be in the form of 50 political posters that reflect on the promises and campaign slogans of which different parties deployed to attract voters or to discredit one another.

The events will take place as follows:

Date:

Venue:

Time:

After 23 years since the down of democracy the rhetoric of bad mouthing and making unrealistic and empty promises by political leaders still continues. This exhibition aims to reflect on the South African experience in relation to the rest of the African countries that had a change in regime marked by violence and bloodshed. Reference could be made to some of African countries such as Mozambique's (Samora Machel) and Zimbabwe's (Robert Mugabe).

Presently South Africa finds itself in a daily battle field where its citizens are voicing their unhappiness over un-kept promises. This exhibition focuses not to criticize, but to reflect through old posters, as to what were the aspirations of all South Africans prior to the unbanning of what was termed "terrorist political organizations" and the release of political prisoners; the period leading up to national elections; the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as the first black president and subsequent events to date.

The questions to ask is where did we go wrong as South African citizens with rich ambitions of nation building and reconciliation, referred as "Rainbow nation"?

The issue of race is still debated; majority of the population more especially youth is still unemployed and complaining about the lack of service delivery such as free education. promised during voters campaigns (Pls don't compare SA as developing country with developed countries more especially US and European countries.)

Despite lack of confidence in the current government, lots of positive things has been achieved such as housers for human setlemets, water and sanitation, roads and infrastructure development, etc. Our young democracy of 23 years, still has much to offer .