

## MEDIA ADVISORY

ATTENTION: EDITORS, PRODUCERS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL REPORTERS

DATE: 21 / AUGUST / 2017

**RE: Africa Speaks Invite: *"Away With Good Bantus! Radically Reinvigorating the Study and Uses of African Languages in Higher Education"***

The College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa will host the next installment of its Africa Speaks Lecture Series on 13 September 2017. Professor Nomalanga Mkhize from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Nelson Mandela University will be the esteemed speaker.

Her lecture takes an 'out-of-the-box' view of the problem of mainstreaming African languages and African language usage within knowledge production in South African higher education. She will argue that the struggle to mainstream indigenous languages is not simply a problem of capacity, structure and financing, but fundamentally a failure of imagination within higher education where the uses and study of African languages are concerned.

Professor Mkhize will further argue that African languages as we study them today are a relic of colonial and apartheid pedagogy where the study and teaching of African languages is largely aimed at producing conservative, 'good Bantus'.

She will also speak on the fact that in the post-apartheid era, there has been very little attempt to de-tribalise African languages and to re-imagine them as dynamic epistemic systems out of which we can form new concepts for today's questions such as sexuality, land, economy, globalisation and many others. She will argue that we should study African languages less, and rather use the languages to study social and scientific phenomena more. Additionally, she will speak on finding a blend between using the languages to preserve culture, but also to use the languages challenge culture where needs be.

### **About Africa Speaks:**

One of the most promising projects started in 2008 in the College of Human Sciences was the African Visiting Scholar Lecture Series. This innovative series was established by the College under the leadership of its then Executive Dean, Professor Rosemary Moeketsi to achieve a number of objectives aimed at improving the research capacity of the College and enhancing a critical discourse by its academics with African intellectuals on the African continent and in the diaspora.

Currently overseen by Professor Puleng Segalo (Head: Graduate Studies and Research, CHS), the vision of Africa Speaks is to nurture, develop and sustain a vibrant community of researchers and intellectuals in the College connected to the African continent and diaspora so



that we can continue to be innovative in our quest for truth and our contributions to universal knowledge and the transformative needs of a developmental African state.

**Date:** 13 September 2017

**Time:** 10:00 to 12:00

**Venue:** Senate Hall, Theo van Wijk Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus

**END-**

For RSVP and interview requests, please contact Tommy Huma, on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 6390 and Edgar Rathelele on 082 059 9243 / 012 429 6930

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FOR QUOTES AND INTERVIEWS PLEASE CONTACT:

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