

## FAREWELL THEN, DEAR SPU

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My term of office officially ends on 31 March 2020 but I will be on a 3-month research break during the first three months of 2020, much of it outside of the country working with some of my international research collaborators – in the exciting world of cement and concrete materials research!

I expect to be leaving my office in December 2019 in the same car and the same pair of shoes that I arrived with in September 2013 – but with a far more positive sense of the exciting possibilities that await the Northern Cape and our region.

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## HUMANITIES' SABATA-MPHO MOKAE WINS SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY AWARD

Sabata-Mpho Mokae, a Lecturer in Creative Writing in African Languages, at Sol Plaatje University,

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## NRF RATINGS FOR TWO ACADEMICS

Two Humanities' academics have been awarded the much sought-after National Research Foundation

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## UNIVERSITY'S CHANCELLOR APPOINTED AS CONSTITUTIONAL COURT JUDGE

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## SPU ADDS MORE PROGRAMMES

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## NEW SRC FOR SPU

The Student Representative Council for 2019/20 has been elected.

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## FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

Sol Plaatje University's annual report for 2018/19 has been released - - the fifth since its establishment.

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## FORMER SRC PRESIDENT FLIES FLAG FOR NORTHERN CAPE SPORT

Last year's SRC President Thabo Moilwa has notched another accolade with his appointment as a USSA assessor.

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## NTESANG SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

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## NORTHERN CAPE PSET FORUM SEMINAR A HUGE SUCCESS

The Northern Cape Rural TVET College hosted the annual Post-School Education and Training (PSET) Forum.

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## SECURITY SERVICES CELEBRATES BUMPER FIRST YEAR

During September, the University's Security Services celebrated its first year of a fully-fledged security function.

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## SOL PLAATJE LECTURE 2019 DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR PITIANA

The Sol Plaatje Lecture is held annually in October to mark Solomon Thekiso Plaatje's birthday on 9 October.

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## TRIO OF AWARDS FOR SPU'S CHAUNEEES

Second year Bachelor of Education student and Miss Campus SPU finalist Chaunees Abbott is crowned.

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## SPU HELPS SPEARHEAD PROVINCIAL INNOVATION FORUM

The forum aims to help address the challenges faced by the Northern Cape socio-economic environment.

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## OTHER NEWS: UNIVERSITY SAFETY TASK TEAM ESTABLISHED

The task team, established by the Police Minister also includes the Vice-Chancellors.

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THE SPU E-BRIEF IS PRODUCED BY THE SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY FOR ITS EMPLOYEES.

Contributions, comments and suggestions are welcome and these can be sent to [kashini.maistry@spu.ac.za](mailto:kashini.maistry@spu.ac.za)

The next edition is due out in December 2019.

Editor: Kashini Maistry



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## FAREWELL THEN, DEAR SPU

As you are aware, I will be stepping out of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor of SPU at the end of December 2019.

My term of office officially ends on 31 March 2020 but I will be on a 3-month research break during the first three months of 2020, much of it outside of the country working with some of my international research collaborators – in the exciting world of cement and concrete materials research!

I expect to be leaving my office in December 2019 in the same car and the same pair of shoes that I arrived with in September 2013 – but with a far more positive sense of the exciting possibilities that await the Northern Cape and our region. SPU stands as a testament to what can be achieved when people gather, turn hands, minds and warm hearts to realise an institutional dream that seems worth pursuing.

In clearing out my old files, I came across an email that I sent to staff, the Interim Council (at the time) and the DHET supporters at the end of the first week of lectures at SPU in February 2014.

Here's an extract:

Even in our most optimistic planning moments, I admit to never truly believing that things would go this well. Money alone did not produce this outcome – it was individual and collective belief, by all involved, in the Idea of a Sol Plaatje University that made this possible.

In all my engagements with you, not once did I get a hint of ambivalence or wavering about the first principle or our efforts: to establish a high-quality university that can deservedly be ambitious about speaking the local voice amongst the best that can be thought and known on the globe.

Many of you will continue this journey with us for some time to come; others will end their contribution soon; all will proudly

recall their hands on one of the tug-boat tillers, large or small, that launched the Sol Plaatje University ship.

The waters now are uncertain but the winds are favourable and the billowed sails look like puffed-up cheeks of smiling young students. Our compass is set to the star rising on the horizon.

It may sound trite, but I really am struggling to find the words to thank you enough. Sol Plaatje University's real debt to all of you cannot be paid.

*Six years later, my sentiments remain the same. Beyond the fees, the salaries, the millions of collective working and study hours, the successes, the failures ... there is the IDEA of a Sol Plaatje University that promises exciting meaning to human development in the region. And that debt really cannot be paid.*

**Thank you for the privilege of sharing this SPU experience with all of you. I am sure that you will continue the journey with collective support and a firm step.**

**Prof Yunus Ballim**  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

## HUMANITIES' SABATA-MPHO MOKAE WINS SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY AWARD

Sabata-Mpho Mokae, a Lecturer in Creative Writing in African Languages, at Sol Plaatje University, won a South African Literary Award (SALA) on 8 November for his novel, *Moletlo wa Manong*.



It was a tight race in the novel category where his novel was up against "Die Troebel Tyd" by Ingrid Winterbach and "Die Ongelooftike Onskuld van Dirkie Verwey" by Charl-Pierre Naude.

The SALA is fast becoming the most prestigious and respected literary accolade in South African literature.

The SALA is awarded to South African writers who have distinguished themselves as ground-breaking producers and creators of literary excellence in the depiction and sharing of South African histories, value systems, philosophies and art as inscribed and preserved in all eleven official languages.

The awards are funded by the national Department of Arts and Culture and the adjudicators are mainly publishers and academics.

*Moletlo wa Manong* which means "Feast of the Vultures", is in Setswana. It is a political thriller set in a newsroom in Kimberley in the post-apartheid South Africa.

The protagonist is an investigative journalist who probes high-level corruption in government. Apart from dealing with the threats on his life and that of his wife he also battles racism in the newsroom.

**Mokae in his acceptance speech said: "One day I took a decision to stop writing in English and did the unthinkable – I wrote my first**

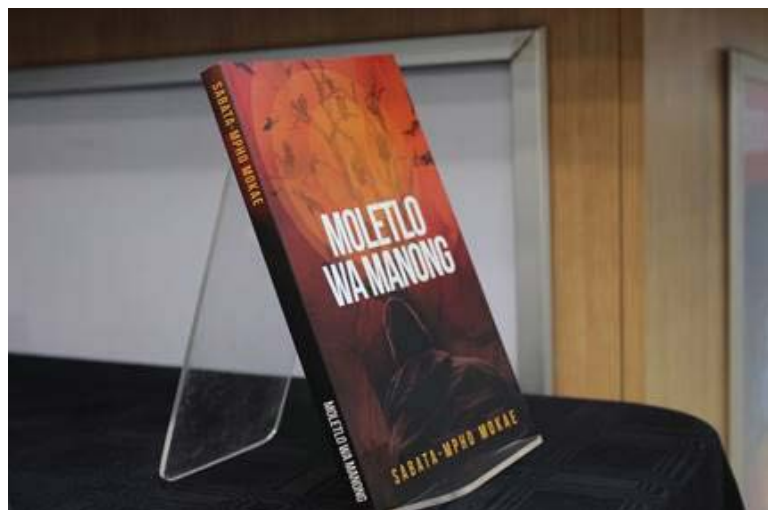
**novel in Setswana, the language suckled from my mother's breast. It was a moment of sheer madness. I tasted freedom and I never looked back. I think what encouraged me to carry on was the appreciation from the speakers of Setswana but also the idea that one could create art in an African language in Africa and be mainstream".**

He dedicated his award to the generation of artists who made music call Motswako, who made Setswana fashionable and storytelling in their own language possible.

*Moletlo wa Manong* is a sequel to *Ga ke Modisa* (I'm Not My Brother's Keeper) which came out in 2012 and has won the M-NET Literary Award for Best Novel in Setswana as well as the M-NET Film Award in 2013.

Mokae wrote the first draft of *Moletlo wa Manong* when he was a writer-in-residence at the University of Iowa in the USA in 2014.

Mokae's novels, *Moletlo wa Manong* and *Ga ke Modisa*, are taught at universities around SA. *Moletlo wa Manong* is a subject of a master's thesis at North West University, while his other novel, *Dikeledi*, is being adapted to theatre.





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## NRF RATINGS FOR TWO ACADEMICS

Two Humanities' academics have been awarded the much sought-after National Research Foundation rating.

**Dr Foreman Bandama**, Lecturer: Archaeology, received a Y2 research rating. In terms of the rating scales for the NRF, a researcher in this group is recognised by all or the overriding majority of reviewers as having the potential to establish him/herself as a researcher as demonstrated by recent research products.

**Dr Crispin Chinguno**, Senior Lecturer: Sociology & Postgraduate Coordinator, received a C3 research rating.

A C-rated researcher is an established researcher with a sustained recent record of productivity in the field and is recognised by peers as having produced a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and attests to ongoing engagement with the field and demonstrates the ability to conceptualise problems and apply research methods to investigating them.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Yunus Ballim says these accolades are a "significant acknowledgement of their research abilities and a positive reflection on the academic staff at Sol Plaatje University".



*Dr Foreman Bandama*



*Dr Crispin Chinguno*

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## UNIVERSITY'S CHANCELLOR APPOINTED AS CONSTITUTIONAL COURT JUDGE

The Chancellor of Sol Plaatje University, Judge Steven Majiedt, was appointed on 11 September 2019, by President Cyril Ramaphosa to serve on the Constitutional Court, as one of two new appointments made to replace the vacancies left by the retirement of Justices Dikgang Moseneke and Bess Nkabinde.



*Judge Steven Majiedt*

The other appointment to the bench is Judge Zukisa Tshiqi.

Justices Majiedt and Tshiqi took up their new positions on 1 October 2019.

Judge Majiedt holds BA Law and LLB degrees from the University of the Western Cape. He was an advocate at the Cape Bar from 1984 to 1996. In 1997, he was appointed as the Chief Provincial State Law Advisor to the Northern Cape Provincial Government, a post he held until 1999.

In 2000, he was appointed as an acting judge of the Northern Cape High Court and later that year he was permanently appointed to the bench of the Northern Cape High Court. In 2010, he was appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA).

He acted at the Constitutional Court from February to May 2014.

The SCA's Acting Judge President Mandisa Maya, commended Judge Majiedt on his work ethic and said that he was one of the most hardworking judges at the SCA.

**President Ramaphosa expressed his confidence in Judge Majiedt's appointment and said that, together with Judge Tshiqi, he will "enrich jurisprudence at the apex court".**

Judge Steven Majiedt has served as the Chancellor of Sol Plaatje University since April 2016.

Here are Justice Majiedt's thoughts on various aspects of transformation as set out in the YouTube video:  
<http://bit.ly/34WILXd>.

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## SPU ADDS MORE PROGRAMMES

The University is introducing one new undergraduate and three new postgraduate programmes for 2020:



### ECONOMIC & MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Advanced diploma  
in Management  
(Undergraduate)



### HUMANITIES

Additional specialisations  
(Heritage Studies and History)  
in the BA Social Sciences  
Honours programme



### NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science Honours  
in Computer Science  
  
Bachelor of Science Honours  
in Mathematical Sciences  
(Mathematics)

***Applications for the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes close on 30 November 2019.***

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## NEW SRC FOR SPU



The Student Representative Council for 2019/20 have been elected. They are:

- **Mmati Malape**, President
- **Sylvester Molawa**, Deputy President
- **Tebogo Takane**, Secretary General
- **Nathan Louw**, Deputy Secretary General
- **Patience Lotlhare**, Treasurer General
- **Kamogelo Sethunya**, Projects Officer
- **Ntesang Makutu**, Transformation and Student Development Officer
- **Olorato Mmokwa**, Sports and Culture Officer
- **Kegomoditswe Maruping**, Media, Events and Publicity Officer
- **Quinton Swartz**, Residence Officer.

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## FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT IS RELEASED

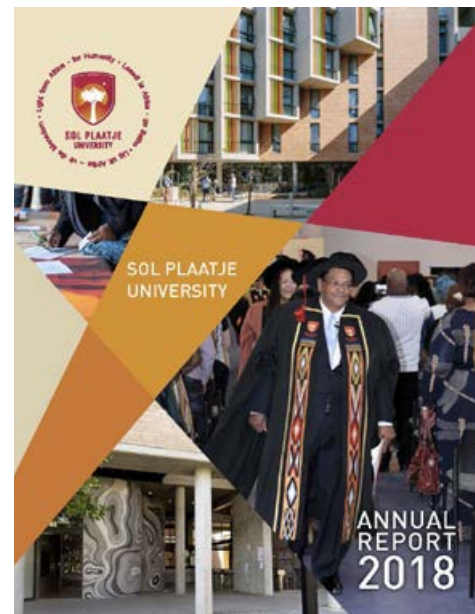
Sol Plaatje University's annual report for 2018/19 has been released - its fifth annual report is an important governance milestone.

The report, which is submitted to the Department of Higher Education and Training, provides a detailed account of the University's milestones as well as the scorecard on its annual performance plan.

The public document is structured into three main reporting areas: Governance, operations and finance – and talks to various issues included the focus areas for the University as well as the introduction of new programmes.

In her governance overview, the Chairperson of the Council Judge Yvonne Mokgoro explained that good governance and proper oversight continued to be strong focus areas in the development of the University during 2018. She explained that the Council had been “supportive of Management's approach to use 2018 to review and consolidate the academic programmes”.

In his operational report, Prof Yunus Ballim, explained that “our focus was on the appropriateness of the alignment of modules and the programme structure of the qualifications, the effectiveness and efficiency of teaching in the programmes, and the academic performance of students”.



To download your copy of the report, go to  
<http://bit.ly/2mn6yOA>

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## FORMER SRC PRESIDENT FLIES FLAG FOR NORTHERN CAPE SPORT

The former SRC President Thabo Moilwa has been appointed as a University Sports South Africa (USSA) assessor, the first person to be appointed from the Northern Cape.

It follows on from Thabo's appointment as SRC president last year.

The latest appointment includes representing the Northern Cape and Free State on the University Sport South Africa board.

Thabo is not new to sports administration and was involved in this area when he served in his various capacities which included being the SRC President, SRC Treasurer and a sports administrator.

His experience as a team manager of SPU sports codes has included accompanying the University's sports teams (like the athletics first team) to national events including the annual USSA event.

*"Being elected to serve on the USSA board last year was a huge achievement for me and means that I will serve as an executive member of USSA for three years."*



"This has given me the experience to help transformation at school level when I began to teach." Thabo, who is a fourth-year student, completes his BEd this year.

"When I started studying, I never thought we would have a black Springbok captain. But today, that has all changed and it has given me a lot of hope for the future of South Africa. This was a dream come true for me."



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## NTESANG SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Ntesang Makutu was the only student from Sol Plaatje University to be selected for the JustLead course, presented by the University of Stellenbosch.

JustLead! aims to develop the leadership competency and capacity of young leaders across South Africa.

The course is founded on three core pillars: personal leadership development, contextual awareness and social responsiveness.

It provides participants with rich insights into a variety of social justice challenges, with an emphasis on designing community engagement which is thoughtful and responsive.

### The courses focuses on:

- **Authentic leadership**
- **Looking at our future through the lens of our past**
- **Co-creating a just society**
- **Living Inclusivity**
- **Engaging with media**
- **Engaging with land**
- **Active citizenship in a constitutional democracy**
- **Engaging with education.**

Ntesang thanked the University, saying that she planned to bring glory to the name of Sol Plaatje University when we interact with other students and academics from different universities”.

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## RUN ADDS COLOUR TO SPU BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



On Saturday, 5 October 2019 runners from across South Africa gathered on the Central Campus Sports Field to participate in the inaugural SPU Birthday Colour Run.

The race was planned as a celebration of SPU's 6th birthday and to pilot our hosting of an annual full professional marathon.

It is envisioned that this will become the premier racing feature on the Northern Cape racing calendar and aid in making sport a catalyst for progressive development in this province.

The Colour Run was organised under the auspices of the AGW and run in accordance with IAAF, ASA and AGW rules.

Runners participated in 21.1km, 10km and a 5km fun run/walk and comprised the following entrant categories: professional, tertiary, schools, disabled and charities.

In the future, the Colour Run will be held in August to coincide with SPU's birthday month.

It will also be planned as a family day for the SPU community.

The next SPU Birthday Colour Run will be held on Saturday, 1 August 2020.



**The top three runners in the 21.1km and 10km categories were:**

21.1km Male		21.1km Female	
1st	Frik Gys	1st	Anna Moeketsi
2nd	Sithalo Xwazi	2nd	Shirley Mphonyo
3rd	Mijake Hlabahlaba	3rd	Lobisa van Wyk

10km Male		10km Female	
1st	Vincent Mukuceli	1st	Kaitlyn Heatcale
2nd	Crabile Moshewu	2nd	Charmain Rar
3rd	Tshepo Mogora	3rd	Boipelo Phaledi





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## SPU TAKES TWO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS IN LANGUAGE EVENT

SPU students, Thato Shadrack Mokwatsi, Tshireletso Ishmerenda Galogate, Thato Ernest Gaetsietsi (Setswana debate), and Obakeng Kock (English Spelling Bee) are Funda Mzantsi champions.

Another student, Constance Thomas took a third place for her Afrikaans book review.

The Funda Mzantsi Championships were held in George from 23-27 September 2019.

The University's newly-formed book club competed against 120 book clubs from across the country and competed in four languages: Setswana, English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa.

Co-team leader and Setswana lecturer Dr Richard Moloele, says that although the book club got off to a slow start, it gained momentum with the students displaying a growing love for reading, book reviews and spelling. Fellow team leader was Mr Lukhanyo Makhenyane who was supported by staff members which included Mrs Lesang Marumo, Mrs Gobonamang Mookapilo and Mrs Judith Humana-Chu.

Other members of the student team included Lourdes Mngomezulu (English and Afrikaans), Ayanda Nombela (Setswana and English), Nonkululeko Ndaba (IsiXhosa), Palesa Magasenna Damane (IsiXhosa and English), and Katlego Paul (English).

The wins were marred by the loss of a fellow competitor during the event from the Frances Baard District, Kgomotso Thomas, and "we dedicate our victory to him. May his soul rest in peace and shine in glory! We will always keep him in our thoughts. As a way of remembering him, we are registering an extra book club in his name in a bid to keep his legacy alive."

*The partners in the initiative were the Department of Correctional Services, National Library for South Africa and the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.*



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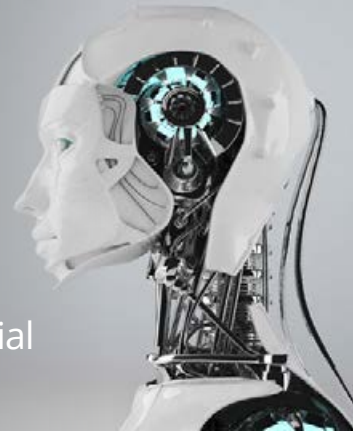
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## NORTHERN CAPE PSET FORUM SEMINAR A HUGE SUCCESS

The Northern Cape Rural TVET College hosted the annual Post-School Education and Training (PSET) Forum Seminar in Upington on 26 and 27 September 2019, under the theme “Is the Post-School Education and Training Sector producing graduates with the required knowledge, skills, competence and attitudes for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) workplace/ industry?”



Various stakeholders met to discuss ways in which more people in the Northern Cape Province can become qualified in jobs that require scarce critical skills needed in the province for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), renewable energy and climate change.

The Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr Zamani Saul, opened the discussions with a keynote address that highlighted the 4IR and the opportunities as well as threats it brings with it.

He delved into the development of the 4IR with aspects such as robotics, 3D printing and biotechnology that cause disruptions to markets as well as change relations of production.

He explained that the Northern Cape province must explore opportunities with the developments of 4IR and higher education institutions such as Sol Plaatje University (SPU), the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the NCR TVET College, among others, and should align their qualifications to produce the right skills to prepare students for digital technology. New curricula must be designed for optimal development and growth of students in the province.

Mathematics, science, digital literacy, data analytics and computer skills are considered critical.

Dr Saul added that SPU now has an honours degree in Data Science and the University intends to continuously develop its courses to align with the 4IR.

He further highlighted the high degree of connectivity in the province and stated that all 226 libraries in the province must have free access to the internet and an extra 200 hotspots will be made available throughout the province, including in rural communities.

He challenged the people of the Northern Cape province to see this not as a race between humans and machines but as “an opportunity for us to enhance ourselves and the province as a modern, growing and successful province”.

Sol Plaatje University's Dr Shale Sefadi, gave a presentation on renewable energy which garnered a lot of interest from the attendees.

He expressed his concern that the Northern Cape province is fast becoming a dumping ground for nuclear waste. He said “we must act now to save and enhance our province”.

He suggested that “we use renewable sources of energy such as conductive polymers as an alternative to silicon”, a subject on which his current research is based.

Dr Sefadi also mentioned that renewable energy must be introduced in the early childhood development curriculum.

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## SECURITY SERVICES CELEBRATES BUMPER FIRST YEAR

During September, the University's Security Services celebrated its first year of a fully-fledged security function which provides safety and security to its students, employees and visitors across all our campuses and residences.

The Security team now boasts a campus security team of close on 100 employees.

SPU's campus security operates 24/7, 365 days a year with a control room that functions 24/7.

It helps the University to deliver on its goal to provide a safe and secure environment for all our students, employees and visitors.

The Campus Security Department offers other services that help it to deliver on its goal of providing a safe and secure campus for the University community and our visitors:

- **Investigation of all reported incidents**
- **Parking space management**
- **Management of lost and found property**
- **CCTV and intruder detector system technicians**
- **Locksmith services.**



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## SOL PLAATJE LECTURE 2019 DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR BARNEY PITYANA

The Sol Plaatje Lecture is held annually in October to mark Solomon Thekisho Plaatje's birthday on 9 October.

The lecture series has its origins at the University of Bophuthatswana (now North-West University) where it was stewarded for a period by Professor Bob Leshoai.

In 2009, the Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the Sol Plaatje Educational Trust re-established the series.

Many distinguished speakers have delivered this lecture and they include Kgalema Motlanthe (South Africa), Professor Muxe Nkondo (South Africa), Brian Willan (England), Jean-Jacques Sené (Senegal) and Bankole Omotoso (Nigeria).

Sol Plaatje University now hosts this lecture in collaboration with the Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

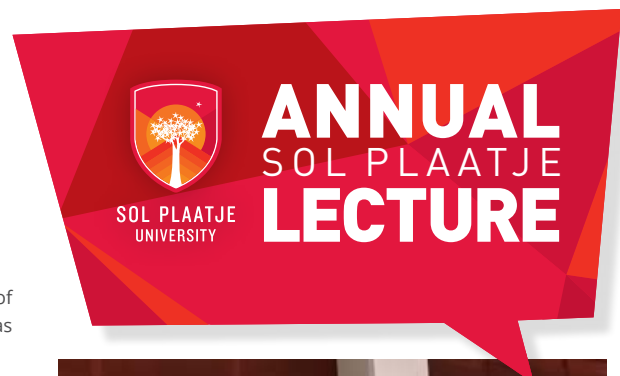
The 2019 Sol Plaatje Lecture was delivered by the former Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of South Africa, Professor Barney Pityana.

Professor Pityana is a lawyer and theologian and he is active in human rights.

He was one of the founding members of the South African Students' Organisation, an important figure in the Black Consciousness Movement with Steve Biko, and an exponent of Black theology.

He was invited to talk about Black Intellectual Tradition and the Evolution of Higher Education in South Africa and titled his lecture: A Pariah in the Land of One's Birth: Sol Plaatje and Reflections on Higher Education in South Africa in the 21st Century.

*Professor Pityana explained that the paper explored aspects of Sol Plaatje's oeuvre especially on language, literature, and outlook on justice for the people of South Africa.*



The lecture explained how Sol Plaatje the journalist became an activist writer who relentlessly campaigned for justice and human dignity.

Professor Pityana juxtaposed this by expressing his deep concern about the growing culture in many South African universities in which violence and corruption had become endemic and said that this would not help society shape a whole and self-respecting character in the students who emerge from universities.

In his concluding remarks, Professor Pityana said "we should let Sol Plaatje live in our hearts and minds, so that he may influence our activism, our thoughts and learning process. We should let him guide us in our intellectual pursuits and that each generation must build its own Solomon Thekisho Plaatje".

For the full lecture, go to <http://bit.ly/350a71X>

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## TRIO OF AWARDS FOR SPU'S CHAUNEES

Second year Bachelor of Education student and Miss Campus SPU finalist Chaunees Abbott, has been crowned as Miss Northern Cape 2020.

She also took home the social media award, public choice award and the debutant goods award at the official awards ceremony.

The pageant, which took place in September, served as a fund-raiser for a local school and shelter.

She has competed in several beauty pageants including Mej Groenmyn 2019, Mej Voorslag 2019, Miss Golden SA 2019, Miss Black Ribbon 2019 and was Mej Cansa Matrieknoui 2nd Princess 2017.

Mario, 23 years old, who studied film and television production and studied at ATTI was named Mr Northern Cape.



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## SPU HELPS SPEARHEAD PROVINCIAL INNOVATION FORUM



Sol Plaatje University, together with the provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Northern Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Black Management Forum, Mine Managers Forum, Renewable Energy Entrepreneurs Forum, Northern Cape Tourism Authority and Sol Plaatje Municipality have formed the Northern Cape Innovation Forum (NCIF).

This body aims to help address the challenges faced by the Northern Cape socio-economic environment and unleash the innovation potential of the Northern Cape.

The Northern Cape is challenged with several barriers to introducing innovation into the local economy, most notably:

- lack of coordination and mechanisms to develop contextual and relevant policies and interventions, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship
- unclear roles and engagement with key stakeholders in supporting innovation
- missing innovation capabilities, especially in terms of infrastructure and skills
- non-existent integration or innovation ecosystems into key sectors of the economy
- the impact of the fast-changing ICT/telecommunication environment, which is ushering in a digital revolution.

The NCIF is a multi-stakeholder and cross-sector body that will create synergies between government, academia, business and civil society to build inclusive approaches for sustainable industrialisation through innovation.

It will place innovation front and centre in the Northern Cape's

social and economic development planning and align with the Provincial Growth and Development Plan so that the Province is able to effectively address the triple threat of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

It seeks to have an impact in the following main areas:

- **economic transformation, growth and development**
- **social transformation and human welfare**
- **environmental stability and resilience**
- **effective, efficient and accountable governance.**

The inaugural meeting of the NCIF was held at Sol Plaatje University on Friday, 6 September 2019.

The University has agreed to act as the agency that will support the establishment, maintenance, growth and development of the NCIF, with resource support from the Department of Science and Innovation and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

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## OTHER NEWS: UNIVERSITY SAFETY TASK TEAM ESTABLISHED

Police Minister Bheki Cele, university Vice-Chancellors and the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSiRA) have established a task team to improve campus safety.

On 23 October 2019, Cele met with vice-chancellors from the country's 26 universities and PSiRA to deliberate on interventions following the recent spate of violence and murders on and off campus in recent weeks.

During the meeting, Cele also engaged the Vice-Chancellors on improving campus safety and new approaches to policing that may facilitate this.

In a joint statement, Cele stressed the importance of students feeling safe and being safe on and off campus.

"The violence on and off campus extends to more than gender-based violence (GBV). We are now seeing that there are attacks and violence against the overall student community," read the statement.

The CEO of PSiRA, Manabela Chauke, said all universities must have minimum standards of security and that all security officers deployed on campuses must be vetted and trained specifically for the student environment.

Universities of South Africa CEO, Professor Ahmed Bawa, told the gathering that students must be an integral part of the safety changes they want to see on campuses.

"We cannot do this alone. We may have the capacity to do some things but we need the buy-in from students, the communities around the institutions and the SAPS [SA Police Service], the criminal justice system and other relevant governmental operations. This is an issue that has to be dealt with holistically. It is a social crisis," said Bawa.

The statement said all parties agreed to establish a working committee that will look at short and long-term security solutions on and off campuses.

The committee will comprise representatives from the Police Ministry and Secretariat, PSiRA, as well as members of Universities South Africa. The team will be tasked with looking at some of the proposals brought forward.

"These include the establishment of victim-friendly facilities that will speedily assist students who have fallen victim to crime, especially those who have been affected by gender-based violence. It is hoped these facilities will provide the necessary care and services to students with the assistance of the Family

Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences unit of the SAPS," read the statement.

Another proposal to be looked into is the adoption of institutions of higher learning by police officers to improve response time.

*"The issue of socio-economic challenges will also be investigated by the team to see how students can be better assisted to avoid them falling prey to criminal networks. Student transport and accommodation will also be further interrogated by the working committee. It will, amongst other things, engage landlords about the security measures in place to ensure the safety of students living in off campus accommodation," the parties said.*

The committee is expected to engage further with the Departments of Higher Education and Training and Social Development to extend student safety to TVET colleges and schools.

The Vice-Chancellors indicated a strong willingness to collaborate with the Minister and his team and pledged to bring the strong research capacity of universities to bear on the issue of social violence.

Cele urged the student population to also come on board to find solutions.

"Students shouldn't feel that we as the police are creating police states around them. We want a dialogue with them and for them to be part of the fight against crime.

"We know that alcohol is a big contributor to students coming under attack and also attacking each other. This is why we will be hard on illegal drinking holes that fuel crime, especially on weekends," Cele said. – [SAnews.gov.za](http://SAnews.gov.za)



Police minister Bheki Cele stressed the importance of students feeling safe and being safe on and off campus. PHOTO: GCIS





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# NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

## ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



### #SEW2019 SUCCESS FOR STUDENTPRENEURS

The year's Student Entrepreneurship Week (#SEW2019) focused on showing studentpreneurs that while good ideas are important, their ideas need to be put into action to make a real difference.

#SEW2018 is part of SPU's programme to support and equip potential studentpreneurs in taking practical steps to start a business that could be sustainable and scalable.

This year's theme, "Entrepreneurship through the arts: beyond ideas, into action", included a panel discussion in which students from all schools participated. Local entrepreneur panellists joined the discussion which aimed to demystify entrepreneurship and its stereotypes. The discussion also helped to inculcate an entrepreneurial culture across the whole university.

A Market Day saw studentpreneurs and local entrepreneurs displaying their art related businesses with significant support from both the SPU community and the Kimberley community.

The programme ended with a Talent Show which served as a platform for SPU students to showcase their talents in the performing arts.



## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS (2)

### EDUCATION



#### SCHOOL TAKES CLOSER LOOK AT AFRIKAANS IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

On 5 October 2019, SPU, with particular efforts by the Schools of Education and Humanities, hosted a symposium entitled "Afrikaans: Kom saam/Come along".

The Northern Cape province represents the largest number of speakers of Afrikaans in South Africa.

According to the 2011 Census, approximately 53% of the Northern Cape population speak Afrikaans as their home language.

Furthermore, Afrikaans is the third most-spoken home language in the country (2011 Census). The province also covers the largest geographic area in South Africa (2011 Census), which occasionally renders social and corporate interaction, problematic.

Some of the issues which the Schools identified for discussion included:

- Is it appropriate to investigate Afrikaans in the Northern Cape more closely?
- What does the Northern Cape Afrikaans speaker and his/her language look like?
- What does creativity in Afrikaans look like?
- What is the state of Afrikaans education in the Northern Cape?
- How could Afrikaans be employed as a vehicle for creating unity among the residents of the Northern Cape?

The purpose of this symposium was to deliberate on the potential of Afrikaans to unify the people of the Northern Cape.

Various informative speakers highlighted aspects of this potential, while panel discussions were held to debate the topic from the perspective of secondary education. SPU's possible support of this goal in the province, in the university's capacity as a higher education institution, was also discussed.

The day was a success and many potential research threads were identified, as well as potential ways in which to change to collaborate with the various stakeholders of Afrikaans in the Northern Cape in order to employ Afrikaans as a vehicle for unification in the province.



#### DOCTORATE FOR SETSWANA LECTURER

Richard Lephethi Moloele has been awarded his doctorate (D Tech) from the Tshwane University of Technology.

In his thesis, "Educators' job satisfaction in North West Province", Richard has investigated educators' perceptions regarding their job satisfaction.

The study was prompted by the high turnover rate of educators that left learners without educators.

Dr Moloele then intended to assess the job satisfaction of educators in NWDoE and determine the extent to which biographical variables, promotion pay, supervision and work itself have a bearing on the happiness and satisfaction of educators. Schools were sampled and educators from those schools were further sampled using snowballing and convenient sampling methods.

The Minnesota Job Satisfaction (MSQ) questionnaires were used on 372 respondents whilst about 20 SMT were interviewed. The study revealed and has proven that over 80% of the variety of facets such as pay, supervision, promotion, workload, work itself, affect educators' satisfaction.

Furthermore, the study revealed that many educators quit their employment for various reasons, among which were failure to be involved in decision making processes, poor salary, supervision and poor working conditions.

Dr Moloele's proposed model signifies that educators' job satisfaction depends on three issues: school, environment and the educator himself or herself. The model enunciates that educators should be given the necessary support from the community and the Department of Education to enable them to effectively deal with learners at schools.

The study was concluded with numerous recommendations that would be shared with the Ministry of Education.



#### SPU MARKS TEACHERS' DAY ON INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM

World Teachers' Day held annually on 5 October, commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO recommendation concerning the status of teachers.

This recommendation sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers and standards for their initial preparation and further education teaching, for example.

This year, 2019, in celebrating World Teachers' Day, the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL), in collaboration with the British Council, featured a one-day web conference, presenting 16 separate sessions on a wide range of themes and issues, <https://conference.iatefl.org/webconference>

As a speaker from Africa SPU lecturer, Vuyokazi Makubalo, explored some of the challenges that teachers in low resource contexts such as South Africa face regarding professional development, as well as reflecting on possibilities of overcoming some of these.

Because the impact of quality teaching and learning cannot be overemphasised, the session highlighted that this can only be attained if teachers continue to improve their practice through continuous professional development; acquisition of new skills, broadening professional networks, research and theorising from practice.

Underlying factors discussed were demotivating working conditions, systematic challenges, poorly designed professional development programmes and limited teacher autonomy.

These issues often lead to frustrations and burnout, leaving teachers with no zeal to improve on their performance.

However, the session showed that this situation could be improved through policy and practical changes.

Structured and institutionalised annual training programmes for in-service teachers would also go a long way to helping teachers to reflect and improve on their practice.



Breaking stereotypes, provision of basic resources, as well as giving teachers a greater voice in policy matters would boost their motivation for continuous learning and development.

So, in the spirit of celebrating teachers in a country like South Africa where the government is focused on social transformation, especially with regards to equality in education, language should not be allowed to continue being a barrier to attainment of a "better life for all."

Learning and teaching through a second language is the main cause of the high failure rate throughout the grades in South African classrooms.

The weight of research conducted here and throughout the world shows that each content subject has its own discourse.

Taking this into consideration, Initial Teacher Education needs to focus on the specific English of each content subject.

This might call for LOLT modules that not just meet the MRTEQ requirement of Fundamental Learning, but for the teaching of modules that acknowledge that each content subject has its discourse.

There has to be a model designed for training English medium of Instruction teachers in South Africa that prepares our pre-service teachers to meet language challenges in the subjects they teach.



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## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS (3)

### HUMANITIES



#### SPU CONNECTS WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

In July 2019, Professor Jesmael Mataga, Head of the School of Humanities, spent time at one of Zimbabwe's young universities. The Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) was established in 1999 and is located in Masvingo, Zimbabwe.

Hosted by the Centre for Heritage Studies in the School of Arts, Culture and Heritage, Prof Mataga met with senior members of GZU to talk about potential areas of common interest between SPU and GZU.

The GZU's vision is "To be the Centre of Excellence in Arts, Culture and Heritage as well as the advancement of other disciplines for the promotion of the development of Society".

Like SPU, GZU's focus is on excellence in arts, culture and heritage studies, African languages and other niche areas such as arid agriculture, teacher education and community development, law and more recently, health sciences.

GZU is located in a small town, with over 15,000 students and has boosted the economic and social facets of the town.

One of their interesting projects includes a student run, state-of-the-art campus radio station, which is used for teaching and for community broadcasting.

As SPU looks to its next five-year strategic phase, growing its international (regional and global), linkages are vital to the growth and maturation of the University.

The School of Humanities already enjoys joint activities with the University of Toronto, Cambridge University and is working on formal agreements with the University of Botswana, the National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates (NAAAS), New York University in Abu Dhabi (Dhakira Center for Heritage Studies) and others.

Potential benefits from such international collaboration include jointly developed cooperative educational and/or research programmes for faculty and students through activities or programmes such as:

- Exchange of faculty members
- Exchange of students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- Joint research activities
- Participation in seminars and academic meetings
- Exchange of academic materials and other Information
- Special short-term academic programmes
- Joint cultural programmes.



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## STAFF APPOINTMENTS

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Joining the University from September to November 2019 are:

### SEPTEMBER 2019

**Mrs Adele Craigie**

Officer: HR

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**Mr Clifford Julies**

Senior Manager: Risk

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**Dr Moeketsi Mosia**

Director: Teaching, Learning and Programme Development

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### OCTOBER 2019

**Ms Sizakele Mokhele**

Lecturer: Creative Writing (nGAP)

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**Ms Kelesitse Mokaie**

Officer: Teaching, Learning and Programme Development

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**Mr Neville De Wee**

Chef

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### NOVEMBER 2019

**Mr Ishewakatipa Muzvondiwa**

Librarian Systems

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**Mr Lindithemba Dingindlela**

Director: Facilities and Services

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### TERMINATIONS

#### SEPTEMBER 2019

Mr Tshamiseka Mabunda - Manager: Budget

#### OCTOBER 2019

Mr Clifford Julies - Senior Manager: Risk

#### NOVEMBER 2019

Dr Tinashe Nyamunda - Senior Lecturer: History

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