

THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND THE CENTRE FOR CREATIVE ARTS, IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE MAZISI KUNENE FOUNDATION
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE
AT THE 2024 POETRY AFRICA FESTIVAL

3RD MAZISI KUNENE MEMORIAL LECTURE

THEME:

**Sithini thina? Reflecting on Mazisi kaMdabuli Kunene:
The National and Global Gem**



**THURS.
10 OCTOBER 2024**



**13H00 - 15H00
(SAST)**



**HOWARD COLLEGE THEATRE, HOWARD
COLLEGE CAMPUS UKZN**



**RSVP HERE
TO ATTEND IN PERSON**



**VIEW THE YOUTUBE
LIVESTREAM HERE**

ABOUT PROFESSOR MAZISI KUNENE

Professor Mazisi Kunene was a champion of isiZulu literature, and the conservation of its unique forms. From a young age, he would write his poems originally in isiZulu, and would only later translate them into English and other languages. In 1993, UNESCO honoured him as the first Poet Laureate of Africa, for the extensive work he had done in documenting and preserving the isiZulu language.

UNESCO has declared 2022 – 2031 the international decade of indigenous languages. Considering this, UKZN's School of Arts and the Centre for Creative Arts found it befitting to create a platform that focuses on Mazisi Kunene's lifelong love for and relation with the isiZulu language.

This is the third Mazisi Kunene Memorial Lecture, and it will be presented by Professor Nompumelelo Zondi, Vice-Dean for Research, Postgraduate Studies and Internationalisation in the Faculty of the Humanities at the University of the Free State



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Nompumelelo or Mpume as she prefers to be known, is a Full Professor, NRF rated scholar, and Vice-Dean for Research, Postgraduate Studies and Internationalisation in the Faculty of the Humanities at the University of the Free State. She assumed the role in March 2024 after serving as the Head of Department for African Languages at the University of Pretoria for seven years. Professor Zondi is a proud and dedicated alumnus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), having forged a lifelong connection with the institution, completing all her undergraduate and postgraduate studies with 17 years of service as an employee. Her last position was senior Lecturer (2011) before she joined the University of Zululand as an Associate Professor (2012).

Professor Zondi's research niche converge between literature and gender studies. While she has published in other fields, these are her key interest areas in which she has substantially published, while prioritising accredited journals with high impact standing. She has presented at numerous conferences nationally and internationally either as a participant or as a keynote speaker. An esteemed recipient of the prestigious South African Fulbright Research Scholar Program (2022-2023), Professor Zondi spent a transformative tenure at The Ohio State University's Department of African and African American Studies. During her nearly year-long

residency in the US, she leveraged unparalleled opportunities to enhance her research expertise, foster global collaborations and amplify her academic voice.

Besides chapters in international publications (Orient Black Swan and Michigan Press), Professor Zondi is an author of *Bahlabelelani-Why do they Sing? Gender and Power in Contemporary Women's Songs* -a thought provoking book that deconstructs her PhD research of the same title. She is also a principal editor of a recently co-edited manuscript titled, *Thetha Sizwe: Contemporary South African Debates on African Languages and the Politics of gender and Sexualities*, a collection of thought-provoking debates by more than ten authors. Professor Zondi is a strong advocate for the vital role of collaborations and partnerships in fostering academic excellence.

ENQUIRIES:

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