



Media Invitation

Mapungubwe Annual Lecture 2020

Johannesburg | Friday, 27 November 2020

The **Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA)** in partnership with the **University of Johannesburg (UJ)** would like to invite the media to the 8th Mapungubwe Annual Lecture on the 2nd of December 2020 (16H00).

The Annual Lecture is a flagship event in MISTRA's strategic reflections programme. It occupies a prestigious place in the intellectual landscape and has attracted wide audiences since it was first launched in 2012.

Over the past 26 years, South Africa's democracy has gone through ebbs and flows. While important achievements have been made, today's assessment of the country's political, social and economic conditions reflect a democracy that has fell short in transformation.

In addition, the devastating impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has also forced humanity's profound social questions to converge in a confluence of epoch-making challenges. Global warming, inequality, poverty, skewed allocation of resources for strategic research and the menace of geopolitics – all these and many other issues are merging into a volatile mix of threat and opportunity for human civilisation.

The Mapungubwe Annual Lecture 2020 thus comes in a period during which critical discourse on fundamental issues pertaining to the South African polity and political economy is crucial.

Delivered by MISTRA's Executive Director, Joel Netshitenzhe under the theme: ***Can South Africa's civilisation of national democracy sustain itself?*** the lecture aims to generate discourse on the following issues, among others:

- the meaning of the concept of 'civilisation';
- the South African transformation project as a humane 'civilising mission' for the liberation of the oppressed and long-term benefit of the oppressor;
- the intersection of race and class in the crafting of the South African ideal including various generations of human rights; and
- strategic lessons that can be drawn from the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joel Netshitenzhe will be joined by **Tsepiso Makwetla**, SABC's News and Current Affairs anchor, **Professor Tshilidzi Marwala**, University of Johannesburg's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, **Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi**, Chairperson of MISTRA's Council of Advisors and Nelson Mandela University's Chancellor, **Professor Mcebisi Ndletyana**, University of Johannesburg's Politics and International Relations Associate Professor and **Gogo Aubrey Matshiqi**, Independent Political Analyst.



Ends

Jointly Issued by the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) and University of Johannesburg

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