



Media Invitation

Mintirho ya Vulavula: Arts, National Identities and Democracy in South Africa

Johannesburg | Tuesday, 02 February 2021

The **Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA)** would like to invite media to the official launch of its Priority Research Project on *Mintirho ya Vulavula: Arts, National Identities and Democracy in South Africa*, on the 10th of February 2021.

Arts, national identities and democracy in South Africa seeks to locate arts, culture and heritage within a society looking to attain long-lasting social transformation and democracy, predicated on redress and healing. It examines and brings to the fore the critical role that arts and culture can play in national development and in shaping a collective imagination for effective policy formulation.

Arts and culture, have made a significant contribution to the formation of South Africa's national identity. *Mintirho ya vulavula* seeks to answer questions such as:

- How do we define arts, culture and heritage in a society with a complex history of hegemonic domination and counterhegemonic traditions?
- How can historical positions on art, culture and heritage productions be reconciled with post-apartheid cultural productions?
- What opportunities exist for alternative policy formulations for the arts that transgress existing boundaries, and policy positions that may retard, rather than advance, national development and transformation?
- What and who are the social agents for the formulation, implementation and performance of these alternative forms of understanding?
- How can the global market for the arts be leveraged in order to elicit new forms of cultural production and identity formation?
- And, finally, given the ubiquity of global financialisation, how can local arts, culture and heritage brands be protected from commercial appropriations?

The discussion will be led by the Editors of the publication, **Prof Innocentia Mhlambi** and **Sandile Ngidi**, including contributing authors, **Dr Refiloe Lepere** and **Athi Mongezeleli Joja**.

The virtual launch will take place as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 10th February 2021

Virtual Platform: Zoom

Time: 14h00 – 16h00

[Register here](#) to attend the virtual launch

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