

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Humanities Professor Nhlanhla Mkhize cordially invites you to the annual



# JOHN LANGALIBALELE DUBE

## MEMORIAL LECTURE 2024

A Dialogue Between Dube's Inclusive Pan-Africanism and Prophet Isaiah Shembe's Philosophy (Shembeism)

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Thursday, 12 September 2024	Colin Webb Hall, PMB Campus, UKZN	17h30 onwards

TO RSVP:

[CLICK HERE](#)

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Enquiries:

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### OVERVIEW:

The 2024 Annual John Langalibalele Dube Memorial Lecture will present an academic dialogue between John Langalibalele Dube's inclusive Pan-Africanism and Prophet Isaiah Shembe's philosophy (Shembeism). Dube, the founding President of the African National Congress, advocated for holistic liberation for all Black people, emphasizing education and self-reliance. Prophet Isaiah Shembe, founder of the Nazareth Baptist Church, focused on the spiritual and cultural well-being of the Nguni people, later expanding his teachings to address political, economic, and educational concerns. This lecture will explore their intersecting legacies, examining their views on freedom, development, and the persistent challenges of tribalism and division among Africans.

How would Dube and Shembe respond to today's socio-political landscape?

This event aspires to be a watershed moment of its own phenomenal kind in the chronicles of history, offering deep insights and new perspectives on these influential figures.

### SPEAKERS:

[Professor Blessing Karumbidza \(TUT\)](#) and [Professor Simangaliso Kumalo \(UKZN\)](#)

### RESPONDENTS:

[Mr Zweli Dube](#), [Ms Dawn Thandeka King](#) and [Mr Sizwe Zwane](#)



**Professor Blessing Karumbidza** is currently a Senior Research Associate at MANCOSA, and Project Associate for the EU-Erasmus funded Forest-21 Project which ends December 2024. An Associate Professor of Rural Development Sociology at Osiri University where he contributes to the African Development Programmes in the African Indigenous Knowledge programme, Karumbidza holds a PhD in Economic History from UKZN and Doctor of Theology in Liberation Theology from the Aucklands Theology Seminary.

He is a consultant working with Isiqabetho seNhlalamafini, a Nazareth Baptist Church think tank. He is passionate about asset-based community development (ABCD champion), stakeholder engagement specialist and researcher on rural development institutions such as traditional authority.

Combining his passion for economic history, development sociology and liberation theology, he founded the African Church Leadership Institute, which helps church leaders with developing leadership and governance systems. An African at heart, he uses his scholarship to re-imagine Africa and develop a philosophy and theological appreciation that privileges African thought systems, for African solutions to African challenges. As an African Economic Historian and Development Sociologist, he has expertise in community development, traditional leadership, asset-based community development, land and agrarian reform, and rural governance. Karumbidza is passionate about transdisciplinary research and collaboration to address grand challenges facing Africa and the world. His key research and practice area is of focus on African economic development, development sociology and political economy with interest in rural economic development and institutions as agency for development (traditional authority; civil society, business, and government).



**Professor R Simangaliso Kumalo** is a Professor of Public Theology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg campus. He is the Dean and Head the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics and Director of the Centre for Constructive Theology (CCT). He is also the co-founding editor of the Critical Investigation on Humanitarian AID in Africa (CIHA). He is also the immediate past president of the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (2016-2018).

His research focus is on Religion and Governance, Religion and the Environment, Church and Politics and Public Theology and the Social History of Methodism in Southern Africa. He has written five books and about 60 peer-reviewed articles in books and journals.



**Professor Nkosinathi Sithole** is an Associate Professor in the English Department at the University of the Western Cape. He grew up in Hlathikhulu near Estcourt, KwaZulu-Natal. He studied at Wits and the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where he obtained a PhD in English Studies. Sithole's areas of interest include South African and African Literature, Religion and Spirituality, and Translation, especially as a practitioner.

As an academic and writer, he is interested in the interface between African-language writing/isiZulu writing and (South) African Literature in English by Black South African writers. His monograph, Isaiah Shembe's Hymns and the Sacred Dance in Ibandla lamaNazareth. He has written several articles on Ibandla lamaNazareth.

Sithole was part of the translation project headed by Antjie Krog from the CMDR called Translating Classics where he translated BW Vilakazi's novel, Noma Nini as No Matter When (published by Oxford University Press, 2018) and translated several isiZulu poems published in Stitching the Whirlwind, (OUP, 2018) a collection of translated poems from African languages edited by Antjie Krog.



**Ms Dawn Thandeka King** is a multi-award-winning South African actress, musician, motivational speaker and social media influencer from Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal. She is best known for her role as MaNgcobo on the South African soap opera Uzalo. She went on to portray the role of MaNgcobo for almost 7 years. After finishing her matric, she went on to complete her drama studies at Technikon Natal (now known as DUT). Here is where her passion would forever be entrenched in acting, as she starred in many plays, including Peace in the Valley, which debuted at The Playhouse Theatre in 2000 and was directed by one of KZN's most prolific playwrights' Jerry Poole.

Amongst many of her talents, King is an experienced Radio Actress, Multi-lingual MC, Motivational Speaker, Programme Director, Radio Co-Host, Indigenous Musician and also runs her own crocheted hat brand, Izandla by Dawn Thandeka King.



**Mr Zweli Dube** is a treasure trove of talent. He is an actor, presenter, voice-over artist, performer and MC. Born and raised in Johannesburg, Dube studied Journalism and Media Communication at Boston Media House. His studies were however short-lived when an incredible opportunity presented itself for him to be part of the sensational hit Broadway Musical, 'The Lion King' at the age of 20. The cast and production performed on two different continents namely Australia (2005-2007) & Asia (2013-2014). The assignment required acting, singing and dancing on stage, performing 7 shows a week, to fully booked audiences.

Possessing an enormous amount of talent, Dube realised that this was the beginning of greater things to come and was set to soar in the world of television, film, stage and music. After returning from Australia in 2007, with his rich trademark base/baritone voice, he focussed on making his debut on radio & television. In 2009 landing his first role in one of South Africa's most watched television soapies, 'Muvhango' seen as Advocate 'Pule', Dube shows off his ability to convincingly portray a character with multiple personalities. This also allowed him to pursue other avenues particularly in the television sports arena, joining the SABC Sport late night team in 2008 as a news presenter.



**Mr Sizwe Zwane** matriculated at Zinikeleni Secondary School with a remarkable mark of 94% in mathematics. He was awarded a scholarship by Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture to study at the University of Zululand. He holds: BSc. Environmental Management (UNIZULU), BSc. Honours Geography (UNIZULU), PGCE (UNISA), Master of Education in Educational Management and is currently enrolled for PHD. Zwane is the first African Principal of Hoërskool Empangeni High School and a former Part Lecturer in the Faculty of Education, University of Zululand. He is also winner of the National Teaching Awards in 2022 in the Republic of South Africa; Excellence in Secondary School Leadership. He is a former Secretary of the University of Zululand Convocation and Council. Zwane is currently the Director, Communications, Advocacy & Publications of Isiqabetho Senhlalamafini Critical Thinkers, Ebuhleni BamaNazareth.