STRENGTHENING AFRICAN TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES & AFRICAN LANGUAGES

26, 27 & 28 July 2011
Indaba Hotel, Fourways, Johannesburg, S. Africa

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Afrikaans
Setswana
Sesotho
Shona
Chichewa
IsiXhosa
IsiZulu
Kiswahili
ChiVhenda
Isindebele
Chichewa
IsiXhosa
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Conference Synopsis

Study after study has shown that African traditional leadership continues to be at the centre of driving development. In some countries, in the region, (e.g. South Africa) legislation has been enacted to define the place and role of traditional leadership. Perhaps the challenge for Southern Africa is to regularly redefine and strengthen the roles of traditional leaders in a democratic and changing society. Similarly, some African scholars contend that strengthening and developing African languages could be the most critical element for the continent’s cultural and socio-economic development. The other challenge we face is to strengthen African progressive customs, values and cultural practices.

This conference seeks to reaffirm African traditional leaders and elders’ continuing relevance in the social, economic and political life of their communities. It will redefine the changing place and role of women in traditional leadership and governance. The forum will, further, deliberate on how to continually preserve and strengthen the teaching and expansion of African Indigenous languages in education.

Benefits Of Attending

- Review Customary Law and the role of Customary Courts today
- Promote the use of African languages in modern technology.
- Appreciate the changing Place and Role of African Women as traditional leaders and elders.
- Strengthen the teaching and expansion of African languages in Education
- Acknowledge the Contribution of African Traditional Medicine in Primary Health Care.
- Assert the relevance of traditional leaders and elders in democratic African societies: Cultural Pluralism and Globalization.
- Examine the extent to which Chiefs and Elders have gone to revive and preserve the disappearing African heritage.
- Endorse that traditional leadership offers unique attributes of leadership that fulfill specific social and governance needs of people; as communities.
- Re-affirm commitment to strengthening African Cultural Heritage
- Discuss the Role and Relevance of Initiation rights girls and boys

Who Should Attend?

- African Traditional Healers
- Researchers
- Archaeologists
- Social Anthropologists
- Academics
- Historians
- Customary Law Officers
- African Traditional Leaders
- College and University Lecturers
- Members of National and Provincial Parliaments
- Officials from Ministries/Departments of:
  - Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
  - Justice and Constitutional Development
  - Health; Rural Development and Land Reform
  - International Relations
  - Women, Children and People with Disabilities
  - Basic Education / Higher Education
  - Mayors
  - Book Publishers
  - Editors
  - Municipal Managers
  - Heritage Directors
  - Councilors
  - Translators
  - Language Practitioners
  - Interpreters
  - Heads of Departments
  - Chief Directors
  - University Lecturers
  - Curators
  - Deputy Directors
  - Directors
  - Managers of Culture and Arts Departments in Universities
  - Managers of Cultural/Arts Organizations

26, 27 & 28 July 2011

Indaba Hotel, FourWays, Johannesburg, South Africa
Panel Of Speakers

Nathi Mpungose
General Manager
Traditional Governance & Finance
Dept of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs:
KZN

Dr Mantoa Smouse
Lecturer: School of Languages, African Languages Section
University of Cape Town
Convenor for the Humanities & Health Sciences Collaboration

Dr Shumirai Nyota
Senior Lecturer
Great Zimbabwe University

Professor Tessa Dowling
African Languages Section
School of Languages and Literatures
University of Cape Town

Professor Alinah Segobye
Associate Professor: Faculty of Humanities
University of Botswana

Chief Sekororo
Chairperson
Mopani District Contralesa Limpopo
Executive Member of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders

Lufuno Rudolph Ndlovu
Manager for Literature and Media
Pan South African Languages Boarder

Professor Dennis Schauffer
Associate Professor
Vaal University of Technology

Kgosi Oscar Mosielele
Chief of Bakgatlaba-Ga-Mmanaane Tribe
Botswana

Rosethal Lolie Makhubu
H.O.D: Media, Language and Communication
Durban University of Technology

Professor Eunice Kamara
School of Arts and Social Sciences
Moi University
Kenya

Mafemani Joseph Baloyi
Editor of Exams
Department of Education
Limpopo Province

Badwell
Managing Director: Munna ndi nnyi
Men’s Forum
Limpopo

Professor Victor N Webb
Professor of Linguistics
University of Pretoria

Ndasuunje ‘Papa’ Shikongeni
Full Time Visual Artist Owner & Director
of Hishishi Papa Seven Consultant
Part time Lecturer at Katutura Community
Arts Centre Board member of National Arts Council of Namibia
08:00 Early Morning Tea & Registration

08:20 Chairperson’s Opening Remarks

08:30 Keynote Address: Cultural Pluralism and Globalization: Relevance of traditional leadership in current African democratic societies.
- Role of traditional leaders and elders in African societies.
- Traditional leadership and public participation: Help or hindrance.
- Connection between traditional authorities and local government
- How to define role of chiefs and elders in African political systems.
- Popular perceptions of traditional leaders; how they relate to both perceptions of elected leaders and support for a democratic system of government.
- Being proactive and engage government on what exactly are the priorities of the people in their areas.
Nathi Mpungose: General Manager: Traditional Governance & Finance
Dept of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs: KZN

09:15 Unpacking Intangible Heritage
- The range of intangible heritage
- Heritage sites in South Africa; and other parts of Southern Africa.
- Establishing, maintaining and promoting archaeology
- The roles of national, provincial and local government in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in South Africa.
- How local communities and other organizations play their part in preserving cultural heritage.
- Engaging historians, archaeologists and heritage practitioners in educational curriculum revisions.
- Promotion of Heritage Studies in Higher Education

Professor Alinah Segobye: Associate Professor
Faculty of Humanities
University of Botswana

10:00 Strengthening African Languages Departments In African Universities; including curriculum planning and funding incentives.
- Reviewing and implementing frameworks for indigenous language policies in African universities.
- Making African languages compulsory for certain university/college study programmes.
- Reflecting on and advising on what can be done to improve the status of African languages and further develop them in curriculum planning.
- Promotion of funding incentives for African languages programmes in universities and colleges.

Dr Mantoa Smouse: Lecturer
School of Languages: African Languages Section
University of Cape Town

10:45 Mid-Morning Teabreak & Networking

11:00 Mini Workshop: The Role of African Women in Traditional Leadership Roles
- Traditional communities not immune to continuing social change
- Upholding the principle of equality as enshrined in the Constitution
- African women’s situation under customary law.
- African women’s views on polygamy.
- Recognizing African women as traditional leaders.
- Women and land under traditional leadership
- Women’s perceptions of their lives under traditional leadership.
- African women traditional leaders: progress or not?
- Does gender imbalance in traditional communities constitute evidence of gender oppression

Chief Sekororo: Chairperson
Mopani District Contralesa Limpopo
Executive Member of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders

Professor Alinah Segobye: Associate Professor
Faculty of Humanities
University of Botswana

13:00 Lunch & Networking

14:00 Consideration of African Indigenous Knowledge residual in other cultural artifacts.
- Valuable knowledge regarding the traditional manufacture of pigment
- Traditional firing methods for ceramics
- Traditional carving methods
- Part of endangered cultural heritage
- Providing sustainable livelihoods in remote and rural areas

Prof Dennis Schauffer: Associate Professor at Vaal University of Technology

15:00 Afternoon Refreshments

15:15 Educational Publishing and Literature Development: The Case of South Africa.
- Addressing the serious shortage of books in South Africa’s indigenous languages.
- Supporting the development of a diverse community of writers in African languages.
- Ensuring that translation expertise is developed in all African languages.
- Establishment of budgets for the establishment of libraries and library services.
- Increased South African involvement in regional book publishing initiatives.
- Collaborative endeavours between departments of education, and independent organizations working in the fields of literacy, book development and publishing

Lufuno Rudolph Ndlovu: Manager for Literature and Media
Pan South African Languages Board

End Of Day One
How far have the Tihosi/Amakhosi/Dikgosi and elders gone to revive and preserve the disappearing African Heritage?

- Traditional leaders as custodians of African culture.
- Heads of societal organization consisting of its own laws, traditions, social dynamics and interaction
- Guarding the interests of the people of the community
- Presiding over community cultural gatherings.
- Promotion of African norms, values and customs

Chief Sekororo: Chairperson
Mopani District Contralesa Limpopo
Executive Member of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders

Customary Law and the Role of Customary Courts today
- Nature of Customary law in SA
- Laws and practices which have governed the customary courts
- The Constitution and jurisdiction of the customary courts.
- Administration of justice in rural SA
- Involvement of women and soliciting their views on the operation of traditional courts.
- Consolidating different provisions governing chief’s courts.
- Role of traditional leaders in administering justice and crime prevention.

Kgosi Oscar Mosielele: Chief of Bakgatlaba-Ga-Mmanaane Tribe-Botswana

Role of Translation and Interpreting, in promoting and developing African Indigenous languages
- The challenges of translation of legislation documents.
- Compiling legal terminology in all the African languages
- Training translators according to their specialized fields.
- Improvement of terminology development strategies
- Terminology standardization processes.
- Encouraging and supporting printed media in indigenous languages.
- Teaching Translation and Interpretation in Higher Education.

Rosethal Lolie Makhubu: H.O.D: Media, Language and Communication
Durban University of Technology

Role and Relevance of Initiation Rites for Girls and Boys
- The views of women concerning girls’ puberty rites.
- Transition stage from childhood to adulthood
- Acculturation into a new social group
- Accepting responsibility for a person’s own behaviour.
- Teaching of cultural rules/roles of etiquette and obedience and given sexuality education.
- Recognizing puberty rites as one of the important heritages of South Africa

Badwell: Managing Director: Munna ndi nnyi Men’s Forum
Limpopo Province

Traditional Leaders and Modern day Local Economic Development
- Traditional leaders; roles in the success of development projects.
- Promoting ideals of cooperative governance, integrated development planning, sustainable development and service delivery.
- Providing leadership in ensuring communities utilize land productively.
- Traditional Councils and municipalities’ identification of community development needs
- Involvement in shaping Integrated Development Plans.
- Challenges facing traditional leaders in Local Economic Development

Prof Theo Scheepers: Head of Law Department
University of Limpopo: Attorney of the High Court of South Africa

African Indigenous Languages in Education: A precondition for the development of South Africa
- Developing and implementing frameworks for African Indigenous language policies in education
- Strengthening African Languages Departments in African universities; including curriculum planning and funding incentives.
- The development of African languages in as mediums of instruction in higher education
- Promoting the teaching/learning of African languages from Primary school to university.

Advancing national and regional language teaching networks and exchange programmes
- Promoting learning through a language students understanding.
- Teaching in a familiar language
- How to provide quality education to African children and adolescents through the best suited media/language

Prof Victor N Webb: Professor of Linguistics
University of Pretoria

Strengthening the expansion and teaching/learning of African Indigenous Languages in Education
- Establishment of language services at all levels of government
- Powers and functions of language units
- The role of language practitioners
- Supporting and strengthening the capacity of local governments in the provision of language services
- Strengthening institutional resources and capacity

Mafemani Joseph Baloyi: Editor of Exams
Department of Education Limpopo Province
The challenge of change in African Languages – an analysis of the changing nature of African Languages in the media and in urban contexts Universities

- Indigenous African languages and Knowledge Acquisition.
- Justifying why and how indigenous African languages should be employed in the teaching of science and technology-based subjects.
- Challenges and opportunities indigenous languages computing.
- Making software accessible to people in their vernacular.
- Driving greater success to teaching across the region.

Professor Tessa Dowling: African Languages Section
School of Languages and Literatures
University of Cape Town.

Traditional Leadership Role in Moral Regeneration: Vumunhu/Umuntu/Botho.
- Constitution: recognizing and upholding the dignity of every human being
- Moving away from old divides, prejudices and stereotypes
- Dignity as a birthright
- Advancement of human rights and freedoms
- Commitment to gender equality and to bodily integrity
- Protecting and respecting the dignity of women
- What can be defined as Public Morality in SA today?
- Can be general consensus on a Moral Code for South Africans?
- What is the contribution of traditional leaders and elders in Moral Regeneration and Moral Code?

Professor Eunice Kamara:
School of Arts and Social Sciences
Moi University Kenya

End Of the Conference