

AUGUST PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences



POVERTY – 20 YEARS INTO INDEPENDENCE

For two peaceful decades the Namibian nation has enjoyed political freedom, after long and painful years of the struggle for liberation from colonialism and apartheid. Still, Namibian society longs for economic liberation and social equity. Twenty years into independence, poverty remains its most alarming reality. Despite all efforts, unemployment is on the rise, affecting more than half of the adult population. Social privileges of the few are in stark contrast with social exclusion of the many. The dire living and housing conditions of migrants attest the hopelessness of their expectations. The rift between poor and rich poses a serious threat to social freedom.

How do private sector, government and municipalities respond to the challenges posed by poverty? What initiatives do the poor engage in? Do we not need new efforts – in political practice rather than programmatic announcements - to create structures that will allow to largely eradicating poverty?

The **August Public Lecture Series** at the University of Namibia, now staged in its fifth year, offers a forum for the critical debate of these issues. The Lecture Series addresses the interested general public as well as the academic community. It is jointly organized by the Department of Sociology at UNAM, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Namibia Institute for Democracy and the Bank Windhoek Arts Festival.

Date, topics and speakers

<p>MIKE HILL (CONSULTANT ORGANISATION EFFECTIVENESS) TOPIC: Unemployment - a tragic failure</p>	<p>GERALDINE VAN ROOI (SECTION PLANNER, CITY OF WINDHOEK) TOPIC: Migration and informal housing – challenges for the City of Windhoek</p>
<p>HERBERT JAUCH (LABOUR RESEARCHER AND EDUCATOR) TOPIC: Politics of unemployment</p>	<p>PETRUS SHAANIKA (HAVANA 6 HOUSING GROUP, WINDHOEK) TOPIC: A place to live – challenging the City of Windhoek</p>
<p>DATE: Wednesday, 4 August 2010, 18h00</p>	<p>DATE: Wednesday, 25 August 2010, 18h00</p>
<p>HENNING MELBER (DIRECTOR, DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD FOUNDATION, SWEDEN) TOPIC: Privilege and poverty - the two faces of Namibian society</p>	<p>THE GRAVE MANAGER (BY LUCKY PIETERS, PRODUCED AND STAGED BY KEAMOGETSI JOSEPH MOLAPONG (TOWNSHIP PRODUCTIONS, WINDHOEK))</p>
<p>CALLE SCHLETTWEIN (DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE, REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA) TOPIC: Challenging poverty</p>	<p><i>Sponsored by the Bank Windhoek Arts Festival</i></p>
<p>DATE: Wednesday, 11 August 2010, 18h00</p>	<p>PLAY: Stage play on life in informal settlements</p>
<p>TSITSI DANGAREMBGA (NOVELIST AND FILM-MAKER, ZIMBABWE) TOPIC: The victim and her poverty</p>	<p>DATE: 8 - 10 September 2010</p>
<p>DATE: Wednesday, 18 August 2010, 18h00</p>	<p>TIME: 19h00</p>
	<p>VENUE: JMAC Gallery at the Katutura Community Centre (KCAC)</p>

Format, time, venue

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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The Lecture Series follows a format intended to both inform and allow the audience to actively engage in a debate after the presentations. Presenters are requested to limit their presentation to 25-30 minutes, to leave ample scope for the ensuing debate.

All lectures/events take place on Wednesday evening, 18.00 to 20.00 hrs, at the Auditorium of the University Library, University of Namibia, Mandume Ndemufayo Avenue., Pioneerspark. The play scheduled for 8 to 10 September 2010 will be staged at at the Katutura Community Arts Centre (KCAC), JMAC Gallery.



The University of Namibia