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## BIOGRAPHIES OF GUEST SPEAKERS AND PRESENTING AUTHORS

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### **Professor Alfred Ngowi | Guest Speaker**

Acting Vice Chancellor & Principal | Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein, South Africa

Prof. Ngowi is the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal at the Central University of Technology, Free State. He holds Bachelor of Science (Civil Engineering) from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; master of Civil Engineering (Construction Engineering and Management) from Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden; and a PhD in Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

His research interests are multi-disciplinary and they include engineering, the built environment, human capital, Sustainability, Circular Economy (CE), and the future workplace. He has extensive record in human capacity development having produced technicians and degree graduates as well as supervising 21 masters and PhD students. Some of these students proceeded with their doctoral studies at leading universities such as MIT and Princeton in the USA and Cambridge in the UK. He has published over 100 papers in journals, proceedings and book chapters. He is the co-Chief Editor of the Journal of Construction in Developing Countries (JCDC); an Associate Editor of the Journal of Built Environment and Asset Management (BEPAM); and a Reviews Editor of the Botswana Journal of Technology (BJT).



### **Emeritus Professor Estian Calitz | Guest Speaker**

Emeritus Professor & Research Associate | Stellenbosch University, Western Cape, South Africa

Estian Calitz is Professor Emeritus of Economics and Research Associate at the Stellenbosch University in South Africa. He is a former Director General of the Department of Finance (now the National Treasury) of the South African Government, and a former Faculty Dean and Executive Director: Finance of Stellenbosch University.

His main research and teaching interests are in macroeconomic and fiscal policy and public economics. He is the author and co-author of a number of articles in accredited journals and contributed to a couple of books, mostly in the field of public economics and economic policy. He is a co-editor of and contributor to Public Economics, an economics textbook of which the 8th edition from Oxford University Press (SA) is due in 2023.

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He has served as occasional referee for various scientific journals and was rated as established researcher by the National Research Foundation (2003-2007). He is a former President of the Economic Society of South Africa. He was a co-founder of the African Tax Research Network and honorary member of its Interim Board (2014-2016), and a member of the panel of experts of the South African National Treasury (2013-2014). He has been commissioned to undertake research projects for various bodies, including National Treasury, and served on various audit and risk committees. In 2016 he was awarded the Stals Prize for Economics by the Afrikaans Academy of Science and Arts of South Africa.

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**Where? Boet Troskie Hall (main campus), Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein****Lochner Marais | Presenter**

Professor of Development Studies: University of the Free State

Lochner Marais is a Professor of Development Studies at the Centre for Development Support at the University of the Free State (UFS). He is also an honorary professor at the Sustainable Minerals Institute (University of Queensland, Australia). He serves on the editorial board of Habitat International and is also the Specialty Chief Co-editor for the Cities in the Global South section of the journal, *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*.

Prof Marais research interests include housing policy, small cities and towns (mining and renewable towns and cities) and public health focusing on children. Marais has authored, co-authored and compiled more than 250 research reports, including 180 refereed articles in peer-reviewed journals or books. He has also co-edited nine books and is the author of one scholarly book (in print).

The main contribution of his work has been to improve the understanding of the social consequences of mine closure, mining's role in creating place attachment and the relationship between mine closure and social disruption. He has also been the first researcher to link mine closure and social disruption and warns against dependencies on mining boom.

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**Oyeyinka Omoshoro-Jones, PhD | Presenter**

Acting Director: Economic Analysis & Sr. Econometrician | Free State Provincial Treasury

Dr Oyeyinka Sunday Omoshoro-Jones is currently the Acting Director: Economic Analysis Directorate (EAD) and a Senior Econometrician heading the Modelling and Forecasting unit within the same directorate, at the Free State Provincial Treasury. He has broad expertise in applied econometrics and general equilibrium (CGE and SAM) modelling, and his research interests include international economics, macroeconomics, financial economics and public finance.

Oyeyinka received a PhD in Economics from the University of Johannesburg and holds both MCom and Honours degree in Financial Economics and Investment Management from the University of the Free State and a BCom (Economics) from the University of the Western Cape.

His research works have culminated into published articles in reputable high-impact in international peer-reviewed journals (such as *International Economics* and *The World Economy*) and published working papers accessible in well-known online research repositories/networks such as RePEc, EconPapers, Ideas, and ResearchGate. Oyeyinka is a reviewer for the *International Review of Economics and Finance (IREF)*, and *International Journal of Social Economics (IJSE)*.

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**Marvellous Ngundu, PhD | Presenter**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)

Dr. Ngundu is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in economics at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) in South Africa, a Research Assistant at the UKZN's Macroeconomics Research Unit (MRU), a Research Fellow at Covenant University's Center for Economic Policy and Development Research (CEPDeR) in Nigeria, and an Associate Member at Leiden University's African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL)

Community in Netherlands.

His research interests span international and development economics, with a particular emphasis on China's economic activities in Africa and the application of econometrics to African growth and development issues.

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**Tlou Raphela, PhD | Presenter**

PhD Candidate: University of the Free State | Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DIMTEC)

Dr Raphela is a socio-environmental scientist, with an interest in how the social issues interface with the environment holistically. She holds a PhD - focusing on the impact of crop raiding on subsistence farming community adjacent protected area in the rural South African community. She is also interested in Risk Reduction, impact studies to understand socio-environmental problems and Biological invasion.

Dr Raphela has an interest in human-wildlife conflict resolution. Since joining the UFS, and teaching the mental Disaster Mental Health; Public and mental health, she developed a strong interest in the psychosocial impacts of disasters and will be focusing my research and creating a niche around that.

**Where? Boet Troskie Hall (main campus), Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein****Olivia Kunguma, PhD | Presenter**

Lecturer: University of the Free State | Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa)

Dr Olivia Kunguma holds a PhD in Disaster Management. She investigated the status quo and dynamics of establishing information management and communication systems in provincial disaster management centres and contributed to developing a framework for establishing and maintaining the systems. she also holds a Master's Degree in Disaster Management, BA degree in Integrated Marketing Communication majoring in Strategic Business Management. She lectures Strategic Disaster

Communication, Strategic Disaster Management, and Legal and Institutional Arrangement in Disaster Management.

Dr Kunguma is also facilitates short learning programs in Humanitarian Standards (Sphere Project). She has so far published twelve peer-reviewed articles in accredited journals. She has presented her research at local and international conferences such as the World Conference on Disaster Management in Toronto, Canada. She is a registered professional member of the Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa and the South African Communications Association.

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**Phillip Lesia, PhD | Presenter**

Assistant Director: Economic Analysis & Policy Analyst | Free State Provincial Treasury

Phillip Lesia holds a Ph.D. in Engineering Management from the University of Johannesburg. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Cum Laude), Honours degree in Money and Banking, and a Master's degree in the specialized field of Land and Property Management. He works at the Free State Provincial Treasury, South Africa.

Dr. Lesia worked as a part-time lecturer at the Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein from 2016 to 2020, teaching Construction Economics. His area of focus is on the Built Environment and Infrastructure.

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**Mushoni Bulagi, PhD | Presenter**

Research Specialist: Human Sciences Research Council

Mushoni is a research specialist and an economist specialising in productivity and efficiency analysis of different firms. His research interest includes firm performance, dynamics of innovation and economic development. He works on the dynamic of innovation at both local and national.

Mushoni holds a Dcom in the field of productivity and efficiency analysis with special interest on small-scale sugarcane growers. He has published in many journals and read papers in both national and international conferences. His scholarly contribution includes supervision of postgraduate students both masters and PhD and research projects that were funded by different stakeholders. Mushoni continues to enjoy collaborations with other colleagues working in the field of efficiency and productivity analysis.

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**Sodiq Arogundade, PhD | Presenter**

Research Associate: Johannesburg Business School

Sodiq Arogundade holds a PhD degree in economics from the school of economics and econometrics, University of Johannesburg (UJ). He has more than six years of cognate experience in the financial market, public policy advocacy and management consulting. Sodiq currently works as a research associate for the Johannesburg Business School and as an assistant lecturer at the school of economics, UJ. He has published several scientific papers in international peer review journals and has been involved in several professional consulting projects.

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**Nokwazi Mthembu | Presenter**

Lecturer: University of Zululand

Ms. Mthembu is currently appointed as contract Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Zululand. She is enrolled for a PhD in History at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is an economic and social historian. She has contributed to economic and Trade workshops within the University of Zululand.

Ms Mthembu is an opinion columnist for the Zululand Observer Newspaper (local). Furthermore, her research interests are on, Bilateral trade flows of BRICS countries. Trade relations between China, India and Africa, Human trafficking in Africa, Indigenous knowledge systems, historiography of South Africa and economic history. She holds BA, BA (Hons) and MA from UNIZULU

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### **Musa Hlungwani | Presenter**

Junior Researcher: Human Sciences Research Council

Mr Hlungwani is a Junior Researcher currently appointed in the HSRC's Inclusive Economic Development research division. He holds an honours degree in Development Studies from University of Limpopo. He is currently completing his Masters degree with University of Limpopo in Development Studies where his dissertation focus on the Contributions of Agricultural Cooperatives towards Local Economic Development in Rural Areas.

Mr Hlungwani was employed by National Research Foundation (NRF) from 2011 to 2012 placed in the University of Venda in their Research Office as Research Administrator. He also held a position of Rural Development Planner in Belgium Technical Cooperation (BTC) under Participatory Settlement and Development Support to Land Reform between 2013 and 2017. He was also hired by HSRC under CeSTII working on Business Innovation Survey 2014-2016 and Agricultural Innovation Survey 2016-2018 as Research Assistant from 2017 to 2019. In the HSRC, he is also involved in Barriers Study under HSC division.

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**Relebohile Mosea | Presenter**



Relebohile matriculated in 2021 at Impaq (Home-schooling). she is an ESKOM Expo for Young Scientists Alumni, where she built a dual energy power bank to open communication lines for communities without electricity. She received a Gold medal and the best energy project award at the provincial level and a Bronze at the International Science Fair (ISF).

Ms Mosea is continuously capacitating herself with STEM courses like Quantum Mechanics (University of Colorado), Artificial Intelligence, Flutter Programming, SARS-CoV-2 modeling and Drug Docking, Covid-19 Vaccine: Ambassador training (John Hopkins University), virtual machines in Microsoft Azure, and is currently pursuing a Drug Development course with the University of San Diego

Ms Mosea developed a microbial fuel cell and air-to-water technology to address drought and the energy supply in 2020. She also participated in the SAASTA debate and received a Gold medal. Relebohile is a 2020 winner of the CUT's Idea Generator (I GYM) for presenting a Novel Approach to Vaccine.

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### **Sanchay Kalicharan | Presenter**

Intern: University of the Free State | Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa)

Mr Sanchay Kalicharan is currently employed as a Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) Intern at the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa - University of The Free State (UFS-DiMTEC). Sanchay believes in educating and training the public in disaster risk reduction toward building community resilience.

Mr Kalicharan holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management from the University of the Free State. He is currently busy with his Master's Degree in Disaster Management with the same institution. As an intern, his responsibilities include assisting the Programme Director in managing assessments, preparing contact sessions and liaising with the students regarding their academic activities. Mr Kalicharan also assists with conducting research in the department and presenting the findings on various research platforms.

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### **Themba Gumba | Presenter**

Director: Statistical Support and Informatics | Statistics South Africa

Current position: Director – Statistical Support and Informatics (@Statistics South Africa); Previous work experience: National Statistics System (NSS) Manager (@Statistics South Africa); 2. Deputy Director: Statistical Services (Monitoring and Evaluation) (@Department of Land Affairs); 3. Statistician (@Crime Information Analysis Centre, SAPS); 4. Teacher & HOD (Maths & Natural Science) (@Free State Dept. Education); Qualifications obtained: 1. Master of Science, MSc (Statistics) (@Univ. of the Free State); 2. BSc (Honours) (Statistics) (@Univ. of the Free State); 3. BSc (Maths & Statistics) (@MEDUNSA); 4. HDE (Post Graduate) (Maths) (Rhodes University); 5. B Com (Honours) (Business Management) (@Univ. of the Free State); 6. B-Tech – CUT. Memberships / Professional registration: Chartered Statistician, ChM (@Institute of Certificated and Chartered Statisticians of South Africa, ICCSSA). Some Conferences / Symposiums: 1. ISIBALO Symposium, 2015) (@ Stellenbosch University. Presented on 'Power-law: characteristics and implications'); 2. Free State ISIBALO Symposium, 2013) (Stats SA. Co-organiser and Chair of a session on Spatial data).

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**Maureen Maisiri | Presenter**

PhD Candidate: University of the Free State | Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC).

Ms Maisiri a second year PhD Candidate at Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) University of the Free State, South Africa. Her doctoral research focuses on Disaster Risk Reduction, resilience; and nutritional and psychological impacts on the smallholder farmers in the Eastern Free State. I hold an MSc in Post-harvest science and a BSc in Food Science in Nutrition.

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**Cabanga Moyo | Presenter**

Deputy Director: Department of Economic Development and Tourism | Northern Cape

Mr Moyo is a Sector Analyst in the Trade and Sector Development Programme at the Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Before joining the Northern Cape Government, he worked in the Budget Office at the Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury.

Cabanga holds an M.Com Economics (University of the Western Cape), Post Graduate Certificate Economic Development and Policy (University of Witwatersrand) and a BCom Hons Banking (National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe).



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### **Santos Bila | Presenter**

Assistant lecturer: University of Johannesburg

Santos Bila is currently working toward his doctorate in Economics at the University of Johannesburg, where he is also employed as an assistant lecturer. Bila has a master's degree in Development Economics. Macroeconomics, development economics, industrialization, and climate change are some of the topics that he is interested in researching.

Santos has worked in the past as a researcher for several government agencies, including the Financial Fiscal Commission (FFC) in South Africa and the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) in South Africa. Additionally, Santos has collaborated with the Center for Development and Democracy in Mozambique.

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