



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 3780

www.uct.ac.za



steve biko
foundation

05 September 2012

**Nigerian poet and novelist Ben Okri to speak at 13th
annual Steve Biko Memorial Lecture at UCT
12 September 2012, 18h00, Jameson Hall, Upper Campus**

The Steve Biko Memorial lecture will be delivered at the University of Cape Town on Wednesday, 12 September 2012, by Ben Okri, Nigerian poet, novelist and one of the foremost African writers in the post-modern and post-colonial traditions.

The lecture, which marks the 35th anniversary of Biko's death, will be hosted by UCT and the Steve Biko Foundation at 18h00 in Jameson Hall, Upper Campus.

Professor Okri has published 10 novels, including *The Famished Road*, as well as collections of poetry, short stories and essays. His work has been translated into more than 20 languages. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and has been awarded the OBE as well as numerous international prizes, including the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Africa, the Aga Khan Prize for Fiction and the Chianti Rufino-Antico Fattore Literary Award. He is a Vice-President of the English Centre of International PEN and was presented with a Crystal Award by the World Economic Forum. He was born in Nigeria and lives in London. His latest collection, *A Time for New Dreams*, is published by Random House.

The Steve Biko Memorial Lecture was established in 2000 as the flagship programme of the Steve Biko Foundation. It is the principal avenue through which the foundation pursues a core element of its mission: to foster the intangible but essential community building blocks – history, identity, culture and values – as the foundation for leadership and agency at the level of the individual and the community.

The lecture is an opportunity to explore the contemporary relevance of the life and legacy of Bantu Stephen Biko, central to which is the individual's role in advancing social justice.

Among those who have reflected on the life and legacy of Biko through the Memorial Lecture are some of Africa's foremost scholars, artists and religious and political leaders,

including: Njabulo Ndebele, Zakes Mda, Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Nelson Mandela, Mamphele Ramphele, Desmond Tutu, Thabo Mbeki, Trevor Manuel, and Tito Mboweni. Pulitzer-prize winning US author Professor Alice Walker delivered the 2010 lecture while internationally renowned advocate Sir Sydney Kentridge delivered the 2011 lecture.

Tickets to the lecture:

The lecture is open to the public and there is no admission charge. Because of heavy demand tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis, with no reserved seating.

Media are welcome to attend but are required to reserve seating because of limited space. Please contact the media liaison office at 021 650 5427/8 or email loga.makwela@uct.ac.za

ENDS

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Mologadi Makwela

Tel: (021) 650 5427 Fax (021) 650 5628

Cell: 078 258 3965

E-mail: loga.makwela@uct.ac.za

Follow us on Twitter: @UCT_news

University of Cape Town

Website: www.uct.ac.za

Steve Biko Foundation

P.O. BOX 32005

Braamfontein

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Johannesburg, South Africa

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