



**27 May 2020**

## **Virtual Africa Month symposium to discuss the continent's innovations in fight against COVID-19**

A three-day virtual Africa Month public symposium, co-hosted by the University of Cape Town Convocation and the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance (NMSPG) in collaboration with the African Union's African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), gets underway this morning.

The symposium will take place from 27-29 May 2020.

Under the theme "Africa's innovations in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic", the five webinars will discuss knowledge systems and knowledge production on the continent, best practice examples in Africa, the climate change and development nexus in Africa, Pan-African reflections on leadership and good governance during COVID-19, and COVID-19 philanthropy on the continent.

UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng said: "Africa Day is a very important day on the UCT calendar – even more so this year, under the unusual conditions we face as a result of COVID-19. Now more than ever, Africans need to take up the challenges we share with each other and the world, and apply our creativity and experience to help develop solutions."

Professor Eddy Maloka, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRM and President of the UCT Convocation, said it was significant for Africans to be part of the innovations aimed at contributing towards the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As Africans, we need to collaboratively and meaningfully make our contribution towards fighting against this pandemic. One thing that our previous fights against other health pandemics has illustrated is that as Africans we are a resilient and capable of overcoming all odds," he said.

Each panel of Pan-African experts will focus on responses by African countries to the COVID-19 pandemic, in relation to governance and development. They will explore the actions required to fulfil African shared values and principles.

Panellists include Seyni Nafo of Mali, Africa's spokesperson at the 2015 Paris climate talks; Bulelwa Ngewana, Executive Director of the Open Society Foundation for South Africa; Professor Maloka, CEO of the APRM; Professor Carlos Lopes of the NMSPG; Dr Mosoka Fallah, Deputy Director-General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia; Carl Manlan, Chief Operating Officer of the EcoBank Foundation; Bongiwe Mlangeni, CEO of the Social Justice Initiative; and Saliem Fakir, Executive Director of the African Climate Foundation.

The first webinar, scheduled for 10:30 on 27 May, will discuss knowledge systems and knowledge production on the continent. The second will commence at 14:00 and will discuss why Africa has been less impacted by COVID-19 as well as include best practice examples in Africa.

- Watch the live stream: <https://bit.ly/Africa-Month-Session1>
- Watch the live stream: <https://bit.ly/Africa-Month-Session2>

To view the full programme, read more about featured speakers or RSVP for the webinars, please visit the [UCT Africa Month feature page](#).

***ENDS***

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