

Media Advisory

THE 14th ANNUAL THABO MBEKI AFRICA DAY LECTURE

Approved for public release.

Date: Wednesday, 22 May 2024

The Thabo Mbeki Foundation, in partnership with the University of South Africa (Unisa) will host the 14th Annual Thabo Mbeki Africa Day Lecture.

The Thabo Mbeki Africa Day Lecture is an annual event organized by the Thabo Mbeki Foundation and UNISA to commemorate Africa Day, set aside to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of the African Unity (OAU), on May 25th 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African Union, the successor of the OAU was launched in Durban, South Africa on July 9th, 2002. This year therefore marks the 61st anniversary of the establishment of the OAU.

Africa Day serves as a platform to discuss and celebrate the achievement of African countries and address current issues and challenges facing the continent. The Lecture also serves as a reminder of the rich culture and diversity of Africa and the importance of preserving and promoting it for future generations.

The upcoming 14th Thabo Mbeki Africa Day Lecture represents a significant milestone in our continuous journey toward fostering Africa's Renaissance. Set to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 25 May 2024, this year's theme, "**The New International Scramble for Africa and the Challenges of Unity,**" is both timely and critical for the current African context.

The theme of this year's Lecture is particularly pertinent as Africa navigates the complexities of a new international scramble for its resources and geopolitical influence. The challenges of unity in this context are profound, and it is imperative that they are addressed with urgency and clarity. This Lecture will provide a critical platform to examine these issues, propose a vision for the future, and inspire collective action towards achieving a united and prosperous Africa.

The 2024 Thabo Mbeki Africa Day Lecture will be delivered by Professor Abdoulaye Bathily, a Senegalese politician and diplomat, who has held prominent positions within Senegal's government and the United Nations for more than three decades. He served as Minister of the Environment from 1993 to 1998 and Minister of Energy from 2000 to 2001 in Senegal. Transitioning to diplomatic roles, he became the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Central Africa in 2014, following his tenure as the long-time Secretary-General of the Democratic League/Movement for the Labour Party (LD/MPT).



Throughout his career, Prof Bathily has been dedicated to promoting environmental protection and sustainable energy solutions in Senegal and the wider region of Central Africa. He has also played a key role in promoting peace and stability in the region through his work with the United Nations. Professor Abdoulaye Bathily is currently the Special Representative to the United Nations Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

Members of the media are invited to the Thabo Mbeki African Day Lecture as follows:

Date : Saturday 25th May 2024

Time : 17H30 for 18H00

Venue : Gallagher Convention Centre, 19 Richards Drive, Midrand in Johannesburg.

/Ends.

ISSUED BY THE THABO MBEKI FOUNDATION AND UNISA - MEDIA AFFAIRS

For RSVPS and enquiries, please contact Anga Jamela on 011 486 1560 / anga@mbeki.org
OR Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / humatm@unisa.ac.za OR Edgar Rathelele
on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / ratheme@unisa.ac.za

