



Mental Health and the role of Traditional Healers

6 July 2022 - 13:00 (SAST)

PROGRAMME

Moderator: Dr Palesa Sekhejane, Director: Strategic Partnerships Unit,
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

- 13:00 - 13:05 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Dr Palesa Sekhejane
- 13:05 - 13:25 **Spiritual/Traditional healers' role in mental health**
Dr Lerato Dikobe-Kalane, Psychiatrist and member of the South African Society of Psychiatrists
- 13:25 - 13:45 **The multiple roles of a Traditional healer in mental health care**
Professor Tholene Sodi, Department of Psychology, University of Limpopo
- 13:45 - 14:05 **The role of universities in reclaiming the space of African Traditional medicine**
Dr Tozama Qwebani-Ogunleye, Senior Lecturer-Project Manager, Faculty of Applied and Computer Sciences, Vaal University of Technology
- 14:05 - 14:15 **Mr Lehlohonolo Lephotu**, Chairperson of the Sedibeng Traditional Health Practitioner Forum
- 14:15 - 14:30 **Q&A**
- 14:30 **Concluding Remarks**
Dr Palesa Sekhejane

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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Dr Lerato Dikobe-Kalane is a dynamic and humble psychiatrist. She obtained her medical degree in 2000, from the Medical University of Southern Africa (MEDUNSA). She received her post-graduate psychiatry training at Weskoppies Psychiatric Hospital and graduated as a Specialist Psychiatrist from the University of Pretoria (UP) in 2006. She worked as a Senior Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Head at Pretoria Academic Hospital between 2006 and 2007. In 2007, she started her private practice. In 2014, brand, DR DIKOBÉ PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE, was established. The practice has flourished and brought positive change to the lives of many patients.



Prof Tholene Sodi is a Registered Clinical Psychologist, currently employed as Full Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Limpopo (South Africa). He holds a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of the Witwatersrand, and a PhD (Psychology) from the University of Cape Town. Prof Sodi serves on the Board of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). He is also a member of the (South African) Ministerial Advisory Committee on Mental Health. From 2004 up to 2015, he served the Professional Board for Psychology and the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) in different capacities. For example, between 2010 and 2015 he was vice president of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and chairperson of the Professional Board for Psychology. Prof Sodi has published widely and has presented more than 70 papers at national and international conferences. In 2012 and in 2018, he was awarded a C rating by the National Research Foundation (South Africa). This six-year recognition award is given to scholars with a sustained recent record of productivity in their field and are recognised by their peers as having produced a body of quality work. He has also received a number of awards in recognition of his scholarly achievements. These include: the University of Limpopo (UL) Vice-Chancellor's First Place Award for "Best Established Researcher in the School of Social Sciences" and, the PsySSA award for Mentoring and Developing the Careers/Studies of Students, Psychologists or Colleagues. Prof Sodi's key areas of research interest include: culture and mental illness/health; suicide; behavioural medicine; mental retardation; and, mental health policy.



Dr Tozama Qwebani-Ogunleye's mission is to integrate her passion in research, writing, teaching and leadership in order to advance organisations or institutions conducting scientific research which will impact positively on the socio-economic development of our societies. Her focus research area is on Traditional Medicine and Traditional Knowledge. The main aim behind Dr Qwebani-Ogunleye's research is to create a platform specifically purposed to rigorously evaluate traditional medicines from a scientific point of view. She is the recipient of many accolades including the 2011 DST Women in Science Award, 2016 Mail and Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans, 2018 National Youth Development Award for academic excellence, 2018 TechWomen fellowship from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs which is a platform for emerging women leaders in STEMI and the 2019 Inspiring 50 South Africa award. In 2019 she was chosen to represent young scientists at a Global Young Leadership Workshop and the World Science Forum in Budapest which led to recent (2022) commentary on Remodelling Research Agendas in Nature Reviews Chemistry. In 2021 she was appointed by the Minister of Health as a member of the National Department of Health expert working committee on Traditional Medicine. Dr Qwebani-Ogunleye currently serves as an Executive Committee Member of the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS).



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