



# TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE: PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS ON LEADERSHIP 2007

Premised on the principle that democratic leadership is accountable to the people, the lecture series spearheaded a campaign for open discussion of leadership questions in the run-up to the 2007 election for the ANC presidency.

## Towards a Common Future: Public Conversations on Leadership



Leadership has become the most vexing question of our times. A country that was once celebrated for its leadership now finds itself at a crossroads as different factions of the ruling party vie for its leadership. What compounds matters is that even within the ANC there is no open discussion of leadership succession.

Leadership election is characterized by backroom dealing and horse-trading. The ruling party will thus take this momentous decision without any public participation. And yet, whoever is elected at the party congress in December 2007 is likely to influence the course of the nation's history for the next decade. This limitation is partly a function of the party political system and partly a reflection of a centralized and closed political culture in which the citizenry must passively accept the decisions of the leaders. This does not bode well for the long term health of our democracy.

Leadership succession is not a matter just for the ANC. The opposition Democratic Alliance is also engaged in its own leadership succession processes, and organizations of civil society are just as embroiled in their own leadership succession struggles. Zimbabwe has been in a leadership meltdown for several years now, with dire implications for South Africa, and Southern Africa more broadly.

Whether we are talking about political parties or civic organizations the one underlying principle should be that democratic leadership is one that is accountable to the people. Or as Cornel West puts it: 'intellectual and political leadership is neither elitist nor populist; rather it is democratic, in that each of us stands in public space, without humiliation, to put forward our best vision and views for the sake of the public interest. And these arguments are presented in a space of mutual respect and civic trust.'

## THE SPEAKERS

GLOBALISATION AND AFRICAN LEADERSHIP:  
READINGS FROM *WIZARD OF THE CROW*  
Ngugi wa Thiongo

PARADOXES OF POST-COLONIAL HEROISM:  
THE AFRICAN EXPERIENCE  
Ali Mazrui

TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE:  
CONVERSATIONS ON LEADERSHIP  
Tokyo Sexwale

TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE:  
CONVERSATIONS ON LEADERSHIP  
Angela Davis

THE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE IN ZIMBABWE  
A Panel with Trevor Ncube, Elinor  
Sisulu and Tawanda Mutasah

BLACK INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS AND DEMO-  
CRATIC THOUGHT, FROM FANON TO BIKO  
Achille Mbembe

TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE:  
CONVERSATIONS ON LEADERSHIP  
Zwelinzima Vavi

TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE:  
CONVERSATIONS ON LEADERSHIP  
Saki Macozoma



**BUSINESS DAY**  
NEWS WORTH KNOWING

1 March 2007

I have asked **Ngugi wa Thiong'o** to give the first lecture based on his latest book, *The Wizard of the Crow*. This epic novel is as hilarious as it is instructive about the state of Africa's leadership.

X. Mangcu, *A new struggle for democracy in a country that has lost its voice.*

## Globalisation and African Leadership: Readings from 'Wizard of the Crow'



"You cannot have movement forward without ideas clashing. What we all have to grasp is a democratic state where ideas are allowed to clash. What I have seen in the world is the abuse of language, where words like liberation, democracy and freedom have come to mean their opposite." - Ngugi wa Thiong'o

PRESENTS A NEW LECTURE SERIES

**WHICH WAY NEXT?  
CONVERSATIONS ON  
AFRICAN LEADERSHIP**

SPEAKER NO. 1

**NGUGI WA THIONG'O**

**'GLOBALISATION AND AFRICAN  
LEADERSHIP: READINGS FROM  
WIZARD OF THE CROW'**

This lecture is the first in a new series initiated by Dr. Xolisa Mangcu, Visiting Fellow of The Constitution of Public Intellectual Life Research Project, titled, Which Way Next? Conversations on African Leadership. This is the most important public topic of our times - and shall govern us in the years to come?

Ngugi's thinking is key to an understanding of the debates about leadership in Africa. His lecture on globalisation and African leadership carries forward this conversation and will give South Africans the opportunity to engage Ngugi on his latest work *Wizard of the Crow*.

WHERE

SENATE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SENATE HOUSE,  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND  
15 MARCH 2007 AT 6PM

RSVP ESSENTIAL DUE TO LIMITED SEATING  
CONTACT: LENORE LONGWE  
TEL: (011) 7174674  
EMAIL: Lenore.Longwe@wits.ac.za

FOR FURTHER READING MATERIAL VISIT

**WWW.PUBLIC-CONVERSATIONS.ORG.ZA**

**BUSINESS DAY**  
NEWS WORTH KNOWING

19 April 2007

On another subject, following shortly after Ngugi wa Thiong'o's spellbinding talk on African leadership at the Platform for Public Deliberation, will be a lecture by one of Africa's founding intellectuals, **Ali Mazrui**. Mazrui is perhaps best known for his documentary series Africa — The Triple Heritage, in which he argues that African identity is a fusion of African indigenous culture, Islamic culture and western culture.

X. Mangcu, *Lessons to be learnt from saga of US radio personality's racism*

## Paradoxes of Post-Colonial Herosim: The African Experience



"Outstanding political performance can be judged either by towering effort or by supreme sacrifice. Towering effort in pursuit of worthy goals produces heroes. Readiness to make a supreme sacrifice for great goals sometimes produces martyrs." - Ali Mazrui

THE PLATFORM FOR PUBLIC DELIBERATION PRESENTS:

ENCOUNTERS WITH LEADERSHIP: REFLECTIONS OF A GLOBAL AFRICAN INTELLECTUAL

# ALI MAZRUI

Ali Mazrui is one of the world's most prolific and controversial commentators on Africa. The author of more than thirty books and hundreds of essays, Mazrui has profoundly influenced ideas about Africa among scholars and members of the general public alike. His lecture on leadership in Africa carries forward this conversation and will give South Africans the opportunity to engage Mazrui on his latest thinking.

This lecture is the second in a new series initiated by Dr Xolela Mangcu, Executive Director of the Platform for Public Deliberation and Visiting Fellow of The Constitution of Public Intellectual Life Research Project at Wits University, titled, Which Way Next? Conversations on African Leadership. This is one of the most important public topics of our times – who shall govern us in the years to come?

The lecture is free and open to the public. Seating is unreserved.

Date | 25 April 2007  
Time | 6:00 p.m.  
Venue | Great Hall, University of the Witwatersrand

For more information visit [www.public-conversations.org.za](http://www.public-conversations.org.za) or contact Lenore on (011) 7174674

Platform for Public Deliberation

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND



**BUSINESS DAY**  
NEWS WORTH KNOWING

31 May 2007

"This brings us to the only other declared candidate in this leadership race — **Tokyo Sexwale**. He would have to answer to all of us how his ideas about private sector led growth tally with the ANC's vision of a developmental state. On a personal note, I am delighted that Jacana Press has published *Visions of Black Economic Empowerment* by myself, Gill Marcus, Khehla Shubane and Adrian Hadland with essays by Cyril Ramaphosa, Wendy Luhabe, Moeletsi Mbeki, Duncan Innes, Albie Sachs, Eric Mafuna, Blade Nzimande, Michael Katz, Wendy Lucas-Bull and others.

X. Mangcu, *Revisions and omissions amid the ANC's quaint policy jargon*

## Towards a Common Future: Reflections on African Leadership



"A last word on leadership: The essential ingredient of leadership is courage. Hence the saying: 'the courage of one's convictions'. All of us do have, in one way or another, convictions. But it is when courage fails us that convictions never see the light of day." - Tokyo Sexwale

# TOKYO SEXWALE

## PUBLIC LECTURE TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE: PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS ON LEADERSHIP WITH TOKYO SEXWALE

Leadership has become the most vexing question of our times. The ruling African National Congress is consumed with who will succeed Thabo Mbeki both as president of the party and the country or whether Mbeki will make himself available for another term as ANC president. However, this is against the backdrop of claims that leadership is an internal ANC matter to be decided by its members at its leadership elections in December 2007.

Potential candidates are dissuaded from making themselves available for consideration until they are called upon by the party. Leadership selection becomes a matter of backroom dealing. This closed process prevents the public from participating in the leadership process and at worst is likely to have a chilling effect on leadership development in the ANC and the country. This project is an attempt to promote public deliberation on leadership beyond the confines of party political process. After all, whoever becomes head of the ANC is likely to have a great impact on the collective life of our nation. The Platform has thus invited a number of influential figures - inside and outside the ANC - to engage with the public in a process of collective imagination about our future. ANC potential presidential candidate Tokyo Sexwale will launch this series at the Wits University Great Hall at 6pm on 7 June 2007.

RSVP is essential  
Please use RSVP website form:  
[www.public-conversations.org.za](http://www.public-conversations.org.za)

7 June 2007  
6.00 p.m.

Great Hall,  
University of the Witwatersrand

The lecture is open to the public  
Queries: 0111 717 4674



Platform  
for  
Public  
Deliberation





“Leaders, collective leaders, individual leaders, have to acquire **the capacity to think critically** about institutions, about vocabulary, and can take nothing for granted”



“Biko is close to Fanon in the sense that he advocates a road to freedom and liberation that takes **politics and power as a curative instance** - that the cure of the soul is the first step towards healing oneself in order to be able to relate to the other”



“We lack the leadership in Zimbabwe that is passionate about the national cause; that should have created a constituency ten years ago that would be able to engage **in active dialogue with Mugabe’s government**”



The leadership composition of the ANC at the national level is no longer reflective of its constituency. What does the working class do about that... **It takes measures**”



“If we want to make a useful contribution to the debate about the leadership of the ANC then we have to understand what the ANC sees as its **historical task**. If we understand what the ANC sees as its historical task we will, hopefully, gain an understanding of why it makes certain policy choices and why it chooses and evaluates its leaders the way it does.”

