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

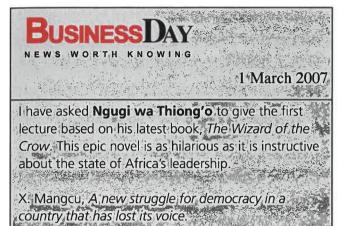
A Panel with Trevor Ncube, Elinor Sisulu and Tawanda Mutasah

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

TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE: CONVERSATIONS ON LEADERSHIP Zwelinzima Vavi

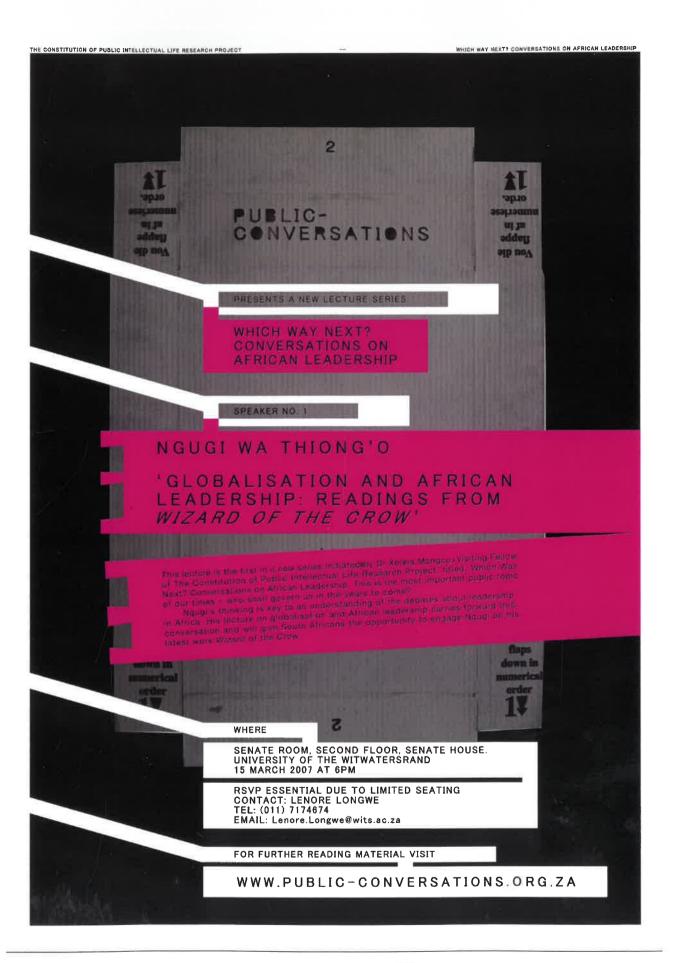
TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE: CONVERSATIONS ON LEADERSHIP Saki Macozoma

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



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Paradoxes of Post-Colonial Herosim: The African Experience



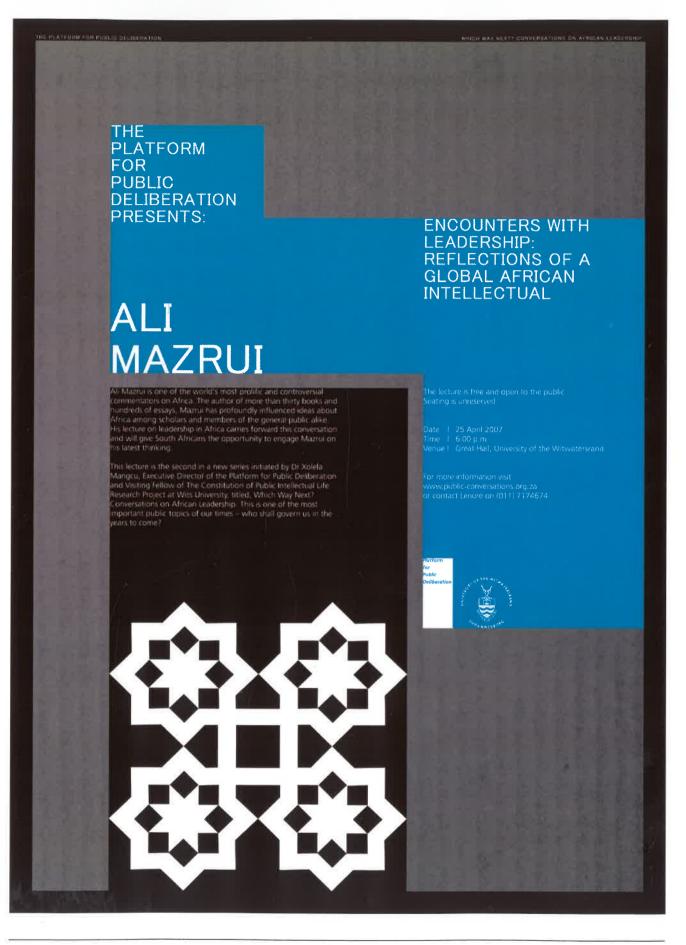
19 April 2007

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

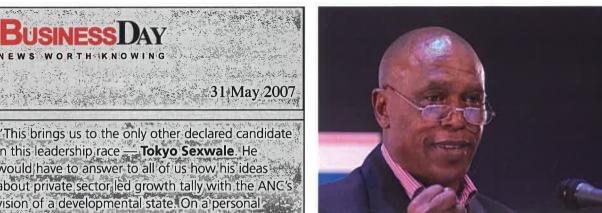


"Outstanding political performance can be judged either by towering effort or by supreme sacrifice. Towering effort in pursuit of worthy goals produces heroes. Readiness to make a supreme sacrifice for great goals sometimes produces martyrs." - Ali Mazrui



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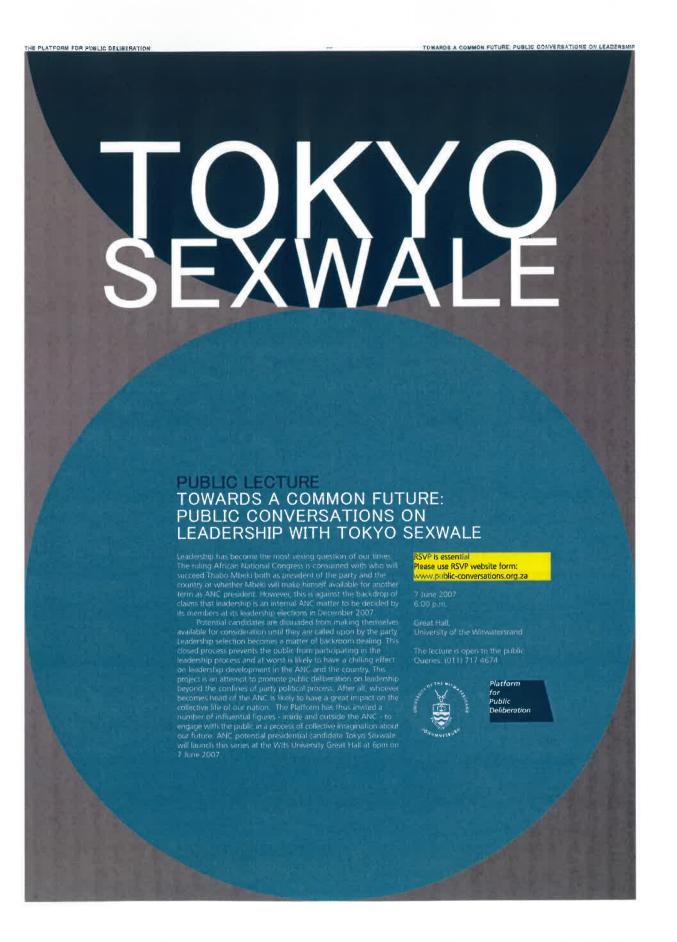
Towards a Common Future: Reflections on African Leadership



"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

"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, Iram delighted that Jacana Press has published Visions of Black Economic Empowerment by myself, Gill Marcus, Khehla Shubane and Adrian Hadland with essays by Cyrill 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



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

Trevor Ncube



"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"





"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"



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 it's leaders the way it does."

