



**1 December 2022**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chancellors' Consultative Colloquium on the revised Language Policy Framework begins today**

Public universities' executive leadership and other stakeholders will descend on the University of Pretoria's (UP's) Senate Hall in Hatfield this afternoon for a start to a two-day dialogue on the revised [Language Policy Framework for Public Higher Education Institutions](#).

The hybrid Colloquium is being hosted by Universities South Africa's (USAf's) Community of Practice for the Teaching and Learning of African Languages (CoPAL) in partnership with UP's Vice-Chancellor and Principal. Themed **Taking the Conversation Forward**, the dialogue is aimed at unlocking the resources required to fully implement multilingualism in higher education, in keeping with the spirit and intent of the revised Language Policy Framework for Public Higher Education Institutions. This Policy Framework came into effect in January 2022.

Professor Tawana Kupe, UP's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, will welcome the delegates alongside USAf's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Phethiwe Matutu. Emeritus Professor Kwesi Kwaah Prah, founder and former Director of the Cape Town-based Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society will deliver the keynote address. Professor Prah has worked extensively across Africa, Europe and Asia researching and teaching Sociology and Anthropology. His published books include *Beyond the Color Line* (1998); *African Languages for the Mass Education of Africans* (1995) and *Mother Tongue for Scientific and Technological Development in Africa* (2000).

This Colloquium marks the second dialogue of Vice-Chancellors of South Africa's 26 public universities in a three-part series that started at Stellenbosch University in September 2021. The inaugural conversation unpacked the Language Policy's philosophical framework and implications and shone a spotlight on the broader systemic issues affecting and foregrounding multilingualism within the context of the broader transformation and decolonisation agenda in higher education.

The Policy Framework aims to elevate the status and roles of previously marginalised South African languages to foster inclusivity and social cohesion. This is achieved through the development and strengthening of indigenous languages as languages of scholarship, teaching, learning and communication at South Africa's 26 public universities. The Policy Framework provides guidelines for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of institutional language policies, and for the development of conducive institutional cultures enabling indigenous languages to thrive.

According to Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, Chairperson of USAf's Teaching and Learning Strategy Group (TSLG) and Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Cape Town, indigenous language decisions implemented across the system would be about "increasing students' linguistic repertoires, which can be advantageous for academic performance."

The Colloquium will gather Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors responsible for teaching and learning, language experts convening under the auspices of CoPAL and other African Languages scholars and researchers, senior representatives of the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Pan South African Language Board, as well as student representatives.

**To join the conversation online:** <https://universityofpretoria.live/vice-chancellors-colloquium-timer/>

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