

18 March 2013

## SA's land issues to take centre stage at high-profile conference at UCT

**Minister Gugile Nkwinti and Dr Mamphela Ramphele to address opening plenary on Sunday, 24 March 2013, 16h00-18h00, Leslie Social Sciences Building, UCT**

Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Gugile Nkwinti and social activist and businesswoman Dr Mamphela Ramphele will address the opening of the Land Divided conference on Sunday, 24 March, at 16h00 at the Leslie Social Sciences Building on Upper Campus of the University of Cape Town.

The *Land Divided: Land and South African Society in 2013, in Comparative Perspective* conference will take place from 24 to 27 March 2013, hosted by UCT, the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and Stellenbosch University (SU).

This year marks the centenary of the controversial 1913 Land Act. Just as it was 100 years ago, land in South Africa remains a contentious issue. The conference presents an opportunity for researchers, civil society and the state to reflect on the significance of the land question in South African society.

With more than 180 papers by leading scholars and young researchers, this conference will give voice to a range of understandings about land. There will also be a number of representatives from rural community-based organisations including some that have first-hand experience of fighting forced removals.

### **Key issues to be discussed at the conference:**

- Exploring key changes in land and agricultural policy in Southern Africa from 1913 to today. Professor Henry Bernstein of the University of London and Professor Mohammad Karaan, Dean of the Faculty of AgriSciences at SU and a member of the National Planning Commission, will explore the dynamics of change in South African agriculture over the last century, situating the current land reform and agrarian challenges in a global context;
- Professor Ruth Hall will review the 'usual suspects' in land reform debates, including the 30% agricultural land redistribution target and the willing buyer/willing seller principle;
- Executive Director of the African Institute for Agrarian Studies, Professor Sam Moyo will explore Zimbabwe's redistributive land reform and agrarian reforms since 2000;
- Authors such as Dr Jacob Dlamini (*Native Nostalgia*), Professor Antjie Krog (*Country of My Skull*), Professor Robert Muponde (*Manning the Nation*), and Professor Cheryl Walker (*Land, Memory, Reconstruction and Justice*) will examine the complexities of identity, rights and belonging, from multiple points of view, including women and gender, masculinity and fatherhood, memory, guilt, sorrow and joy; and
- Professor Jacklyn Cock of Wits University, Professor Maano Ramutsindela, Professor Timm Hoffman of UCT and Professor Phil Woodhouse of the University of Manchester will
- consider how we can incorporate a human rights perspective, the need for redress alongside the urgent need to address the global environmental challenges confronting us.



***ENDS***

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**Kemantha Govender**

Media Liaison Officer

Communication and Marketing Department

University of Cape Town

Welgelegen, Upper Chapel Road Extension

Rondebosch

Tel: (021) 650 5672 Fax (021) 650 5628

Cell: 084 737 6522

E-mail: [kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za](mailto:kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za)

Website: [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)