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## **24 exceptional Africans to participate in UCT leadership programme**

### **Trevor Manuel to speak at opening dinner in the Archie Mafeje Room, Bremner building, UCT on Sunday, 8 March 2015**

A group of 24 exceptional young Africans from five countries are to participate in the inaugural *Leading in Public Life* young African leaders programme at the University of Cape Town over the next two weeks.

Media practitioners, business entrepreneurs, social justice activists, public health advocates and Pan African public servants are amongst the participants from Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia who were selected following a competitive nomination process.

Building Bridges Programme Director, Dr Marianne Camerer, said: "Leadership is often the missing ingredient in effectively tackling some of the continent's most intractable problems.

"We are bringing together talented young professionals, who are already leaders in their communities, and exposing them to diverse themes and speakers that focus on the challenges of public leadership."

The intense, two-week residential short course, hosted by the Building Bridges programme at the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP) in the Faculty of Commerce at UCT, runs from 8 – 20 March 2015. Early- to mid-career participants will be exposed to a range of topics, experiential learning outings and engagements with influential African speakers including Senior Fellow advising the Building Bridges team and former Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, Zimbabwean human rights lawyer, Beatrice Mtetwa, UCT Chancellor, Graca Machel and cartoonist, Zapiro.

Development of young African leaders is a core focus area of the Building Bridges Annual Programme Cycle, which includes a number of meetings and events and is this year currently focused on the political economy of African economic integration.

Dr Camerer said: "The programme provides a unique 'time-out' opportunity to connect like-minded peers across sectors across the continent and nudges the impressive career paths and impacts of these young leaders to the next level."

"It is inspiring to interact with the next generation of leadership," said GSDPP director, Professor Alan Hirsch.

"Our school's focus on strategic leadership for Africa's public sector recognizes the convening power that universities such as UCT have in bringing people together for an intensive and high-level leadership training experience. We are building a strong network of progressive African public leaders around our School and around UCT."

Participants will also work with an executive coach for a number of months following the fellowship, with the intention of creating an ongoing relationship with UCT and an alumni network amongst participants.

The opening dinner at 18h00 for 18h30 at the Archie Mafeje room, Bremner building at UCT will be open to the media. Please RSVP to Building Bridges Programme Director, Dr Marianne Camerer at [Marianne.camerer@uct.ac.za](mailto:Marianne.camerer@uct.ac.za) or 083 266 8316.

### **Background: promoting strategic leadership for the public sector**

The GSDPP works to promote strategic public leadership in Africa by providing professional and academic training to senior public officials and those engaged in the public policy arena.

Each theme of the programme is designed around a few topics using practical tools and group exercises to ensure a highly interactive and rewarding experience where the "knowledge in the room" will allow participants to learn from each other and also to be stretched as leaders, prepared to excel even more within their areas of influence. Participants will also undertake practical skills development such as training on social media and presentation skills as well as a writing workshop facilitated by award winning author and *Leading in Public Life* facilitator, Dr Maria Phalime (author of *Postmortem: The doctor who walked away*).

Leading in Public Life is the name of the leadership development intervention of the Building Bridges Programme at the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP). The goal is to build a strong cohort of innovative and courageous African leaders committed to public service, with vision, ethics and the necessary skills to bring about needed change within their sphere of influence. The fully-funded two week residential short course combines quality inputs from African thought leaders on key issues, the development of core leadership skills, and the practical application of concepts and tools in real-life situations.

The public leadership model of *Leading in Public Life* is premised on four propositions:

1. Agency: Capacity to be an effective and courageous ethical agent
2. Innovation: Capacity to drive change and innovation
3. Collaboration: Capacity to leverage networks and alliances for collaborative actions
4. Integration: Fostering African solutions for African and global problems

For more information on the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, please contact Professor Alan Hirsch at [alan.hirsch@uct.ac.za](mailto:alan.hirsch@uct.ac.za) or at 082 773 6933.

**END**

**Issued by: Building Bridges Programme Director**

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