



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

30 August 2019

First-ever book festival on the Cape Flats

Award winning poet and University of Cape Town (UCT) senior lecturer Athol Williams is part of the organising committee of the first-ever book festival on the Cape Flats taking place this weekend, from 31 August – 1 September.

The [Cape Flats Book Festival](#) is hosted by the literacy non-profit organisation [Read to Rise](#) of which Williams is founder and chairperson. The organisation hopes to create excitement on the Cape Flats about reading through positive engagement with books.

Many a time the only stories we hear from the Cape Flats are those involving guns and violence but this festival is one of positivity, change and the commitment of a few to change the status quo. Research has shown that reading for pleasure empowers us to make positive life changes.

According to Williams, "A society like ours that is flooded with negativity needs acts of hope. This is how I see the festival. We are planting a tree in a desert, believing that it will flourish and become a lush forest of inspiration and creativity. This is what hope can do."

In one of the sessions Williams himself will be reading and discussing poetry. UCT's Professor Barbara Boswell and Maurisa Moloto will also be participating with Professor Boswell reading from and discussing her book 'Grace: A Novel', and Moloto speaking on how to encourage language and communication through literacy and how to motivate learners with challenges.

[Read to Rise](#) is a non-profit organisation committed to promoting youth literacy in schools in South Africa's under-resourced communities. As the name indicates, they firmly believe that children need to *read* in order to *rise* in their personal development and contribution to society.

[Read the programme.](#)

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Aamirah Sunday

Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 5427
Cell: (076) 947 6071

Email: aamirah.sunday@uct.ac.za

Website: www.uct.ac.za