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## **UCT to host lecture by International Court of Justice's Judge Tladi**

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) 58th TB Davie Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Judge Dire Tladi, who was recently sworn in as judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague.

Scheduled for Tuesday, 1 October 2024, the lecture will be hosted by UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mosa Moshabela in conjunction with the Academic Freedom Committee (AFC)'s acting Chair, Professor Rudzani Muloiwa.

The lecture will be held at the Neuroscience Institute Auditorium, E-Floor, New Main Building, Groote Schuur Hospital at 18:00. It is titled "The Narrative as the Enemy of Freedom of Thought".

Professor Moshabela said: "There are few things more powerful in international relations than "the narrative", or the generally accepted truth. Whether we are talking about climate change, geopolitics or global health, people are often vilified for expressing a view different from that of the narrative. This vilification is also sometimes directed at judges in the international system.

"On the one hand, these narratives are often said to be based on humanitarian values and the search for a better world. At the same time, not only do narratives imperil freedom of thought and expression, they also undermine critical thinking."

Judge Tladi will address this subject at the 58th instalment of the TB Davie Memorial Lecture.

Prior to being sworn in as judge in the ICJ in February 2024, Judge Tladi was professor of international law and SARChI Chair in International Constitutional Law at the University of Pretoria. He was previously chair and member of the United Nations International Law Commission and its special rapporteur on Peremptory Norms of General International Law

(*Jus Cogens*). He also served as president of the South African branch of the International Law Association.

Judge Tladi also served as a special adviser to the South African Minister of International Relations. He was the legal adviser to the South African Ministry of International Affairs and the legal counsel to the South African Mission to the United Nations in New York. He has published widely in international law. He is also the author of two works of fiction.

“We are looking forward to hearing from Judge Tladi at the 58th TB Davie Memorial Lecture, which was established by UCT students to commemorate the work of Thomas Benjamin Davie, vice-chancellor of the university from 1948 to 1955 and a defender of the principles of academic freedom,” said Professor Moshabela.

Organised by the AFC, the lecture is delivered by distinguished speakers who are invited to speak on a theme related to academic and human freedom.

- [Please RSVP to attend the lecture in person or virtually.](#)

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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