

Concept Note

Africanisation-Decolonisation Indaba 2024

An event hosted by the Africanisation-Decolonisation Working Group (ADWG) and the Transdisciplinary Institute for Mandela Studies (TIMS) in collaboration with the University Faculties as part of the University's Africanisation-Decolonisation Programme (AfDeP)

7 – 8 March 2024

Ocean Sciences Campus

Since its re-introduction into South African Higher Education discourse by the #FeesMustFall student movement, decolonisation has emerged as both a transformative imperative and a contested concept within universities. Framed by Mandela University's name change in 2017 and its **Vision 2030 Strategy** that envisions a 'dynamic African university', the question emerges: What does (and can) decolonisation look like at Mandela, and what does (and can) it look like *through* the lens of *Mandela*, the social figure? The same framing and questions apply to our strategic imperative of Africanisation.

The Africanisation-Decolonisation Indaba is an open invitation for us to collectively grapple with these questions within our University. The indaba also beckons us to imagine a *Mandela Institutional Identity* along decolonisation and Africanisation pathways across our knowledges, disciplines, pedagogies and institutional practices.

Provocations to these questions are already underway through activities and ventures within our faculties and beyond. They provide a rich platform for a dynamic event that offers space for engagement with projects, programmes, curriculum revitalisations, pedagogical innovations, and other interventions. The Indaba will take the form of a university 'get-together' where different modes are encouraged – visual and artistic expression, research and other interactions, presentations, videos, exhibitions, dialogues, panels, workshops, etc. – as a basis for sharing, learning, contestation and communal growth.

A multiplicity of conceptions on Africanisation and Decolonisation are at play in the higher education sector globally. Without putting any definitional framework forward, the article, '[Decolonising the University: New Directions](#)' by Achille Mbembe and the [Decolonizing Science Toolkit](#) may be useful.