

A CALL TO EMBRACE THE YOUTH AS THEY REPRESENT SOUTH AFRICA'S ASPIRATION - DR VUYANI BOOI.



***Caption:** From Left Nelson Mandela Museum CEO Dr. Vuyani Booi and UJ Council Deputy Chair Dr. Yolanda Ndema*

University of Johannesburg: Heritage practitioners, policymakers, and Academics gathered at the University of Johannesburg to deliberate on a mechanism that needs to be put in place to preserve, protect, promote, nurture, and share our collective experiences with the youth about the significance, value, and meaning of embracing African liberation heritage Southern Africa. The event took place on the 28th and 29th of October 2024.

The event was organized under the banner of the African Liberation Heritage Indaba which is the flagship of the Nelson Mandela Museum (NMM), in partnership with the University of Johannesburg, the National Liberation Heritage Institute of South Africa (NaLHISA), and the Leading Like Mandela Institute. The theme was **“30 Years of Freedom: What Has Become of Heritage Assets and Repatriation in South Africa.”**

In her welcoming remarks, the Council Deputy Chair Dr. Yondela Ndema from the University of Johannesburg appreciated the existing partnership between the University of Johannesburg, the Nelson Mandela Museum, **a cultural institution that is a custodian of the Nelson Mandela legacy**, and the Nelson Mandela University which has also made its mission to **Champion the fundamental Values** that have exemplified the life of this global figure.

“Gathered here today and tomorrow are academics, policymakers, heritage practitioners, students, veterans of the liberation struggle, and activists. Their discussions will focus on the following topics, The **Memory of the liberation struggle**; how to preserve it, and what is the relevance of this to South Africa of today, the engagement on **apartheid-era Monuments public discourse**; What became of the proposals to have monuments that best epitomise South Africa's democratic and inclusive values.

“How do we pay homage to the anti-apartheid heroes that fell outside of our borders, many years ago? And lastly, how do we sustain our heritage assets? They require financial resources to maintain. “Do we then commercialize them”? If the answer is yes, is it that road the Heritage Value?

“All these questions and themes were discussed over a period of two days were important, and there is no better time than the present to discuss them. Our democracy is 30 years old. We continue to battle numerous challenges as we seek to become a caring and responsible and inclusive society. At times, these appear daunting. We need to pause and reflect on how far we have travelled since April 27, 1994, the strides we have made, and the future that lies ahead of us. This African Liberation Heritage Indaba will provide us with the opportunity to not only reflect on our journey but also to remind ourselves of who we are and where we come from,” said Dr Ndema.

The CEO of Nelson Mandela Museum, Dr. Vuyani Gweki Booi emphasized the importance of stakeholder relations and the expected role of the Nelson Mandela Museum in the transformation and development of the Heritage landscape in South Africa.

“As a Legacy project, we are doing our utmost best to live and breathe the values of Nelson Mandela. The Nelson Mandela Museum is expected to lead and play a significant role in the transformation of heritage in this country and we will always strive to promote and preserve Nelson Mandela Legacy nationally and internationally. We always view ourselves as a hub of Knowledge production and development. We will continue to embrace the Youth in our programs as they represent South Africa's aspiration,” said Dr Vuyani Booi.

For more information about the third edition of the African Liberation Heritage Indaba click on the links mentioned below (Facebook live streams and NMM Podcast)

[African Liberation Heritage Indaba 2024, Day 1.](#)

African Liberation Heritage Indaba First Session: <https://fb.watch/vJMhohJ6Re/>

African Liberation Heritage Indaba 2nd Session: <https://fb.watch/vJMOPbISak/>

Day 1 Podcast, 1st Episode : <https://fb.watch/vJMooOEdLa/>

Day 1 Podcast, 2nd Episode: <https://fb.watch/vJMx0Dk4mi/>

Day 1 Podcast, 3rd Episode: <https://fb.watch/vJMC2i2vIA/>

African Liberation Heritage Indaba 2024, Day 2.

African Liberation Heritage Indaba First Session: <https://fb.watch/vJNw2GKRpj/>

African Liberation Heritage Indaba 2nd Session: https://fb.watch/vJNyHln_gY/

Day 2 Podcast, 1st Episode: <https://fb.watch/vJNC3gbxzz/>

Day 2 Podcast, 2nd Episode: <https://fb.watch/vJNE3kqaAd/>

Day 2 Podcast, 3rd Episode: <https://fb.watch/vJNFzE-hdk/>

Day 2 Podcast, 4th Episode: https://fb.watch/vJNHEm_bFo/