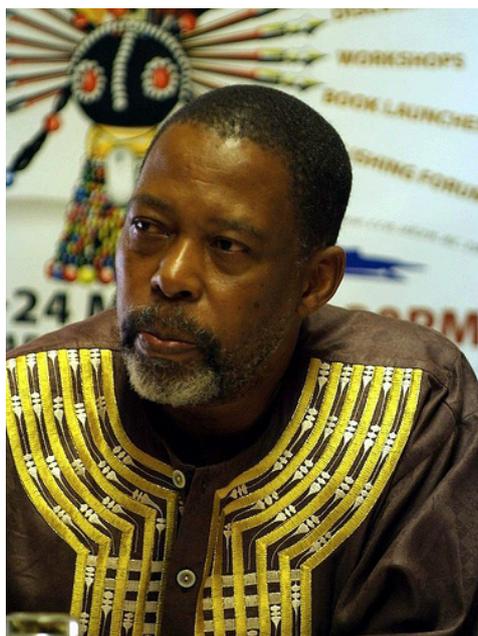


Professor Mbulelo Vizikhungo Mzamane (1948 – 2014)



Distinguished academic, poet and storyteller Professor Mbulelo Vizikhungo Mzamane sadly passed away on Sunday following a brief illness.

A former Vice-Chancellor and Rector at University of Fort Hare, Mbulelo Mzamane shared his leadership and literary passion with the University of KwaZulu Natal as **Director of the Centre for African Literary Studies** on the Pietermaritzburg Campus.

Mbulelo Mzamane was born in 1948 in Brakpan, Johannesburg and attended High School in Swaziland where he was taught by distinguished writer and journalist, Can Themba. His long and distinguished academic career has seen him gain a Masters in English from the University of Botswana and a Doctorate in English Literature from the University of Sheffield (England). He held a number of academic positions - including the University of South Australia, Yale University and Boston University before returning to South Africa in 1993.

Mzamane's academic work has focused on issues confronting the populations of Africa in the post-colonial era. His publications include *Images of the Voiceless: Essays on Popular Culture and the Media* (1984), *Multicultural Education in Colleges and Universities: A Transdisciplinary Approach* (1988), and *Race, Ethnicity and the American Context*. Mzamane is also widely known as a writer of fiction and poetry, and his collections of short stories are especially noteworthy. Much of his fiction work was written whilst in exile and subsequently banned in apartheid South Africa. Manuscripts in the works include: *Of Minks and Men and Other Stories of Our Transition* and *The Mbeki Turn: South Africa after Mandela*.

In 2012 Mbulelo Mzamane was recipient of the African Literature Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, The Fonlon-Nicholls Award, for creative writing, scholarship and human rights advocacy.

Mbulelo Mzamane has chaired and served on numerous boards, including: the African Arts Fund (affiliated to the U.N. Centre against Apartheid) and the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism (affiliated to the University of the Witwatersrand). He was also the Project Leader and General Editor of the Encyclopedia of South African Arts Culture and Heritage (ESAACH).

The staff of the Centre for African Literary Studies and the wider University community extends heartfelt sympathies to his family, friends and students. Mbulelo Mzamane will be remembered for his abundant character, generosity, determination and wisdom.