



LUTHULI MUSEUM

3233 Nokukhanya Luthuli Street, Groutville, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

P.O. Box, 1869, Stanger, 4450

tel: (032) 559 6822 • fax: (032) 559 6806

luthulimuseum@luthulimuseum.org.za • www.luthulimuseum.org.za

Press Release
For Immediate Release

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Budding writers as well as published authors of the North Coast and beyond will have the chance to interact with one of the country's finest literary giants Professor Njabulo Ndebele when he and two other writers from Zambia and Nigeria visit the Luthuli Museum this Wednesday March 16.

Presented by the Centre for Creative Arts (University of KwaZulu-Natal) their visit will be part of the community outreach programmes that characterize the annual 'Time of the Writer' Festival. The festival runs until March 19 at the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre but includes school visits, a prison writing workshop and a range of seminars and book launches at venues in and around Durban.

Professor Njabulo is a poet, novelist and essayist whose works include *Fools and Other Stories*, *The Cry of Winnie Mandela* and *South Africa Literature and Culture: Rediscovery of the Ordinary*. His latest book is *Fine Lines from the Box: Further Thoughts about Our Country*. He serves on the board of the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Mandela Rhodes Foundation.

He is the Vice Chancellor and Principal at the University of Cape Town and chairs the Southern African Regional Universities' Association.

He will be joined by Ellen Banda-Aaku from Zambia and Biyi Bandele from Nigeria.

Winner of the Penguin Prize for African Writers in the fiction category, Ellen Banda-Aaku was born in the UK to Zambian parents. The middle child of three she grew up in Zambia and has lived and worked in Ghana, South Africa, the UK and Zambia. She has a BA in Public Administration from the University of Zambia, an MA in Financial Management with Social Policy from Middlesex University and an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Cape Town. Ellen has worked as a tutor in literary studies and as a writing consultant with the University of Cape Town. She's currently based in the UK where she lives with her two children.

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Council members: S. L. Van Damme (Chairperson), J. Sithole, (Deputy Chairperson), Prof. B. Goba, Dr. A. N. Luthuli
M. A. Luthuli, N. Mahomed, Prof. T. Oosthuizen, N. Solani, N. Yokwana

Nigerian born Biyi Bandele has written several plays, and worked with the Royal Court Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as writing radio drama and screenplays for television. He was a Judith E. Wilson Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge from 2000-2002, and Royal Literary Fund Resident Playwright at Bush Theatre from 2002-2003.

His plays include: *Rain; Marching for Fausa; Resurrections in the Season of the Longest Drought; Two Horsemen*, selected as Best New Play at the 1994 London New Plays Festival; *Death Catches the Hunter* and *Me and the Boys. Brixton Stories*, his stage adaptation of his own novel *The Street*, premiered in 2001, and was published in one volume with his play, *Happy Birthday Mister Deka*, which premiered in 1999.

Biyi Bandele has also written five novels and in 1997 he adapted Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* for the stage and in 1999 wrote a new adaptation of Aphra Benn's *Oroonoko*, produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Learners and members of the public will be able to hear first- hand these authors narrate excerpts from their novels and be able to interact with them.

The programme starts at 10am and ends at 12noon. For further information contact Luthuli Museum Education Officer Clinton Taylor.

ENDS

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