



The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf),
in collaboration with the Botswana Academy of Science (BAS),
the Kingdom of Eswatini Academy of Science (KEAS), and the
Lesotho Academy of Science and Technology (LAST)
cordially invite you to a discussion session on:

Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Mental Health Care and Policy: Bridging the Gap in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa

Date: 4 December 2023
Time: 09:00 to 12:30
Venue: CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria
RSVP: [Click here](#) to register

BACKGROUND

The development of comprehensive mental health policies that adequately address the role of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and their significance in mental health treatment remains a notable challenge in Africa. Current policies often lack a holistic approach to address Mental, Neurological, and Substance use (MNS) disorders, for instance, in Africa, Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs) play a pivotal role in public health management often leading the way in healthcare practices, however, the role is not well appreciated in policies.

The national academies of science from South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and the Kingdom of Eswatini will jointly host a workshop on the sidelines of Science Forum South Africa 2023 to explore the intersection of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and mental health care and policy in four countries within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Session Objectives:

- To deliberate on the role of Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs) in mental health care and contributions to holistic healing practices.
- To explore the incorporation of THPs and indigenous practices into national policies pertaining to mental health care and acceptance within the broader healthcare community and to identify opportunities for their meaningful integration.
- To establish a platform for mental health role players within the SADC region to share experiences, identify common ground, and address gaps in mental health legislation and policies.

Remember to register for the Science Forum South Africa to attend this, and other events

