



Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
 in partnership with the Lesotho Academy of Science and Technology (LAST),
 the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) and
 the Lesotho Young Academy of Science (LesYAS)
 invite you to a webinar to celebrate Africa Day 2024.

Transforming Africa's Education System through Education 4.0

Date: 24 May 2024
Time: 10:00-12:00 (SAST)
Venue: Zoom
RSVP : [Click here to register](#)

BACKGROUND

Science academies in Africa play a significant role in contributing science evidence to support policy development and implementation across service delivery domains, including education. It is on this basis that the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in partnership with the Lesotho Academy of Science and Technology (LAST), the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) and the Lesotho Young Academy of Science (LesYAS), will jointly host a webinar in celebration of Africa day on May 24, 2024.

The AU theme for Africa Day 2024 is

“Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa.

The webinar will focus on advancing Africa's STI4SDGs priorities.

Facilitator and Moderator: Dr Avela Majavu, Executive Committee Member, SAYAS

10:00 – 10:15	OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Ntoi Rapapa, Minister, Ministry of Education and Training • Prof Brij Maharaj, School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), ASSAf Member
10:15 – 11:30	PANEL DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Makhamisa Senekane, an experienced researcher with a wealth of knowledge in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in both industry and academia and a member of LAST • Dr Mohau Mateyisi, Physicist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Co-Chair Research of LesYAS • Ms Nangamso Matsetse, Global Head of Foundational Learning at Teach For All • Prof Moeketsi Mosia, Ass. Professor of Mathematics Education and holds the ETDP-SETA Research Chair in Mathematics Education at the University of the Free State, Faculty of Education and member of SAYAS • Prof Marissa Rollnick, Professor Emeritus in Science Education, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), ASSAf Member 	
11:30 – 11:55	ENGAGEMENT: Q AND A	
11:55 – 12:00	CLOSING REMARKS	Mr Kanono Ramashamole , Principal Secretary, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Information, Communications, Science, Technology and Innovation

BIOGRAPHIES



Dr Avela Majavu holds a PhD in Chemistry from Nelson Mandela University and a certificate in Science Communication from Stellenbosch University. She is currently working at Sibanye Stillwater Precious Metal Refinery as a Research and Development Chemist and was awarded as Rock Star Highest Performer in April 2021. She is a Co-founder and 1st Deputy President of the South African Associations of PhDs. She currently serves on the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) Executive Committee 2023/ 2024. She was recently awarded as Inspiring Fifty Africa Winner in Women in Tech 2023 "Most Inspiring Women in Technology 2023 Edition" and received a Chairperson Special Recognition Award winner 2023 as Chemical Science by the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions. She participated in the Women in Mining South Africa Subcommittee and was the Black Women in Science Fellowship Coordinator in 2022/ 2023. She was part of the 50 BRICS Young Scientist Forum 2023 to represent South Africa 2023 and represented South the country at the 20th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology in Society Forum (STS) in Kyoto, Japan. She is an Inspiring 50 South African Women in STEM 2021 winner.



Prof Brij Maharaj is a geographer in the School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences at UKZN. He is a B-rated NRF researcher, member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, and former President of the Society of South African Geographers. He has received widespread international recognition for his research on urban politics, mega-events, segregation, local economic development, xenophobia and human rights, migration and diasporas, religion, philanthropy and development, and has published over 150 peer reviewed papers in renowned journals such as Urban Studies, International Journal of Urban and Regional Studies, Political Geography, Urban Geography, Antipode, Polity and Space, Geoforum, Migration and Development, Local Economy, and GeoJournal, as well as five co-edited book collections. He has graduated 60 Masters and Ph.D. candidates and is a regular media commentator on topical issues as part of his commitment to public intellectualism. He is a member of the history committee of the 1860 Heritage Centre, Derby Street, Durban.



Dr Mohau Mateyisi is a theoretical physicist with a focus on understanding atmospheric processes in the southern hemisphere, particularly the factors that drive climate extremes using numerical model simulations. At the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, he leads efforts to enhance seamless climate prediction systems through climate modeling, development of digital climate services pipelines, and information dissemination platforms. He also applies climate model outputs to support assessments of climate change impacts on key sectors in Southern Africa. Dr Mateyisi has led multiple research projects on climate change adaptation and has co-authored numerous journal articles and chapters on the impacts of climate change in Southern Africa. He also a Co-Chair Research of LesYAS



Ms Nangamso Matsetse is the Global Head of Foundational Learning at Teach For All, where she spearheads the FLN initiative, supporting Sub-Saharan Africa network partners in implementing evidence-based strategies to enhance student outcomes. Before this role, Nangamso held different positions at Funda Wandu, ranging from Head of Literacy Workbook Development to CEO. With a background deeply rooted in literacy learning, teaching resource conceptualization, and early grade assessment, Nangamso is passionate about understanding systems reform and cultivating the next generation of highly competent FLN leadership workforce.



Prof Moeketsi Mosia is an associate professor of Mathematics Education and holds the ETDP-SETA Research Chair in Mathematics Education at the University of the Free State, Faculty of Education. He is also a member of SAYAS and before joining UFS, he was the Director of the Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Programme Development at Sol Plaatje University. Prof Mosia's research focuses on utilising large-scale research, data analytics, and machine learning to enhance educational outcomes. His latest project as the ETDP-SETA Research Chair revolves around utilising extensive data sets to explore whether mathematics can predict student success in fields associated with to Mathematical Sciences in higher education.



Prof Marissa Rollnick is Professor Emeritus in Science Education at Wits University and is a B2 rated researcher with the NRF. With a doctorate from Wits University, she is a recognized specialist in academic development and science education. Throughout her distinguished career, she has held diverse roles, including teacher, teacher educator, lecturer, and professor in chemistry education. Presently, Marissa Rollnick is actively involved in consulting work for several other universities. Her research areas focus on language in science education, student access to science in higher education, and pedagogical content knowledge. She has authored over 70 refereed publications and graduated more than 20 PhD students. Furthermore, Marissa has been the recipient of several prestigious awards, one of which includes the "Distinguished Contribution to Research Award" from NARST in the USA, highlighting her immense contributions to the field of science education. Recognized as a prominent figure, Marissa Rollnick was recently honoured as an inspirational woman in STEM by Taylor and Francis.



Dr Makhamsa Senekane is an experienced researcher with a wealth of knowledge in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in both industry and academia and a member of LAST. He earned his Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics (B.Eng Electronics) from the National University of Lesotho in 2007 and his Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (MSc.Eng Electrical) from the University of Cape Town in 2011. Additionally, he received his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Physics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2017. His research interests include data science, data security, data privacy, artificial intelligence (machine learning and natural language processing), and quantum information processing (quantum cryptography, quantum computing, and quantum machine learning).