

CoE-MaSS weekly seminar series

THE DST-NRF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICAL AND
STATISTICAL SCIENCES (CoE-MaSS) WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT
A SEMINAR BY

Prof Loyiso Nongxa

(CMACS, Wits; Chairman of the NRF and TENET Boards)

*“Mathematics without borders:
Future of South African Mathematics and Statistics”*

Friday, 9 October 2015
10h30-11h30



Broadcast live from:

Videoconferencing Facility, 1st Floor
Mathematical Sciences Building, Wits West Campus

How to connect to this seminar remotely:

You can connect remotely via Vidyo to this research seminar by clicking on this link:
<http://wits-vc.tenet.ac.za/flex.html?roomdirect.html&key=y0SSOwFsvsidbzg4qFdWXvvQtyl>
and downloading the Vidyo software before the seminar.

**You must please join in the virtual venue (called “CoE Seminar Room (Wits)” on Vidyo)
strictly between 10h00-10h15. No latecomers will be added.**

Important videoconferencing netiquette:

Once the seminar commences, please mute your own microphone so that there is no feedback from your side into the virtual room. During the Q&A slot you can then unmute your microphone if you have a question to ask the speaker.

Title:

Mathematics without borders: Future of South African Mathematics and Statistics

Presenter:

Prof Loyiso Nongxa; Centre for Mathematical and Computational Sciences (CMACS), Faculty of Science, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg; loyiso.nongxa@wits.ac.za

Abstract:

"Research in the mathematical sciences in South Africa suffers isolation at many levels. The inward institution-oriented approach in the mathematical sciences needs to be transformed into a national approach. There is geographic isolation from international centres of research; there is geographical isolation of institutions within the country; there is academic isolation of individuals (postgraduate and researchers) in their research fields; and there is institutional isolation of the mathematical sciences from its applications and related disciplines... There are some contemporary, mainstream subfields that are not represented and some research in South Africa is disconnected from areas of contemporary interest"

[quote from: International Review Panel Report: Mathematical Sciences Research at South African Higher Education Institutions]

What is to be done?

Biosketch

Prof Nongxa has an academic career in mathematics, interrupted by fifteen years of university management and leadership: Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of the Western Cape (1999 – 2000), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (2000 – 2002) and Vice-Chancellor (2003 – 2013) and at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He is the current Chairman of the National Research Foundation and TENET Boards.

Prof Nongxa holds a D.Phil. in Mathematics from Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship and taught at University of Fort Hare; National University of Lesotho; former University of Natal and University of the Western Cape where he was a Professor of Mathematics for ten years. He has published in abelian group theory, especially the theory of Butler groups. Lately he has developed an interest in Mathematical Foundations of Big Data.