UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

KWAZULU-NATAL AMAFA & RESEARCH INSTITUTE

2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



Bicentenary Commemoration of Queen Nandi
A Conference on Prominent Women in Southern Africa

Date: Friday, 16 October 2026 | **Time:** 08:00 – 18:00 | **Main Venue**: Unite Building – Main Conference Hall

Venue: Unite Building, Howard College, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban

---

08:00-09:00 Morning Tea/ Conference Registration

PLENARY SESSION

Programme Director: Prof. Nobuhle Hlongwa (Dean & Head of School of Arts)

Time	Programme	
09:00-09:10	Welcome	Prof. Nhlanhla Mkhize (UKZN DVC & Head of College of Humanities)
09:10-09:25	Opening Remarks	Dr. Thobile Sifunda (Head of Department, KZN DSAC)
09:25-09:35	Purpose and Objectives of the Conference	Prof. Gugu Mazibuko (University of Johannesburg)
09:35-10:05	Keynote Address	Prof. Nomalanga Mkhize (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University)
10:05-10:15	Entertainment: Nhlakanipho Thabethe (Steel the Poet)	
10:15-10:30	Breakaway Instructions by Programme Director	

PARALLEL SESSION 1

Time	Main Venue Sub-theme 1: Royal Women, Leadership and Political Authority **Session Chair: Dr. Mphumeleli Ngidi (University of KwaZulu-Natal)**		Auditorium 2 Sub-theme 2: Women, Culture, Music and Heritage **Session Chair: Zaphesheya Dlamini (University of Oxford)**	
10:30-10:50	Dr. Siphelele Eugene Jiyane	*Queen Nandi kaBhebhe and the Politics of Memory: Female Agency, Royal Power, and the Formation of the Zulu Kingdom*	Dr. Patricia Achieng Opondo	*Izimbokodo Zesizwe: Voices of Zulu Women Across Time*
10:50-11:10	Nkosinathi Nqubeko Biyela	*A Biographical Investigation into the Contributions of Queen Mthaniya KaSibiya in the Pre-Colonial Zulu Historical Narrative*	Nothando Gumede	*The Voice That Continues: Busi Mhlongo, Cultural Memory and Intergenerational Musical Heritage*
11:10-11:30	Luyanda Lungile Mdluli	*Princess Mkabayi Zulu – "The Ultimate Destroyer"*	Ayanda Sphelele Ndlovu & Asanda Mandisa Ntuli	Embodiment in Indigenous Zulu Vocal Performance: Operatic Interpretations of Selected Songs by Princess Magogo kaDinuzulu within a South African Intercultural Performance Context
11:30-11:50	Dr. Yaa Ashantewaa Archer-Ngidi	*Queen Nandi and the Womancentric Imagination: Motherhood, Agency and the Making of African Leadership*	Prof. Nakanjani G. Sibiya & Thandokuhle Dlamini	"Of Queens and Princesses": An Intertextual Analysis of the Literary Heritage Significance of Mthaniya, Nandi, Mkabayi and Magogo
11:50-12:10	Jabulani Michael Zikhali	*Woman of Valour: A Case of Queen Nandi kaBhebhe, the Forgotten Queen Mother Who Shaped the Zulu Kingdom*	Dr. Sindiswa Nobuntu Ndamane	Queen Mantfombi kaSobhuza: From Marginalisation to Memory in the Reconstitution of Zulu Cultural Practices
12:10-12:30	Nolwazi Nontobeko Ndlovu	*Queen Lozikeyi Dlodlo and the Legacy of Resistance: Reassessing Ndebele Royal Women's Political Legitimacy in Late Nineteenth-Century Southern Africa*	Prof. Nompumelelo Zondi	One Daring Step and a King was Made: A Feminist Approach to Queen Nandi's Agency.
12:30-13:00	**Q & A**		**Q & A**	
13:00-14:00	**Lunch at The Deck**			

POST-LUNCH SESSION-MAIN VENUE

14:00-14:15 Entertainment: Siboniso Isazi Gcumiza

14:15-14:25 Transition to Breakaway Sessions Instructions by Programme Director.

PARALLEL SESSION 2

Time	Main Venue Sub-theme 3: Women, Resistance, Liberation and Social Transformation **Session Chair: Dr. Sindiswa Ndamane (University of KwaZulu-Natal)**		Auditorium 2 Sub-theme 4: Memory, Representation, Biography and Women's Historical Legacy **Session Chair: Prof. Nompumelelo Zondi (University of KwaZulu-Natal)**	
14:25-14:45	Prof. Puleng Segalo & Dr. Tinyiko Chauke	*On Resistance and Solidarity: Revisiting and Re-centering Nokukhanya Luthuli's Life*	Dr. Debbie Whelan	*Ghostly Shadows: The Gossamer Traces of Queen Machibise*
14:45-15:05	Sayuri Sivraman	*Archiving Resistance: Phyllis Naidoo, Epistolary Networks and Female Leadership in South Africa*	Samkelo Mngadi	Intellectual Biographical Research: Nokutela Mdima-Dube's Autobiographical Essay "Africa: The Story of My Life"
15:05-15:25	Bongumenzi Mthethwa	*Sibongile Mkhabela: An Unheralded Anti-Apartheid Activist*	Prof. G. Hoosen M. Vawda	Sarah Baartman: Memory, Representation and Historical Redress of Colonial Humiliation, Even in Death
15:25-15:45	Sandile Kheswa	*Mary Kleinenberg and the Struggle for Liberation in the Natal Midlands*	Nelisiwe Magubane	From Spectacle to Subject: Sarah Baartman, Decolonising Memory and Reclaiming the African Female Body
15:45-16:05	Ayanda Sphelele Ndlovu & Prof. Luvuyo Dondolo	*Recovering Community Histories from Below: Constance Makhanya, Gender, and Community Health Development in Umbumbulu, 1929–1960*	Nkosingiphile Gambu	Moving Beyond Stereotypes: Reimagining Women's Agency and Contributions in Precolonial Africa
16:05-16:25	Julianos Masimba	*The Double-Edged Sword of Inclusivity: Analysing the Impact of the Quota System on Women's Participation in Local Governance in Zimbabwe*	Tashmeer Chetty	*The First Woman Complex: Inspecting the Implications of Being the "First Woman" in a South African Context*
16:25-16:55	**Q & A**		**Q & A**	
16:55-17:10	Afternoon Tea and transition to Main venue			

CLOSING OF CONFERENCE

17:10-17:30 Announcement of Future Programmes / Publications: UKZN Press
(Dr. Phindi Dlamini-Director of UKZN Press)

17:30-17:40 Message of Support:
Dr. Edmund Qhawelenkosi Mhlongo (Director and/Founder K-CAP and a member of KZNPGNC)

17:40-17:50 Vote of Thanks:
Mr Mwelela Cele- KZN Amafa and Research Institute-Research and Innovation: Deputy Head

18:00 Departure