



**SAASTA**

South African Agency for Science  
and Technology Advancement

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## Media Release

03 December 2020

### For immediate release:

#### **SAASTA hosted a final webinar on understanding Indigenous Knowledge Systems**

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement hosted the final of a series of three science webinars. This final webinar, titled: “COVID-19 Treatment: Understanding Indigenous Knowledge Systems”, will take place on Wednesday, 25 November 2020 from 17:00 – 18:30 on the virtual platform, Zoom.

“Indigenous Knowledge Systems are part of the hot topics that people have developed interest for during this COVID period with many remedies being investigated,” said Science Awareness Platforms Manager, Mr Shadrack Mkansi

The main objective of this webinar is to highlight the importance of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in modern society. The session will also detail the scientific process involved in researching IKS, as well as the application of that research in society. Highlighting IKS can pave the way to promote culturally inclusive scientific approaches.

“One of SAASTA’s role is to lead the agenda of engaged research. This is done through bringing all players into the process of scientific research and of responsible research and innovation, with science and society working together through science engagement,” added Mr Mkansi.

“We are profiling IKS in order to educate people on understanding what IKS is, the IKS/Science interface and the scientific process of research that forms part of the development of treatment and remedies using indigenous knowledge systems”, added Mr Njabulo Duma, a Project Officer from SAASTA’s Science Awareness Platforms division.

Throughout history, indigenous knowledge has been responsible for the development of many technologies and has contributed substantially to science. Indigenous science incorporates traditional knowledge and perspectives and, with western science, can contribute significantly to modern science and knowledge systems. Through decolonising systems of knowledge, the work of IKS offers hope to contribute to modern science.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems practitioners are also working to meet the urgent need of COVID-19 information in local languages, and in culturally relevant ways.

The panellists for this session are Mdumiseni Nxumalo, an Indigenous Knowledge Systems Coordinator, and Professor Nceba Gqaleni, a National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher with interest in immunology, infectious and non-infectious diseases and traditional medicine.

To register for the webinars click on the link below:

<http://www.saasta.ac.za/celebrating-health-profiling-the-role-of-science-in-the-fight-against-covid-19/>

### **Ends**

Date: Wednesday, 02 December 2020

Time: 17:00 - 18:30

Venue: Zoom

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#### **About the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA)**

SAASTA is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF) with the mandate to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering and technology in South Africa.

SAASTA's contribution to the NRF's vision is to grow the pool of quality learners today who will become the scientists and innovators of tomorrow.

It aims to be the leading science advancement agency in the country by promoting and communicating the value and impact of science, technology and innovation in a dynamic knowledge economy. It also intends to contribute significantly towards building a science, engineering and technology (SET) human resource base. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF please visit [www.saasta.ac.za](http://www.saasta.ac.za)

#### **About the National Research Foundation (NRF):**

The National Research Foundation (NRF) was established on 1 April 1999 as an independent statutory body in accordance with the National Research Foundation Act. The NRF is a key public entity responsible for supporting the development of human resources for research and innovation in all fields of science and technology.

The organisation is one of the major players in educating and training a new generation of scientists able to deal with South African and African needs. The organisation encourages public awareness and appreciation of science, engineering and technology, and facilitates dialogue between science and society. Its vision is to contribute to a prosperous South Africa based on a knowledge economy. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF please visit [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)