DOCTORAL STUDIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION
INVITATION TO A PUBLIC LECTURE
African Higher Education Dialogue (AHED)
Series 5

TITLE: THE CHANGING HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE IN AFRICA: ITS IMPACT ON QUALITY

Synopsis: Over the past couple of decades, there have been dramatic changes in the higher education landscape in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. The three main reasons that have brought about these changes are: an explicit recognition that higher education is vital for economic development; a change in the demographic structure, leading to a rapid increase of youth in search of education; and improved access and success at primary and secondary education levels, thus creating a huge demand for higher education.

Most African countries have therefore adopted specific strategies to cope with that demand by increasing tertiary enrolment. These strategies include creating new public higher education institutions, as well as increasing access to existing ones; using open and distance learning; encouraging the creation of private higher education institutions; and facilitating cross-border higher education. However, these strategies have invariably had a negative impact on the quality of teaching and learning in the institutions.

The presentation will examine the various quality issues that need to be addressed in implementing the above strategies and identify the challenges that have to be addressed by national Quality Assurance agencies.

Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai, who originates from Mauritius, did his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Civil Engineering at the University of Manchester, UK, and later his postdoctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the University of Mauritius in 1972 and served as its Vice-Chancellor from 1995 to 2005. He was Secretary-General of the Association of African Universities, President of the International Association of Universities, and a member and Vice-Chair of the governing Council of the United Nations University. He is the recipient of several honorary doctorates and awards.

Mohamedbhai operates as an independent consultant in higher education, with special interest in Africa. The organisations for which he has undertaken consultancies include Sida of Sweden, the Association of African Universities, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Association for the Development of Education in Africa, the Leadership Foundation of UK and, lately, the World Bank. He is currently a member of the Council of the National University of Lesotho, the Council of the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology, the Board of the Centre for Higher Education Trust (CHET) (South Africa) and the Board of the University World News (Africa).

Livestream Link:
http://zoom-edge-ext.uwc.ac.za/public/de21d9bb-6698-40e2-864f-e0699da2615f

The public lecture is convened by Prof. P. Langa (Higher Education Studies, IPSS) and will be useful for academics, researchers and postgraduate students.

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