

AFRICA MONTH CELEBRATION

UBUMBANO LWE-AFRIKA NEQHAZA LELEMBE EKUQALENI LOLO BUMBANO

AFRICAN UNITY AND THE ROLE OF
KING SHAKA IN STARTING THE UNITY

KOPANO YA AFRIKA LE SEABO SA MORENA
SHAKA HO QALENG KOPANO EO

uMntwana Dr Bhekizizwe Zeblon Zulu is a member of the Zulu Royal Family, in particular the Zulu Royal House of Mandlakazi and a former member of the National Assembly who has made a significant contribution to recording the rich history of the Zulu people.

A former advisor to the late King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, uMntwana Zeblon Zulu conducted extensive research on the history of the Zulu Royal Family and on various Zulu cultural celebrations which were revived for modern-day relevance.

He has published four books. The first, published in 2005, Umongo KaZulu (The Marrow of the Nation), is about the history of the Zulu Royal Family. It was launched in 2006 at an event attended by King Zwelithini, President J. G. Zuma, Premier Sbu Ndebele and renowned historians and academics like Prof Jabulani Maphalala, Prof. Otty Nxumalo and others. All eleven houses of Amakhosi of the Zulu Royal Family were also in attendance.

uMntwana Zeblon Zulu consulted with King Zwelithini on writing a book on the history of the Royal House of King Nyangayezizwe Bhekuzulu Cyprian at KwaKhethomthandayo. Thereafter his second book, Inhlendla Yethusi KaZulu was published in 2016.

His third book, IziNdlovukazi zobukhosi buKaZulu (Queens in the Zulu Kingdom), being currently prepared for a second edition by UKZN Press, is about the history of the Queens of the Zulu kingdom. The fourth book is titled INKosi uMntwana UZibhebhu KaMaphitha. His yet to be published manuscripts include Ubudlelwano BukaMongameli uMadiba NeZilo zikaZulu (The Relationship between President Madiba and the Zulu Kings); Amahubo KaZulu (Zulu Hymns); Inkwazi: Izibongo Zamakhosi (The Fish Eagle: The Kings' Praise Songs); and Umlando wesizwe SaKwaSokhulu: INKosi Mhloleni KaMhawu Mthiyane KwaSokhulu (The History of the Sokhulu people: Inkosi Mhloleni, Son of Mhawu, of the Sokhulu People).

Together with other members of the royal family, uMntwana Zeblon Zulu worked tirelessly with Amakhosi aseNseleni to revive historical Zulu cultural celebrations, including uMkhosi We Lembe that celebrates King Shaka's legacy, Isiko Lokushisa impepho eNdlunkulu (burning of incense in the Royal Family), uMkhosi woSelwa/ Wokweshwama (the First Fruit festival) and uMkhosi Womhlanga (the Reed Dance Festival). He conducted research on these ceremonies, consulted elders and knowledgeable people on these subject matters, and then revised them for modern-day relevance.

UMntwana Zeblon Zulu, whose research interests focus on poverty eradication among poor and vulnerable households in rural areas, has held various key positions in public office. He served in the National Council of Provinces from 1999 to 2004, and was a member of the National Assembly from 2004 to 2014 where he served in the Portfolio Committees on Arts and Culture, Water Affairs and Sanitation, Rural Development and Land Reform.

He has facilitated a wide range of key infrastructure projects such as many schools in Nongoma and Empangeni, seven clinics in Nongoma and surrounding areas, electrification, and road construction. He donated land in the Ekuvukeni area and built INdlovukazi High School. He also mobilised the community to contribute funds to build schools in Empangeni.

In 2023, the University of KwaZulu-Natal recognised uMntwana Zeblon Zulu's outstanding contribution to researching and documenting the rich history and cultural celebrations of the Zulu nation, and then conferred the honorary degree, D Litt.

The University of KwaZulu-Natal is privileged to be addressed by him about the significance of Africa month.



Public Lecture: uMntwana (Prince) Dr Bhekizizwe Zeblon Zulu

CLICK HERE TO RSVP

WATCH LIVESTREAM HERE

DATE:

24 MAY 2024

TIME:

10H00 – 13H00

VENUE:

HOWARD COLLEGE THEATRE,
HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS

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