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## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMEMORATING THE FIRST AFRICAN UNION (AU) ANTI-CORRUPTION YEAR**

**11 – 13 JULY 2018**

### **CORRUPTION: WEALTH, POWER, RELIGION AND DEMOCRACY**

#### **BY THE PARTNERSHIP OF**

- **THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY, STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY, STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA - HOST**
- **PANAFRICAN STRATEGIC AND POLICY RESEARCH GROUP (PANAFSTRAG), LAGOS, NIGERIA**

#### **IN COLLABORATION WITH**

- **AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION (AUABC), ARUSHA, TANZANIA**

This conference will bring together international and continental anti-corruption policy makers, scholars/researchers, the private sector, clerics and practitioners of diverse religious traditions and spiritualities. They will interrogate how and to what extent different stakeholders can engage in processes of economic, social and political transformation to eliminate poverty, inequity and corruption.

Public commentators criticize politicians, entrepreneurs, clerics and the state itself for the lack of public probity and accountability, exemplified by corruption and impunity. The enigmas of public transparency and probity however can hardly be limited to public governance. Therefore, there is also the need to explore how religious and business sectors interact with politicians in Africa to uphold transparency, accountability and probity in the quest for equitable economic and social-political transformation to eliminate poverty on our continent.

All the sectors grapple with similar issues regarding leadership, good governance, probity and integrity. Leadership to enhance prosperity for the citizenry, peaceful co-existence, moral regeneration and accountability is needed in public and religious sectors.

#### **THE OBJECTIVE**

The conference will commemorate the inaugural anti-corruption year of the AU in 2018 by interrogating how probity of all stakeholders can build mechanisms to eliminate inequity and poverty in Africa.

The conference will address the following questions:

- How do various hierarchical/decentralized political, business, social and religious polities (i.e. structures of governance) deal with issues of probity, equity and sustainable development?
- What values do religions/different spiritualities evince to improve corporate governance and ensure improved ethics and probity in systems of governance in the public, private and religious sectors?

- How should these polity structures respond to critique, and identify with national/international policies aimed at disciplined management and equitable distribution of public resources, and the establishment of a viable culture of financial probity?
- Which various models condition leadership and followership, and how have these been influenced by political probity, and by national political economy, western electoral financing (campaign and management) systems and technology?
- Are liberal or conservative forms of politics and religiosity compatible with developing democracy, governance and ethical cultures?
- How and to what extent should religious values and insights be the moral guide in the public and private spheres?
- How do we engage prayers and rituals to impact on national politics to maximize probity and integrity at personal, institutional and national levels?
- Do women and the youth in particular provide hope for the present and future?

The conference suggests the following sub-themes (not limited):

- Politico-economy, private sector, religious polity and accountability
- Clerics (including women), ethics, corruption and transparency
- Religious values, behaviour, probity and accountability
- Public service-ethics, socio-cultural values, and social action
- Traditional (indigenous) religious systems' perspective on governance, probity, poverty and inequality
- Liberation Theology to impact our politics, polity and socio-economic empowerment of the poor
- Security agencies, ethics, corruption and communities
- Religion, spirituality and sustainable development in African communities
- Probity, religious sects/spiritualities, and the agenda for personal and institutional integrity for poverty reduction
- Women, spirituality, probity, integrity, and poverty reduction
- The youth, religiosity, spirituality, probity as foundation for poverty reduction (18-24 years only)
- Faith-based institutions, leadership probity, poverty and inequality

## **EXPECTED OUTCOME**

African public, private, religious and civil society institutions with stakeholders building a common mechanism and platform for probity and integrity to eliminate corruption, inequity and poverty.

## **VENUE**

Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

If you want to present a paper and/or host a panel discussion, please submit an abstract of approximately 300-500 words including the paper's title, the author's name, institutional affiliation, mailing address, and e-mail address. The conference will be conducted in English.

Submission deadline: **30 March 2018.**

Please send the abstracts to Dr Chris Jones, e-mail [chrisjones@sun.ac.za](mailto:chrisjones@sun.ac.za) who will be assisted by Prof Mohammad Kuna, e-mail [mjkuna@msn.com](mailto:mjkuna@msn.com) on the selection committee.

Notification of acceptance will be given via e-mail before the end of April 2018.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Information regarding conference fees and accommodation will be communicated in the near future.

Questions regarding the conference can be addressed to either of the following of conference organisers:

Dr Chris Jones: [chrisjones@sun.ac.za](mailto:chrisjones@sun.ac.za)

Prof Ishola Williams: [isholawilliams@gmail.com](mailto:isholawilliams@gmail.com)

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