



OLIVER & ADELAIDE
TAMBO
FOUNDATION

2016
OLIVER TAMBO
MEMORIAL LECTURE

Oliver Tambo's values - Meaning,
Relevance and Implications for
South Africa in 2016

O.R. TAMBO AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION

It has been said that if one did a paternity test on South Africa's Constitution, the DNA that would come up would be that of Oliver Tambo.

Mandela and Tambo, both of whom had been active in the ANC Youth League, had created the first black legal partnership in South Africa.

When Tambo was ordered by a magistrate to occupy a seat set aside for black lawyers, he had refused.

When arrested for treason in 1956, he had immediately set up a choir in the Old Fort Prison, where the Constitutional Court now stands.

Sent out of the country by the ANC after the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960, he had led the international campaign to isolate apartheid South Africa and get the release of Mandela and all political prisoners. Not only had he organised the External Mission of the ANC. He had set up a leadership team that had developed strategies to overthrow apartheid and pave the way for a non-racial democracy.

So when opportunities for talks with the then rulers of South Africa were created, it was natural for him to set up the Constitutional Committee of the

ANC to map out the basic principles of a non-racial democratic society. Power-sharing between racial groups coupled with minority vetoes was being advanced as a mechanism for bringing about change. He answered that entrenching race would keep the country divided and secure minority privilege.

The way forward was to have universal suffrage on a common voters roll, majority rule and an entrenched Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights would protect people not because they were the majority or the minority, or black or white, but because they were human beings. This became the central theme of our Constitution.

A strong proponent of an inclusive African Nationalism as a force for liberation, he was gentle and generous in style and principled and thoughtful in manner. A democrat to his core, deeply influenced by his Christian beliefs, a great listener who encouraged everyone to speak out, his leadership was characterised by total integrity.

Born 27 October 1917 in Nkantolo. Died 24 April 1993 in Johannesburg.

By: Albie Sachs

Trustee: Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation

O.R. TAMBO MEMORIAL LECTURE PROGRAMME

19h00-20h30

Description		Speaker
1	Arrival of guests Serving of canapés	
2	Opening & Welcome	Prof Mvuyo Tom
3	Keynote Address	Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, the Honourable Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng
4	Remarks	Ms Linda Vilakazi CEO of the Oliver and Adelaide Foundation
5	Vote of Thanks	

Light Cocktail Dinner to be served at the end.

The Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation

The Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation was established in 2011 to preserve, promote and popularise the legacies of both Oliver and Adelaide Tambo.

Through its work, the Foundation embraces their values, vision and leadership style, translated through programmes and projects that contribute towards national development and a strengthened democracy.

For more information, please contact us on:

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