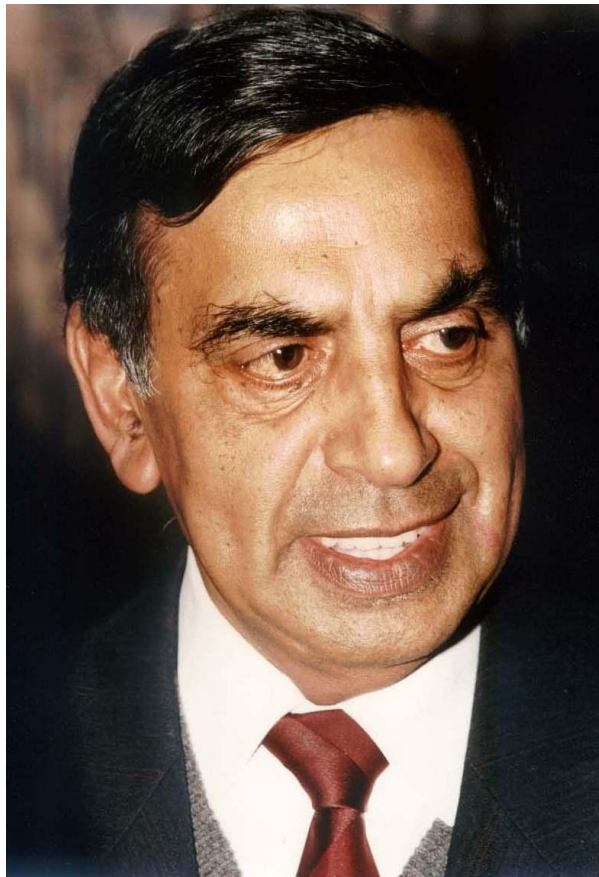




UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE

**11th Dullah Omar Memorial Lecture
with Graça Machel
03 October 2017
University of the Western Cape**



Brought to you by

The logo for the Dullah Omar Institute, featuring a stylized map of Africa composed of fingerprint-like lines.
DULLAH OMAR INSTITUTE
FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Adv Dullah Omar
(26 May 1934 – 13 March 2004)

The Community Law Centre and the Faculty of Law honour the late Adv Dullah Omar, by hosting an annual lecture on human rights and democracy. Adv Dullah Omar left behind a rich legacy on which we as a Centre and a Faculty draw inspiration and guidance.

Dullah Omar believed that law must serve justice, that law must serve the community, that law must give effect to human rights and democracy. He put that belief to practice. When he was in practice most of his clients were people who were victimised by apartheid laws. He acted as the legal representative of numerous political prisoners. He also acted as legal counsel for trade unions, civic and religious organisations. By living out his quest for justice, he became a guiding light to many. First as an attorney and later as an advocate, he played an important educational role for many a young lawyer who came in contact with him. At the height of repression in the states of emergency, he played a key role, often at great personal sacrifice, in the flagship civic organisation fighting against apartheid, the United Democratic Front. With the normalisation of politics in 1990 he became chairperson of the African National Congress in the Western Cape.

Following the unbanning of the liberation movements in 1990, a vision for the new legal order based on justice, human rights and democracy was required. To this call Dullah answered. He brought to bare this vision and intellect to the University of the Western Cape and the Law Faculty when in 1990 he became the director of the Community Law Centre. Dullah was the inspiration behind the Centre and worked tirelessly to establish it as a centre of research and advocacy on human rights and democracy. Under his directorship the Centre became a major contributor to policy formulation for the new constitutional order, focusing on the structure of the state, the electoral system, gender issues, children's rights, policing, and the transformation of the judiciary. With his colleagues at the Centre – including Bulelani Ngcuka, Brigitte Mabandla, Zola Skweyiya and Albie Sachs – he participated in the constitutional negotiations, charting the course towards the shaping of the new South Africa.

Dealing with the big issues of the day did not cut him off from the University community, in particular the law students. He took time to talk to them, instilling the excitement and the challenge of practicing law in service of the community, to the benefit of the new South Africa.

With the first democratic election in 1994 Dullah was elected to Parliament. Befitting his role in the struggle for justice, he was appointed by President Mandela as Minister of Justice. On his shoulders thus fell the task of transforming a legal system that had propped up the perverse scheme of apartheid, into a system that embraced democracy, human rights and justice. This he did with great zest and success. Under Dullah's ministry, the administration of justice was transformed. Eleven apartheid-based administrations were fused into an entirely new Department of Justice. The Constitutional Court was established, and the foundation was laid for the meaningful transformation of the judiciary. A single national prosecuting authority was formed. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created. Overall, the framework was developed for the transformation of the administration of justice.

The Dullah Omar Memorial Lecture Series celebrates the memory of a person who worked tirelessly and achieved so much, in realising the goals of human rights and democracy.

On the occasion of the 10th edition of this lecture series and the 25th Anniversary of the Centre, the "Community Law Centre" will be renamed into the "Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights" in honour of its founding director.

PROGRAMME School of Public Health University of the Western Cape 18h30	
Master of Ceremony	Prof Jaap de Visser Director of Dullah Omar Institute
Entertainment	Pinelands High School Choir
Welcome address	Prof Nita Lawton-Misra Registrar University of the Western Cape
Introduction of the Speaker	Dr Usang Maria Assim Senior Researcher Children's Rights Project Dullah Omar Institute
Main Speaker	Graça Machel Graça Machel Foundation
Word of thanks	Ms Latifa Omar Sister of the late Adv Dullah Omar (on Behalf of the Omar Family <i>and</i> Prof Bernard Martin Dean: Faculty of Law University of the Western Cape
Entertainment	Pinelands High School Choir

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DULLAH OMAR MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES:

19 August 2015

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Tshililo Michael Masutha
Gender imbalances in the judiciary system still a challenge

25 March 2014

Former Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs
Speaking to Oliver Tambo's Ghost – Twenty Years of Democracy

16 February 2012

Former President Thabo Mbeki
Reflections on peacemaking, state sovereignty and democratic governance in Africa

06 October 2010

Former Chief Justice Pius Langa
Transformation of the Judiciary

01 July 2009

Dr Navanethem (Navi) Pillay, UN High Commissioner of Human Rights
The agenda for the promotion of the rights of women in the next decade

27 March 2008

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu
The state of democracy in South Africa

20 March 2007

Minister Trevor Manuel MP
The need for a human rights culture

13 June 2006

Former Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson
Enforcing socio-economic rights: The role of the courts

14 June 2005

Minister Brigitte Mabandla MP
The rights of the child: Progress and prospects

22 November 2004

Bulelani Ngcuka, Former National Director of Public Prosecutions
The National Prosecuting Authority and the promotion of human rights and democracy

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Look out for #DullahOmarLecture on social media.

