



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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### Curriculum Reform and Classroom Practice in Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe: The Common and the Diverse

- *Keynote speaker:* Prof Loyisa C. Jita (Dean of Faculty of Education, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa)
- *Time:* 17:30-18:30, 2 July 2020

**Prof Loyiso C. Jita** began his career as a science and mathematics teacher, after graduating with Biochemistry and Microbiology from the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS). He later took up a lectureship position at the University of Zululand from where he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to read for a PhD at Michigan State University in the USA. In the mid-1990s, he worked as a Policy Researcher at the University of KwaZulu-Natal where, among others, he helped to compile and present the submission on the Violation of Educational Rights of South Africans, during apartheid, to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and also helped to draft some of the education policy documents for the post-1994 government of South Africa. He joined the University of Pretoria (UP) in 2001, after a post-doctoral fellowship at Northwestern University in the USA and was later appointed the Director of the Joint Centre for Science, Mathematics and Technology Education (JCSMTE). In 2008, he was appointed as an associate professor at the University of South Africa (Unisa), where he later became the inaugural Director of the School of Education. In 2011, he became a full professor and was appointed the acting Deputy Executive Dean in the College of Human Sciences at Unisa.



He joined the University of the Free State (UFS) as a Research Professor in the School of Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Technology Education in 2012. In November 2014, he was appointed as the SANRAL Chair for Science and Mathematics education. Professor Jita has published many articles on Instructional Leadership, Teacher Development and change, Science and Mathematics education and has presented over 50 papers at local and international conferences. He has also supervised to completion over 50 Masters and PhD graduates and is currently the editor in chief for the journal, Perspectives in Education (PIE). In 2017, Professor Jita took up the position of Dean of Education at the University of the Free State in South Africa.