

Report for Africa Day Memorial Lecture

The Centre for Gender and Africa Studies at the University of the Free State hosted a memorial lecture on 24 May 2023. The keynote speaker, Prof Motlatsi Thabane, delivered a presentation titled: *Josias Phillip Hoffman and Moshoeshoe I: Friendship in the Search for Justice in Mohokare Valley in the Nineteenth Century*. Prof Thabane was previously employed at the National University of Lesotho where he taught History for many years before taking up a two-year appointment at the University of Eswatini in 2018. He is also the author of various publications pertaining to history, decolonialism, and cultural studies. Prof Thabane became a great admirer of Moshoeshoe through his readings, and later also of Josias Hoffman. His memorial lecture was solely based on the friendship between Moshoeshoe I and Hoffman. During his presentation, Prof Thabane clearly demonstrated how these two men maintained a great friendship despite racial and cultural differences. He described their friendship as a feel-good factor. Prof Thabane made a thorough distinction between the two men, pointed out inequalities between them, and made a comparison with the modern-day inequality that is currently taking place in the world. He called it 'the scramble for equality'. Prof Motlatsi Thabane said: "We need to agree on what is and what is not just." Among those present, were the University of the Free State Top Management, Prof Motlatsi Thabane from the University of Eswatini, Prof Sandew Hira, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier from the Office for International Affairs, Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga, Programme Director for African Studies, and the Director of the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, Dr Stephanie Cawood.