

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK IN CAPE TOWN: CELEBRATING LOCAL AUTHORS WHO WRITE IN VERNACULAR

This year's National Book Week at the Unisa Western Cape Branch Library was nothing short of remarkable.

On Tuesday, 23 September, the Unisa Cape Town Branch Library hosted three (3) local authors who were written in their books in mother-tongue including AfriKaap. The golden thread between all the authors was their reflections about the communities they come from. One of the authors, Mr. Samkelo Jikwana, is a Unisa law degree alumnus who choose to be an author and playwright. His first book entitled *The Decoys* laments one of the social ills where young girls are exploited by a tavern owner to lure the local preacher into trouble so that his profit margins are not affected by the spreading of the gospel.

Mr. Rhode, accompanied by his daughter, presented the entitled 'Inwoners van Vlotenberg'. He authored the book alongside his peers in the seniors' years reminiscing about the good old days growing up in a small farm community. It was moving to hear that all the proceeds were planted back to their primary school. Mr. Rhode's daughter played a huge role in advising her elders technologically and otherwise, to demonstrate the synergy that may emerge when two generations work towards a common goal. In fact, it is a rare occasion and a great example.



Mdu Ncongwane (Programme Director), Geraldine Cele (Library Manager), Attie Rhode (Co-author), Gaireyah Fredericks (AfriKaap poet and author), Samkelo Jikwana (Author) and Jacques du Toit (Moderator)

Ms. Gaireyah Fredericks did not disappoint either when delivered her poems after travelling more than 55 kms from Paarl using three taxis to grace the event. She is a prolific poet and author writing in AfriKaap to ensure that this language is documented and promoted. With more than three (3) books under her name, she mesmerised the audience her spirited delivery. It was only fair for Unisa to drive her home safely!

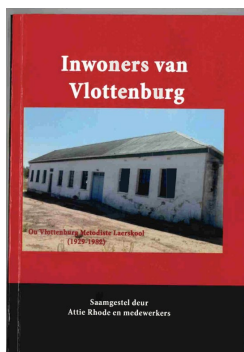
The *Friend of the Library* and Regional Academic Coordinator, Mr. Jacques du Toit, conducted the moderation session probing deeper into various aspects of the authors perspectives, The audience was also given a chance to interact with the authors to which authors responded succinctly and comprehensively where applicable.



Attie Rhode, Euria Hendrickse (Mr. Rhode's daughter), Silindile Ngubane (intern), Samkelo Jikwana, Gaireyah Fredericks, Wilhelmina Zaal, , Geraldine Cele (Library Manager), Mdu Ncongwane (Programme Director), Musa Mavundla & Gcobisa Nyengule (intern)

The two authors, Mr. Samkelo Jikwana and Mr. Rhode donated autographed copies of their works which will be incorporated to library collection.

Wilhelmina Zaal, *Acting Branch Librarian*, gave a vote of thanks and closed the event.



** By Mduduzi Ncongwane, Unisa Western Cape*

** * Photography by Wilhelmina Zaal, Unisa Western Cape*

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