



ELIJAH BARAYI 2025 MEMORIAL LECTURE

CALL FOR PROPOSAL FROM UNIVERSITIES AND
UNIVERSITIES OF TECHNOLOGY

FOR FINANCIAL YEAR: 2025/2026-2027/2028

CLOSING DATE: 31 JANUARY 2025

LABOUR LAW LECTURE IN HONOUR OF ELIJAH BARAYI

The Department of Employment and Labour invites proposals for partnership from academic institutions for a lecture honouring the legacy of Elijah Barayi, an influential figure in the South African labour movement, in preparation for International Workers' Month.

Born in 1930, Barayi's formative years were marked by the harsh realities of racial segregation and discrimination, experiences that ignited his passion for social change. His involvement in trade union activities began in the 1950s, culminating in his ascension to senior leadership roles within the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), where he became its inaugural president.

Barayi's tireless journey placed him at the forefront of the labour movement in South Africa, establishing him as a symbol of hope and resilience for workers' rights across racial divides. As a founding member of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and a key figure within COSATU, he was instrumental in advancing significant progress in the quest for equitable labour rights.

His legacy is evident in the advancements of labour rights and protections; promotion of social justice and equality; and international solidarity. The principles of unity, equality, justice, empowerment, and solidarity championed by Barayi continue to inspire social cohesion and enrich the fabric of South Africa's labour market landscape.

In recognition of Barayi's extraordinary contributions, the Department expects proposals to address, among other things:

- The selected topic should address the contemporary challenges facing collective bargaining, workers' rights, and the trade union movement, particularly in an era characterised by the rapidly evolving nature of work and diverse forms of employment.
- How the topic will benefit the labour market and enhance awareness regarding critical issues confronting the labour market.
- A plan for engaging experts with substantial knowledge in labour relations, social justice, and the historical context of trade unions in South Africa to foster meaningful dialogue.
- The event structure and communication, a detailed outline of the event's nature, format, and communication strategy, including networks for outreach and engagements.
- Proposals should clearly demonstrate the institutional capability to organise large-scale events, presenting a comprehensive breakdown of the budget, encompassing venue costs, facilities, catering, and any additional expenses.

The Proposal should include:

- The institutions should select a topic that will talk to the issues mentioned above.
- The proposal should outline the following:
 - A three-year plan for the lecture
 - A projection of costs for the next three years (Detailed breakdown of costs including venue, facilities, catering and other expenses)

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Must be a university or university of technology
- Have an active bank account (Attach confirmation letter)
- Send an audited financial statement for a previous project (from any donor)
- Must have knowledge and understanding of labour related matters and labour laws
- Must have knowledge and understanding of COIDA and OHSA
- Comply with labour laws
- The applicant should be willing to sign a three year contract if appointed

Enquiries: Masingita.Mbele@labour.gov.za

Applications can be emailed to:
ElijahBarayilecture@LABOUR.gov.za



employment & labour

Department:
Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



National Economic
Development and
Labour Council

