



Celebrating an Iconic South African Hero **ELIJAH BARAYI**

fighting for justice, equality and democracy

#ElijahBarayi2024 #30YearsCommemorationOfElijahBarayi
#WorkersMonth #30YearsOfFreedom

2024 | ELIJAH BARAYI LABOUR LAW LECTURE



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ELIJAH BARAYI LABOUR LAW LECTURE

Date: 15 May 2024

Time: 10:30 – 12:30

Place: UJ Soweto campus, Imbizo hall

Arrival Time and accreditation: 08h00 – 09h00

Facilitator: Prof Mandla Radebe (Director: Centre for Data and Digital Communication)

	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKER
10H30-10H35	National Anthem	UJ Choir
10H35-10H40	Opening and Welcome	Dr Mpoti Ralephata (Acting Vice-Chancellor & Principal)
10H40-10H55	Documentary screening, Elijah Barayi	Screening
10H55-11H00	Item	UJ Choir
11H00-11H10	Message of support by Labour	COSATU President: Ms Zingiswa Losi
11H10-11H20	Introduction of the President	Minister of Employment and Labour, Minister Thulas Nxesi
11H20-12H10	Presentation of the lecture	HE President Cyril Ramaphosa
12H10-12H20	Item	UJ Choir
12H20-12H30	Summation and Vote of Thanks	Prof Fiona Tregenna (SARChI Chair: Industrial Development)

Light refreshments will be served at the end

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ELIJAH BARAYI PROFILE

Elijah Barayi was an iconic South African hero in the fight for justice, equality, and democracy. He devoted his life to promoting worker rights and bringing about the end of apartheid in South Africa. His rise from a humble background to becoming a prominent leader in the labour movement and anti-apartheid activism, his role in shaping South Africa's history, and his enduring impact on the fight for social justice is an uplifting story that exemplifies the resilience of the human spirit.

Elijah Barayi (1944 - 1994) served as a prominent South African trade unionist and anti-apartheid activist. He was a part of the formation of the National Union of Mineworkers in 1982 and a part of the struggle since the early 1950s. Elijah knew the former president of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela, and was involved in the Youth League, which he believed shaped his political awareness (Van Niekerk, 1986).

According to Van der Walt (2009), Barayi worked as a government clerk and joined the Youth League following a racial clash with white youths. He was active in the 1950s civil disobedience campaigns of the Congress Alliance, comprising the ANC, the Colored Peoples Congress, the (White) Congress of Democrats, the Indian National Congress, and, from 1955, the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU).

Elijah Barayi retired from COSATU in 1991 and 1993 from mine work. He passed away in January 1994 after a short illness.

Elijah Barayi's life was a testament to the power of resilience, courage, and unwavering commitment to the pursuit of justice. From his humble beginnings in rural South Africa to his leadership role in the labour movement and the anti-apartheid struggle, Barayi dedicated himself wholeheartedly to the cause of freedom and equality. His legacy continues to inspire and motivate those who strive to build a more just and equitable world, reminding us that the struggle for justice is an ongoing journey that requires dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering resolve. Elijah Barayi may have left this world, but his spirit lives on in the hearts of all who believe in the possibility of a better future for humanity.



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30 YEARS COMMEMORATION ELIJAH BARAYI

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#30YearsOf Freedom



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