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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Imbiza* Congratulates Prof. Tshepo Madlingozi on his Appointment to the SAHRC**

*Imbiza Journal for African Writing* congratulates one of its founding board members, Prof. Tshepo Madlingozi, on his appointment to the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). On 11 January 2024, the SAHRC announced that Prof. Madlingozi had been appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa as a full-time commissioner alongside a distinguished cohort of other prominent individuals.

Prof Madlingozi was nominated by the eminent legal mind, Adv. Tembeka Ngcukaitobi SC, to form part of the commission. This was followed by a rigorous selection process, which culminated with public interviews conducted by Parliament’s Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services. It was here that the nation was exposed to Prof. Madlingozi’s acumen, extensive knowledge of the justice system, as well as his passion for human rights. Responding to a question about his previous articles critiquing the Constitution, Prof. Madlingozi was adamant in stating that, “My irritation with the South African Constitution is that it does not mention the words apartheid and colonialism, not even once. This lack of clarity about where we come from creates fertile ground for the historical distortions we are witnessing today.”

It is such courage and ethical commitment that came to define Prof. Madlingozi work and career trajectory. *Imbiza* has been the beneficiary of Prof. Madlingozi’s incisive mind since inception in 2021. He is an erudite scholar and a consummate professional with extensive experience in community involvement. Over the past three years, he has consistently attended board meetings and provided strategic oversight and guidance to the organization. We are proud that Prof. Madlingozi served *Imbiza* with distinction and laudable excellence, resulting in the successful publication of six ground-breaking editions over the past three years.

Owing to the demands of the job that he is about to undertake at the SAHRC, on 4 January 2024 Prof. Madlingozi tendered his resignation from the Board of *Imbiza*. We acknowledge and accept his resignation with the knowledge that he remains fully committed to the vision and principles espoused by *Imbiza*. Although we are sad to lose him, we derive solace in the realization that he is answering a higher calling to serve the nation on a bigger mandate. His strategic focal area at the SAHRC will be Gender, Racism, Equality and Justice. We wish him well as he embarks on this new journey in his career.

Kind regards,



Sphiwo Mahala, PhD.

Editor-in-Chief