

Africa Institute of South Africa's relationship with Dani Wadada Nabudere

By Sehlaire Makgetlaneng, PhD¹
Chief Research Specialist
Programme Leader: Governance and Security
Africa Institute of South Africa

Professor Dani Wadada Nabudere of Uganda who passed away on 9 November 2011 contributed towards a concrete understanding of imperialism from its first mercantilist phase, through its second free trade phase and its third financial or monopoly phase, to its current corporate or multilateral phase.¹ The Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) was the first South African public research council to recognise him as a distinguished African scholar with a high academic and scholarly and multidisciplinary reputation and standing in Africa and the rest of the world. A solid relationship between AISA and Nabudere has survived his passing away.

AISA developed, maintained and sustained a closer working relationship with Nabudere. It published some of his works.² It implemented its decision that whenever he was in South Africa, he should meet its researchers. The institute extended its recognition of Nabudere to Professor Archibald Monwabisi Mafeje, a distinguished South African scholar. It also developed, maintained and sustained a closer working relationship Mafeje. Upon its establishment of the Archie Mafeje Annual Memorial Lecture initiated by the author, it asked Nabudere to give a keynote address at its launch. He agreed and executed this task on 11 March 2010 in Pretoria, South Africa. The memorial lecture is named after Mafeje. Its objectives are, firstly, to commemorate the academic and intellectual contribution of the late Mafeje. Secondly, to cover relevant issues affecting the practical and theoretical state of social science discipline in Africa; and, thirdly, to highlight the importance of social science research in the socio-political and transformation in South Africa and in the rest of the African continent. Nabudere's keynote address at the launch of the Archie Mafeje Annual Memorial Lecture was a substantial and welcome addition to the realisation of its objectives. AISA published his address.³

As an integral part of its mandate on African affairs, among others, to produce and disseminate knowledge on African affairs and to promote awareness of Africa among South Africans, AISA took Nabudere to the University of South Africa and the Walter Sisulu University where he delivered a series of lectures. He delivered a lecture at the Department of Political Science of the University of South Africa on 10 March 2010 on the challenges and prospects of the United States of Africa project.⁴

AISA has been serving as a public organisational actor facilitating the dissemination of knowledge produced by African scholars in the service of the structural socio-political and economic change and transformation of Africa and that of its relationship with the rest of the world. It asked other scholars to participate in its Archie Mafeje Memorial Lecture Series not only to give a keynote address, but also to share the platform with those giving a keynote address. Among those who participated in this process are Pallo

Jordan, Mbulelo Vizikhungo Mzamane⁵ and Jimi O. Adesina.⁶ At its Third Archie Mafeje Annual Memorial Lecture, AISA provided Mamokgethi Setati, Brigalia Bam, Naledi Pandor, Adebayo Olukoshi and Francis Wilson with a platform to share their views of Mafeje within the context of its objectives with the audience.⁷ Mafeje contributed enormously to the concrete understanding of the African socio-political, economic and ideological situation and emphasised the structural need to substantiate theoretical positions on issues in practice as a means to solve Africa's problems. His contribution is tangibly articulated by Adebayo Olukoshi and Francis B. Nyamnjoh when they point out that he was: "A great pan-African, an outstanding scientist, a first rate debater, a frontline partisan in the struggle for social justice, and a gentleman of great humanitarian principles" whose "discourses transcended disciplinary boundaries and were characterised by a spirit of combative engagement underpinned by a commitment to social transformation," who "rallied his colleagues to resist the intellectual servitude on which all forms of forms of foreign domination thrive," who was "intransigent in his call for the liberation of our collective imaginations as the foundation stone for continental liberation," who "also distinguished himself by his insistence on scientific rigour and originality and whose "trade mark" was "uncompromisingly severe with fellow scientific who were mediocre in their analysis."⁸

It was against this background that AISA which in recognising Mafeje's achievement and contribution in intellectual development, especially within social sciences established Archie Mafeje Fellowship Programme in his honour during his lifetime, deemed it fit to have the Archie Mafeje Annual Memorial Lecture.

Nabudere in his provision of a concrete understanding of the theory and practice of imperialism served the people of his country,⁹ his East African region,¹⁰ his African continent,¹¹ his rest of the South¹² and his world as a whole. He provided us with the understanding of the socio-historical relationship between imperialism, the state, the class question and the race question.¹³ He also contributed towards our understanding of the operations of imperialism critical to resolve the national question¹⁴ and to achieve integration,¹⁵ not only in East Africa and other regions of the continent, but also on the continental scale.

Nabudere, as organic intellectual of the cause for the global order of social justice, deployed his knowledge and talents to the "struggle for a one world based on the equality of all nations, countries and peoples without exception and discrimination, a world without exploitation, domination and oppression"¹⁶.

¹ Nabudere, D.W., 2009. *The Crash of International Finance Capital and its Implications for the Third World*. London: Fahamu Books and Pambazuka Press Publication, September, Nabudere, D.W., 1990. *The Rise and Fall of Money-Capital*. Middlesex: Africa in Transition, Nabudere, D.W., 1983. *The Political Economy of Imperialism: Its Theoretical and Polemical Treatment from Mercantilist to Multilateral Imperialism*. London: Zed Press, Dar es Salaam: Tanzania Publishing House, 1983, and Nabudere, D.W., 1982. *Essays in the Theory and Practice of Imperialism*. London: Onyx Press.

² Nabudere, D.W., and Velthuisen, A., 2013. *Restorative Justice: From Trans-Dimensional*

Knowledge to a Culture of Harmony. Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa, Nabudere, D.W., 2012. Afrikology and Transdisciplinarity: A Restorative Epistemology. Africa Pretoria: Institute of South Africa, Nabudere, D.W., 2011. Archie Mafeje: Scholar, Activist and Thinker. Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa, Nabudere, D.W. 2010. Archie Mafeje: The Scholar and Political Activist: The Launching of Memorial Lecture: The Archie Mafeje Memorial Lecture Series. Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa, Nabudere, D.W., 2010. Afrikology, Philosophy and Wholeness: An Epistemology. Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa, and Nabudere, D.W., 2010. The United States of Africa: Challenges and Prospects. Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa.

³ Nabudere, Archie Mafeje: Scholar, Activist and Thinker, and Nabudere, Archie Mafeje: The Scholar and Political Activist: The Launching of Memorial Lecture: The Archie Mafeje Memorial Lecture Series.

⁴ Nabudere, The United States of Africa: Challenges and Prospects.

⁵ Mzamane, M.V., 2011. Archie Mafeje: A Pedagogy for Developmental and Liberation Education in South African Universities. Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa.

⁶ Adesina, J.O., 2011. Archie Mafeje: The Challenge of Agrarian Transformation. Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa.

⁷ Setati, M., Bam, B., Pandor, N., Olukoshi, A, and Wilson, F., 2012. Archie Mafeje: The Third Annual Archie Mafeje Lecture, Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa.

⁸ Olukoshi, A. and Nyamnjoh, F.B., 2008. A Giant Has Moved On. CODESRIA Bulletin, Nos 3 and 4, p. 1.

⁹ Nabudere, D.W., 1980. Imperialism and Revolution in Uganda. Dar es Salaam: Tanzania Publishing House.

¹⁰ Nabudere, D.W., 1981. Imperialism in East Africa: Imperialism and Exploitation, Vol 1. London: Zed Press.

¹¹ Nabudere, D.W., 2010. The Global Capitalist Crisis and Africa's Future: What is the Way Forward? Part 2. Pambazuka News, 498: 30 September, Nabudere, D.W., 2010. The Global Capitalist Crisis and the Way Forward for Africa, Seatini, Kampala.

¹² Nabudere, The Crash of International Finance Capital and its Implications for the Third World.

¹³ Nabudere, D.W., 1982. Imperialism, State, Class and Race: A Critique of Issa Shivji's Class Struggle in Tanzania. In Tandon, Y. (ed), University of Dar es Salaam Debate on Class, State and Imperialism. Dar es Salaam: Tanzania Publishing House.

¹⁴ Nabudere, D.W., 1977. Imperialism and the National Question. Dar es Salaam: Tanzania Publishing House.

¹⁵ Nabudere, D.W., 1981. Imperialism in East Africa: Imperialism and Integration, Vol 2. London: Zed Press.

¹⁶ Nabudere, The Rise and Fall of Money-Capital, p. 318.