



BOOK LAUNCH & DISCUSSION

Re-invigorating Ubuntu to realise a court-enforceable human right to water under the Namibian Constitution

Date: 03 March 2022 | Venue PK 1 | Time 18h00 – 19h30

Overview of the Book:

Dr Ndeunyema's book 'Re-Invigorating Ubuntu Through Water: A Human Right to Water under the Namibian Constitution' was published by Pretoria University Law Press in November 2021. The book argues for the existence of a court enforceable, implied human right to water under the Namibian Constitution. The book achieves this by applying various constitutional interpretation methods and invokes the African value of ubuntu through a novel approach conceptualised as 're-invigorative constitutionalism'.

The book advances the 'AQuA' (Adequacy – Quality – Accessibility) content of the right to water and articulates the correlative duties of the state. In giving substance to the state's duties that flow from a right to water, international law interpretative resources are also relied upon, including the UN's General Comment No 15, the Nairobi Principles, and the WHO's Drinking-water Quality Guidelines. The justiciability concerns that may arise are also overcome by arguing that Namibian courts are institutionally competent and retain the legitimacy to enforce right to water claims by applying the bounded deliberation model. The book is based on Dr Ndeunyema's doctoral research that was awarded the Professor Surya Subedi Prize for the best Oxford University law doctoral thesis submitted in 2019/2020.

About the Author:

Dr Ndjodi Ndeunyema is a UNAM B.Juris and LLB graduate. Until recently, he was a Modern Law Review Early Career Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. Dr Ndeunyema defended his Doctor of Philosophy in Law without corrections at Linacre College, Oxford in 2020. He further obtained his Master of Philosophy in Law (Research), a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL), and Master's of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice, while studying as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford.

From 2017 to 2021, he was also Research Director at the Oxford Human Rights Hub and served a founding editor of the University of Oxford Human Rights Hub Journal, and an editor of the Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal from 2016 to 2019. His scholarship has been published in leading journals including the Journal of African Law, Michigan Journal of International Law, and Global Journal of Comparative Law. He previously served Legal Fellow at the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights in Arusha, Tanzania. Dr Ndeunyema is currently a Trainee Solicitor at a corporate law firm in London, after completing the English Legal Practice Course with Distinction in 2021. He will be speaking in a personal capacity.