

## Professor Malik Maaza, PhD



*Malik Maaza*

Professor Malik Maaza is the UNESCO-UNISA AFRICA Chair in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology, a trilateral partnership between UNESCO, the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF). He is a senior scientist staff member of the National Research Foundation of South Africa and the University of South Africa (UNISA). He holds a PhD in neutron quantum optics from the University of Pierre-Marie Curie and an MSc in Photonics and Lasers from the University of Pierre-Marie Curie and Paris Sud University. Following his PhD research studies carried out at the Laboratoire Leon Brillouin-Orphee nuclear reactor in Saclay of the French Atomic Energy Corporation, he gained extra experiences via several postdoctoral positions at the University of Le Maine, the Institut D'Optique Theorique et Appliquee of Orsay-France, the Quantum Neutron Interferometry Groups of the Atominstitut der Osterreichischen Univ.-Vienna-Austria, the Frank Laboratory, Dubna-Russia, as well as at the Berliner Hahn-Meitner Institute in Germany. Since 1996—in Africa (bulk of his research in South Africa)—he has devoted his efforts to initiate and implement several research programmes and world-class laboratories in South Africa visited by several North and South junior and senior scientists. He has authored (or Co-authored) about 350 international peer reviewed ISI-CSI publications in reputable journals. From the education and the human capital development perspective, Prof. Maaza has attracted and trained a significant cohort of postgraduate students (~80 MSc and PhD students) from different corners of the globe and the African continent specifically with a focus on previously disadvantaged communities and female students.

From the science diplomacy point of view, He has pioneered several sound national and continental STEM platforms in Africa such as the South African Nanotechnology initiative (SANi) whose strategy was launched by the South African Ministry of Science and Technology and the Nanosciences African Network (NANOAFNET) launched jointly in Trieste-Italy with the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the Academy of Science for the Developing World (TWAS). Likewise, He has been very active in the field of Photonics where he co-initiated and implemented the National Laser Centre of South Africa (NLC-SA) as well as the African Laser Centre (ALC). This latter continental STI platform is an ongoing successful *Flagship* programme of the African Union-New Partnership for Africa Development (AU-NEPAD). Through these national, continental platforms, a sustainable human capital development and mobility of senior scientists have been implemented.

Prof. Maaza is the youngest fellow of the African and Islamic Academies of Science and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry-London and the New York Academy of Science. He has been bestowed with a number of national and international awards. Additionally, he is an active member of several

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juries and committees of international agencies and foundations: The International Swedish Cooperation Programme; The UNESCO-L'Oréal international award for Women in Science; National contact point of the South Africa-Swiss and the South Africa-Japan bilateral nanosciences cooperationives; and the International Commission of Optics (ICO-CIO).

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