



**Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University**

for tomorrow

Port Elizabeth & George

NMMU partner in national dialogue on land, human rights

The issue of land reform in South Africa was discussed in depth at a symposium co-organised by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, the Community Law Centre at the Kara Heritage Institute and NMMU George Campus.

Delegates who gathered in Pretoria for the dialogue on 19 April heard that a human rights approach to land redistribution, grounded in the effective implementation of Section 25 of the 1996 Constitution of South Africa, can still guarantee a life of dignity, equality and freedom for all South Africans. This view, expressed by Prof Bongani Majola, Chair of the SA Human Rights Commission, was supported by Prof Mathole Motshekga, Adjunct Professor in NMMU's Public Law Department, and Chair of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Justice and Correctional Services.

Convened for academics, students, civil society groups and state representatives by NMMU George Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, introduced the dialogue as a vital engagement about land for the restoration of dignity, reclamation of heritage and advancement of human rights.

Other key role-players in the dialogue included Adv Leks Makua from the Johannesburg Bar and Judge Johann van der Westhuizen, the Inspecting Judge of the Judicial Inspectorate of Correctional Services who chaired and facilitated the interactions of the symposium panel who took different and thought-provoking views on Section 25 of the Constitution in addressing the question: "What legal reforms are needed for an effective and timely redistribution of land in South Africa?"

Delegates agreed on the urgency of addressing land reform issues and confirmed the need for a Land and Economy CODESA to "radically address poverty, inequality and unemployment" in order to achieve the key objectives of restoration of human dignity, strengthening of the economy and advancement of our democracy.