

Rev. Prof. John S. Mbiti Annual Memorial Lecture

Inaugural Edition 2026

16 October 2026 | 14:00–17:00
Tangaza University, School of Theology



The **Rev. Prof. John S. Mbiti Annual Memorial Lecture** is an interdisciplinary academic gathering dedicated to engaging the enduring intellectual legacy of John S. Mbiti. It provides a platform for scholarly dialogue across disciplines, institutions, and regions, fostering renewed inquiry into his work and its contemporary relevance.

The inaugural edition explores the theme *The Enduring Legacy of Prof. John S. Mbiti's Discourse on African Spirituality and the Nexus between African Religion and Christianity* with keynote speaker **Prof. Philomena Njeri Mwaura** from Kenyatta University. The lecture takes place annually in October.

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Programme

The event will begin with an opening ceremony, followed by the Inaugural Memorial Keynote Lecture delivered by **Prof. Philomena Njeri Mwaura**. Invited discussants will then offer their responses, leading into a plenary discussion.

The programme will conclude with closing remarks, after which participants are warmly invited to continue the conversation during a networking reception with refreshments.

Practical Information

16 October 2026 | 14:00–17:00

Tangaza University, School of Theology, Nuru Hall

Langata South Road, Karen, Nairobi, Kenya

Hybrid format (on-site & online)

Open to academics and the public

Free of charge (registration required)

Full programme available on Tangaza University website

A collaborative initiative of Mbiti Mulango Family Trust and Tangaza University of Nairobi. Supported by the John S. Mbiti Memorial Planning Committee.
Photo John S. Mbiti (1970): Meyer Liebowitz/The New York Times/Redux/laif



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Programme Inaugural Edition 2026

16 October 2026 | 14:00–17:00

Tangaza University, School of Theology

14:00-14:45 Opening Ceremony

Moderation by Prof. Kivutha Kibwana

Dr. Beatrice Churu

Maria M. Mbiti

Hon. Titus K. Mbathi

Chief Justice Emeritus Willy Mutunga

Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwanja, CSSp

Memorial Planning Committee

Senior Lecturer, Tangaza University

Daughter of John S. Mbiti, Chair of Memorial Planning Committee

Lifelong Friend of John S. Mbiti

Memorial Planning Committee

Vice Chancellor and Rector, Tangaza University Nairobi, Kenya

14:45-16:45 Keynote Session

Moderation by Dr. Beatrice Churu

Keynote Address

Prof. Philomena Njeri Mwaura

Senior Lecturer, Tangaza University

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Kenyatta University

Responses by Discussants

Prof. Aloo Osotsi Mojola

Prof. Aloys Ojore

Chief Justice Emeritus Willy Mutunga

Rev. Canon Prof. Dickson Nkonge Kagema

Prof. of Philosophy and Translation Studies, St. Paul's University Limuru, Kenya

Senior Lecturer, Tangaza University

Memorial Planning Committee

Professor of Religious Studies and Theology, Chair of the Department of Humanities, Chuka University, Kenya

Plenary Discussion

All participants are invited to contribute.

16:45-17:00 Closing Remarks

Moderation by Prof. Kivutha Kibwana

Castro Muli Mwangangi

Dr. Beatrice Churu

Memorial Planning Committee

Member of Mbiti Mulango Family Trust & Memorial Planning Committee

Senior Lecturer, Tangaza University

17:00-17:30 Refreshments & Networking

All participants are warmly invited to join us for refreshments and an opportunity to connect and network.

Practical Information

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Hybrid format (on-site & online) | Open to academics and the public | Free of charge (registration)
Full information available on Tangaza University website | Venue opens: 13:00

