

**Award Winning Southern African Writer on Lecture Tour of
the Caribbean Region**

**Jamaica Visit hosted by
the Centre for Gender and Development Studies,
the University of the West Indies,
Mona Campus Unit.**



Ms Elinor Sisulu, Zimbabwean-born/South African citizen, and award winning author will deliver a public lecture entitled ***Mrs Sisulu's Husband: Gender Relations in an African Marriage on Monday April 23 AT 5.30 p.m in the UWI Multifunctional Room of the Main Library.*** During her visit to Jamaica, Ms Sisulu will also meet with staff and students from Shortwood and Mico Teachers Colleges, Librarians, the Jamaica Reading Association, and organisations addressing the HIV/AIDS. She will also be hosted by the South Africa High Commissioner, Advocate Faith Rabede and the Jamaica South Africa Friendship Association.

Funded by the South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS), Ms Sisulu's visit Jamaica from April 20-25 2007 is part of a regional lecture tour during the months of April and early May. During this period she will visit Tobago, Grenada, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Suriname. The CGDS/UWI St Augustine Unit is overall host for the visit in partnership with the CGDS Centres at Cave Hill and Mona.

BIO DATA

Elinor Sisulu, a writer, human rights activist and political analyst, was born in Harare, Zimbabwe in March 1958 and grew up mostly in Bulawayo. Her education and training span the disciplines of history, English literature, development studies and feminist theory.

Her award-winning children's book about the first democratic elections in South Africa entitled *The Day Gogo Went to Vote* was published in 1994 and was recently selected by the Librarian's Association of South Africa (LIASA) as one of the ten best books representing South African democracy.

Ms Sisulu was the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Centre for the Book from 1997 and in June 2003 was elected Chairperson of the Book Development Forum of South Africa. She is passionate about children's literature and has been instrumental in setting up a Children's Literature Network in South Africa.

In 1993 a fellowship at the prestigious Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, enabled her to start researching and writing the biography of Walter and Albertina Sisulu. *Walter and Albertina Sisulu: In Our Lifetime* was published in December 2002 to critical acclaim. The book was runner up in the *Sunday Times* Alan Paton Non-Fiction Award and winner of the prestigious 2003 Noma Award for publishing in Africa. Time Warner Books published the book in the UK in November 2003.

Her book is unusual in that it explores both the public and private domains, showing how, despite the political pre-eminence of Walter Sisulu, well-known anti-apartheid activist, colleague and friend of Nelson Mandela, Albertina stood as an equal partner in their marriage. The unexpected and intimate role reversals seen in their long and loving partnership (which survived even his 26 years on Robben Island) provide not only fascinating insight into their personalities, but also a useful case study in terms of the specificity of African feminisms and their contexts.

After Jamaica, the lecture tour continues to Barbados, Trinidad and Suriname. For further information please contact: Dr Leith Dunn or Ms Erika Ellis at the CGDS Mona Unit: (876) 977 7365 or 927 1660-9 ext. 2644 or 3008.

.