

## Research Fellows and Research Projects

Department of Science and Technology (DST) – National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS)

### RESEARCH FOCUS AREA: TRADITIONAL MEDICINE



**Full Name:** Mr Outule Cuthbert Rapuleng

**Country of Research:** Botswana

**Research Topic:** The Protection and Enforceability of IKS Rights of Barolong Traditional Medicine Practitioners in Botswana: Compatibility with International Standards

**Institutional Affiliation:** Northwest University – Mafikeng Campus

**Research Supervisor:** Prof. Philip Iya

### Research Background/Summary

This research is about protecting traditional medicine knowledge holders from losing their knowledge and genetic resources through misappropriation and theft. It explores the intellectual property regime and its prevailing and well-documented short-comings in addressing the problem. The study is necessitated by the very act that knowledge holders in general are currently losing their valuable indigenous knowledge through unscrupulous means

due to the inadequacies of systems in place to protect them. The study brings in the a novel solution that should act as complementary to the existing mechanism – resorting to the knowledge holders ancient ways of protection their knowledge. It emphasizes and employs the research-with, as opposed to researching-for, kind of methodology. The challenge that should then be normalized for consistency is the applicability of the explored solution to wider international application. This is because the research may have implications for policy and practice in the SADC region and beyond.

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