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Johannesburg

PRESS RELEASE: Book Launch – feeling and ugly And red cotton

impepho press is excited to invite you to the launch of our first poetry collections: *feeling and ugly* by danai mupotsa and *red cotton* by vangile gantsho.

Date: 02 June 2018

Venue: African Flavour Books (20 Melle Street, Braamfontein)

Time: 14:00 - 17:00

impepho press is a Pan Africanist publishing house committed to the sincere telling of African and international stories, celebrating both the fragility and resilience of human experience. We believe in championing brave, particularly feminist, voices committed to literary excellence.

mupotsa's collection, *feeling and ugly*, gathers the various statuses and locations she moves across, as a daughter, mother, teacher, scholar and writer. From these places, many of the poems try to approach difficult feelings about what it means to "do politics" from an empathetic complexity. The collection carries a set of standpoints, or willfulness about pedagogy, politics and optimism. And while she carries an attachment to a non-reparative, or negative affect across the collection, she closes in describing the work, or all of her work as love poems.

gantsho's *red cotton* is an exploration of what it means to be black, queer, and woman in modern-day South Africa. gantsho interrogates being non-conformist in both a traditional-cultural-religious upbringing and a more liberal yet equally-oppressive urban socialisation. This poetry novella questions what women are taught about their bodies and the feminine sexual space, while also addressing the mother-daughter relationship as the first and most constant reference of womanhood. The collection moves fluidly between the erotic, the uncomfortable and grotesque. What is painful and what is beautiful? What is remembered and what is longed-for?

Both books will be available for purchase.

Drinks and snacks will be served.

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