

## ■ D E G R E E



Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim

# Durban HIV researcher to be honoured

DURBAN-BASED HIV researcher Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim is among six people who will receive honorary doctorates from Stellenbosch University in December.

Karim is a National Research Foundation A-rated South African scientist, an epidemiologist who specialises in infectious disease, and is the associate scientific director of the Centre for Aids Research in South Africa.

The university said she was being honoured for her commitment to research and education in women's health in Africa and globally, particularly her successful efforts in increasing the focus on HIV, and her pivotal role in HIV prevention research.

The university said it would confer honorary doctorates on the "remarkable individuals" in recognition of their extraordinary efforts to change the world for the better in their fields: the performing arts, economics, higher education, women's health, equal opportunities for people with disabilities, and rural development.

Others who will receive doctorates include director and playwright John Kani, Nasima Badsha, Rachel Kachaje, Dr Uma Lele, and Professor Leonard Wantchekon.

Kani, born in Port Elizabeth, is being recognised for his 50-year career in the performing arts and playwriting.

Badsha grew up in South Africa and the UK, and has made outstanding contributions to South African higher education over more than 30 years.

Kachaje from Malawi is an activist with 25 years' experience in advocating for equal opportunities and rights for persons with disabilities.

Lele, born in India, is being honoured for her leadership in theory and practise of rural development globally.

Wantchekon, of Benin, is committed to improving economics training in West Africa. | **MERCURY CORRESPONDENT**