
Report to AGM

Deputy President of Convocation
The Executive Committee of Convocation
Vice Chancellor Acting Prof Ramogale
Members of Convocation
Our Distinguished guest

Allow me to greet and welcome you all once more in this gathering of Today, which serves under the theme: **“Reposition and restoring the intended existence of Convocation and alumni Association to its Alma mater”**

Introduction

Chairperson of the session we convene today at the advance level 1 of the Corvid 19 regulations. Our country and the world has been seriously robbed massive progress in terms of development by this notorious pandemic which has stolen more than 20000 lives of our people, and it still continuing. Many people has also been robbed their jobs. Corona virus has not only given us a new way of doing things but it has also ensured that many families are downtrodden to poverty with no coming back. While we acknowledge the work the government do to curve the spread, there’s still much more that needs to be done in addressing the triple challenges.

Today we gather here, 3 million young people aged 15 to 34 were unemployed in South Africa, according to Statistics South Africa. The age group's unemployment rate was 34.1%.

This is according to the narrow definition of unemployment, which only counts people who took active steps to look for work or start some form of self-employment in the four weeks before they were interviewed.

When the expanded definition is considered, the unemployment rate for people aged 15 to 34 rises to 55.2%. This definition includes unemployed people who have given up looking for work.

This leaves me with two questions which I hope the house will help me to answer. First question how many of our graduates are amongst those that counted above? What needs to be done?

Report on Alumnus

As things stand we are seated 38996 graduates of our alma mater, quite a number that is making us proud out there while others are still battling with the unemployment pandemic.

We only hope that their fortunes will change soon and will be counted amongst those who are doing well out there. This CONVEXCO has taken an initiative to resuscitate relations with all our alumni's, employed, unemployed and those who are in business.

We fundamentally believe that we all need one another in order for us to make a meaning full strides in changing our institution from what it is today to what we would be even more proud of in the near future.

We are the children of MUT, we brothers and sisters, let's be there for each other for our institutions sake.

House Keeping

This Convocation Executive I'm report on behalf of, was elected into office on the 07 December 2019 in one of the most historic AGM MUT has ever had. We entered into office knowing that it's not going to be an easy road and things are not going to come easy. We have since made many positive strides and strongly believe that we are moving forward making a lot of progress.

Many did not know about the structure Convocation that says a lot about the role the structure has been playing in accordance with its statutory role. Many gain confidence as they keep coming forward to join and associate them self.

Convocation is regulated by Convocation constitution in line with the statute as approved by council and minister of education. It is required by section 40 of the statute for the convocation to:

- a) Discuss and state its opinion on any matter relating to the University, including matters which may be referred to it by the Council;**
- b) Foster and maintain a positive image of the University As a whole in the context of community and business interests;**
- (c) Actively Foster a spirit of belonging amongst alumni;**
- d) Create in the alumni a sense of responsibility, obligation and accountability towards the community in general and their alma mater in particular;**
- (e) Liaise and consult with all other University Constituencies on matters of common interest and to foster unity of purpose; and**
- (f) Engage in fund-raising for the University and the Convocation.**


Convexco formulated a clear sound, goal driven program of action in line with the MUT strategy 2025. Some strides were made while in their majority were distracted by covid 19.

Colleagues, comrades and compatriots, it must be categorically stated that there's serious work that needs to be done to make the Convocation to be effective enough within and outside of MUT.

This executive entered into this term in a convocation and Convexco that has no systems what so ever in place. We than had to start building systems that will see the structure surviving even after our term of office.

It has not been an easy task to do, worse there was no handover just to inform the new leadership as to what has been happening to convocation. Chairperson I can safely say that Convocation had no voice or influence what so ever in strategic committees of the university.

We found Convocation that was neither respected nor wanted by many important stakeholder, solely because it has been mostly used for many wrong reasons other than the work of convocation.



This Convexco is not in office to undo the rights that was done by the previous leadership if there is any, we however are democratically elected to continue ensuring that the University benefits immensely with Convocation.

It is for this reason that we appeal to the convocants to welcome, accept the outcomes of the AGM of the 07 December 2019. New leadership is in office and its term of office ends in 2023 where new leadership would be elected. AGM hangover must come to an end, MUT graduates must unite in order to make sure that the mandate is properly carried and executed.

Convexco has discovered that the Convocation constitution has too many gaps that needs to be corrected and, it's in this seating where we make a proper appeal to review our constitution. To highlight the few gaps the constitution says in section 6.2.6 "The Convexco shall elect from amongst its members Treasure," but is not clear as to what are treasures responsibilities wants he gets elected. This and other gaps has resulted in CONVEXCO calling for a constitutional summit to thoroughly look at all the gaps.

It would therefor prudent for Convocation to have a special meeting early 2021 to deal with all constitutional matters.

This leadership is open for constructive critics where, we not doing right and up for self-correct.

Stake holder Relations

Convocation is the majority stake holder of the institution and it must be treated as such and accorded respect that it deserves. So far convocation is given some high level of respect by different section of the institution. However, the confusion still remains in the Marketing and Communication as to who is who. Macoms still see Convocation and Convexco as their competitors as oppose to a stakeholder. This confusion requires a serious workshop that could clear the air between the two parties.

Since we assumed office there was never a hand over from the previous to the current leadership, this is for the obvious reasons. There's quite a lot of things that macomms would do on behalf of convocation without our consent or even to inform the Convexco, we have since called macomms into order and properly asked them to allow the Convexco to run the affairs of convocation as stipulated in the constitution.

Convexco in its first meeting resolved in paying a courtesy visit to the founder of the Institution Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the former Chancellor Mr. Willis Mchunu, this was done to ensure that relations are strengthened with all relevant people who could play a critical role in fundraising for the institution.

Chairperson I can safely and confidently say that, this Convexco has no shame in meeting up the founder of the institution. This move has begun to yield some positive results for the institution. Plans are again in place to meet the Chancellor to make sure that she becomes that face of this great initiative.

We have engage the institution and agreed to have convocation allocated budget. Section 9.1 of our constitution, for convocation to run and implement it programs such the fundraising for institutes and convocations, the said budget has gained support from all committees and is awaiting council approval. **“This has been the greatest milestone for MUT convocation as this is happening for the first time”;**

We have further ensured that all Convexco members are supported with tools of trade, again this is something that was not there.

Convexco remains super concerned about the high level of instability in the institution, this has huge impact in getting relevant people to invest into the institution.

The University is back at acting's again, for the past 10years our institution lack stability and substantive leadership. In the Executive management only the Register and CFO are substantive, that's call for concern. Furthermore corruption is the order of the day in our alma mater! We need to boost the investors' confidence and show the world that we are capable and can do much better.

We are yet to meet all Unions who are existing in the institution, including our sister statutory body the SRC. This exercise is done to ensure that all relent and strategic partnership is formed with all stakeholders.

Launching of Chapters

Convexco had intended to start launching of chapters in April, however due to Corvid 19 we could not continue as the regulations imposed by the government could not allow.

The launching of chapters would enable full smooth and effective of convocation, it is therefore even more encourage to convocants that we group ourselves and form chapters.

In preparation of this reports, Convexco was appraised by the Macomms that, Convocation actually does have chapters which were launch some time ago, however it was not clear as to who launched them, and what process was followed, and who are leading these chapters. This act continues to show how much Marketing and communications undermines the convocation.

In 2021 we are confident that we would be able to launch a minimum of 2 chapters, it's not an easy task to do but with your support and cooperation we are optimistic that two would be a minimum. It is our desire to launch as many as we can.

Strides made so far

2020 has not been an easy year, even though it started well. We have against all odds for the first time ever Convocation is going to have budget allocated by the University to ensure that it's fully functional. This is a victory worth celebrating, all along Convexco members have been using their own funds to ensure that work on convocation is executed.

Tools of trade have already been given to Convexco members, these are things that were not happening in the past.

Convexco has agreed in principle with Council of the institution that graduates of MUT needs to be priorities when there are posts advertised by the institution. Furthermore Council endorsed that even in supply chain MUT graduate needs to be given preference, this task was given to the VC to ensure that the supply chain policy is adjusted accordingly.

It is part of our program of action to have at least 30% of the University Budget is spent on MUT graduates.

CONVEXCO is of the view that MUT graduates will easily give back to their alma mater as compared to other people whose only interest is to get contracts and leave the institution.

Convexco had serious fundraising plans planned for 2020 which have since been deferred for 2021, it is common understanding that our institution

lacks a lot when it comes to the 3rd stream income. The institution solely relies on government grants and tuition paid by students, this compromises a lot in the development of the institution.

Amongst the challenges faced by our alma mater is lack of funding for the Advance and postgrad students, it for this reason Convexco needs to put more energy in fundraising to assist the students and further eliminate the rise in student debt.

We are engaging different institution and industries to form relations that will see our institution benefiting from. We are currently engaging AFASA to establish a partnership that will see students and graduate in the agricultural stream benefiting with various opportunities. This partnership will see agricultural students given necessary skill and training in the field of agree culture.

Convexco has deployed two of its members to the institutional forum. We need to ensure that transformation agenda is properly advanced. We are proud to announce that the Deputy President of Convocation has been elected to the Deputy Chairperson of the institutional forum. This clearly articulates the level of influence the Convocation through Convexco has in the institutional Governance.

In the Institutional forum Convexco has ensured that the transformation agenda is of then priority, this has resulted in the establishment of a transformation committee that will ensure that needs and aspiration of the graduates. This will see many of the development in the institution being channeled through graduates and convocants.

We have a lined up programs to attend to in 2021 as 2020 was seriously distracted. We had planned host a brunch which is aimed to be an annual program. With this program we aimed to ensure that all MUT service providers do give back to the institution and that funds raised there are channeled accordingly in ensuring that the institution goes forward.

In conclusion.

We owe our being to the alma mater. Challenges would always be here, what matters is how we overcome them. I call upon all Convocants and Graduates



to stand up and claim their rightful spot in the institution. Our unity is the only strength to help one another. I challenge you all to instil the spirit of giving in ourselves, no one can help this institution but us.

Let's give back to our alma mater, let's help those who can't help themselves in whichever way we possible could, let's revive our spirit of belonging. MUT needs us, we need MUT lets make our impacts for the future generation.

Brothers and sisters there's a long way to go, let pick up our sock and get on the road. Impumelelo yale nyuvesi isezandlani zethu. Uma sibambisene sizokwenza okuningi.

