

MANGOSUTHU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS TO THE MUT CONVOCATION - 28 NOVEMBER 2020

BY PROF. M.M. RAMOGALE,

ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL







COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS: APRIL 2020



- At a virtual meeting of the University Council held through Microsoft Teams on 29 April 2020, Council deliberated on allegations of irregularities brought before it by Dr ED Malaza, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, against the Chairperson of Council, Mr M Morailane, and against the Chairperson of Council's Audit and Risk Committee, Mr S Keswa. Council also deliberated on allegations of irregularities against the Vice-Chancellor and Principal brought before it by the Chairperson of Council. The Council then resolved to institute a forensic investigation to establish the validity or otherwise of all these allegations.
- Further to the above resolution, Council then resolved to place Dr Malaza, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, on precautionary suspension in order to ensure that the forensic investigation proceeds without any possible interference by him.



COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS: APRIL 2020 (ctd)



• At the above-mentioned meeting, Mr Morailane, the Chairperson of Council, voluntarily relinquished his role as both the Chairperson of Council and as Council member for the duration of the forensic investigation in order to ensure that the forensic investigation proceeds without any possible interference by him.

• Further, upon the recommendation of Council, the Chairperson of Council's Audit and Risk Committee, Mr S. Keswa, voluntarily relinquished his role as both the Chairperson of Council's Audit and Risk Committee and as Council member for the duration of the forensic investigation in order to ensure that the forensic investigation proceeds without any possible interference by him.



COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS: APRIL 2020 (ctd)



- To fill the void created by the precautionary suspension of Dr Malaza, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Council has appointed Prof. M.M. Ramogale, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Support, as the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal with effect from 1 May 2020.
- Council has requested the Acting Vice-Chancellor to give his consideration to possible administrative action against internal staff members of MUT implicated in the above allegations.

• Dr Jerome Mabaso, Director: Audit, Risk and Compliance, and Mr Muzi Khumalo, Senior Director: Operations, were subsequently placed on precautionary suspension.



COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE FORENSIC INVESTIGATION REPORT: 23 OCTOBER 2020



- That Council would engage the services of a labour lawyer to institute disciplinary action against identified individuals;
- That Council should report the relevant matters to law enforcement;
- That Council should follow-up on the issues that have been identified for further probing, using the services of external legal experts, coordinated through the MUT legal department;



COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE FORENSIC INVESTIGATION REPORT: 23 OCTOBER 2020 (ctd)



- That Council should invite back to Council, members of Council, such as the Chairperson of Council, whom the SNG-Thornton report exonerates;
- That Council explores how to recoup lost funds from identified individuals and companies;
- That the Acting Vice-Chancellor should advise Council on how to handle the legal issues emanating from the SCM Tenders that were awarded between 1 November 2018 and 30 April 2020;



COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE FORENSIC INVESTIGATION REPORT: 23 OCTOBER 2020 (ctd)



- That the senior officials who are on precautionary suspension have their suspensions extended. This means that Prof M. Ramogale will continue to perform duties as the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal;
- That the Acting Vice-Chancellor should consider putting on precautionary suspension officials who have been implicated in the SNG-Thornton Forensic Investigation for various alleged transgressions; and
- That the university should seek financial assistance from DHET to pursue the various issues emanating from the forensic investigation.



MUT'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19



- First, declaration of COVID-19 as a national disaster by the SA Government on 15 March 2020.
- Second, a directive to higher education institutions by DHET issued on 17 March 2020 to consider early recess.
- MUT Senate resolved on early recess from 18 March 2020. Subsequently a national lockdown was declared and the University was closed on 27 March.
- With easing of restrictions, we adopted a phased-in approach for students' return to campus, starting with clinical sciences students on 17 June 2020.



MUT'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (ctd): PLATOON SYSTEM AND MULTIMODAL T&L PLAN



- Our Senate adopted a **Platoon System**, which is **an educational arrangement in which** learners/students are organized into cohorts/platoons that take turns on a rotational basis to use limited classroom space and other physical resources of an educational establishment.
- Our Senate also adopted a **Multimodal Teaching and Learning Plan**: face-to-face teaching and learning, distribution of printed learning materials, remote learning.
- Semester 1 successfully completed on 31 October 2020.
- Semester 2 to end on 28 February 2021.



EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES: SOUTHWARD EXPANSION



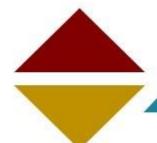
- Several years ago, Management began discussions about the feasibility of developing campuses outside Umlazi because of shortage of land within the township.
- Southward expansion, up to Port Shepstone, was one of the options we considered, primarily because between Umlazi and Umtata in the Eastern Cape there is no other university that has a teaching campus.
- This huge area with a huge population is clearly under-served. As a university based in the south of Durban, it makes absolute sense to occupy this geographic space. The south coast is MUT's natural home.



EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES: SOUTHWARD EXPANSION (ctd)



- 2019: we were approached by Umdoni Municipality with an offer of vacant land and buildings for educational purposes within its municipal area. This offer chimed well with our contemplation of a southward expansion.
- A small team led by Dr Makua, Acting DVC: T&L, inspected the land and buildings about three months ago.
- On Monday, 23 November, a large EMC group visited the municipality to inspect the land and buildings, and we will share our impressions and discuss the way forward in our next EMC meeting.



KZN SOUTH COAST







EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

REPOSITIONING MUT AS AN ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY (ROBERT KIYOSAKI'S CASHFLOW QUADRANT)

Active

Employee

Passive

Business

Owner

Self-**Employed**

95%

Employed / Self Employed Trading Time For Money Starting Over Every day At Zero Investor

5%

Business Owner / Investor Makes money with or without you







EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES



REPOSITIONING MUT AS AN ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY

- Institutionalization of entrepreneurship training.
- Part of the core curriculum and MUT's academic identity adopted by Senate in 2015.
- Basic course in entrepreneurship, followed by an advanced course for the truly entrepreneurial.
- Towards the production of an entrepreneurial alumni.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

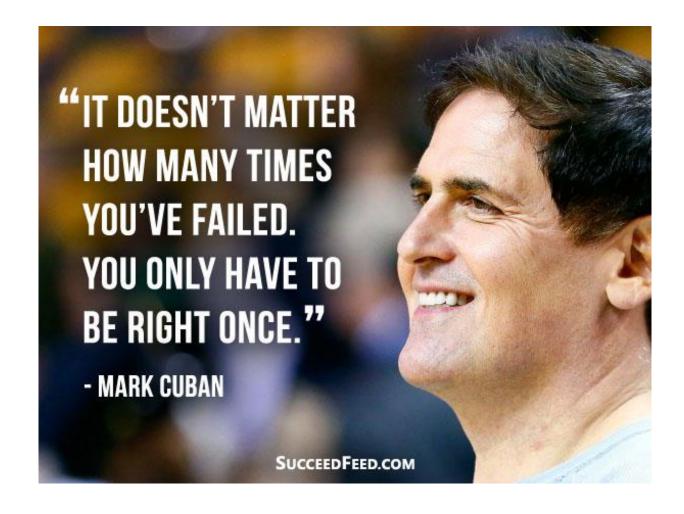
Empty pockets never held anyone back. Only empty heads and empty hearts can do that. Norman Vincent Peale **American Author** QuoteHD.com 1898-1993







FOOD FOR THOUGHT (ctd)









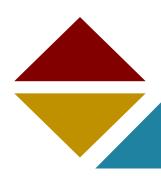
FOOD FOR THOUGHT (ctd)

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man whois actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

-Theodore Roosevelt (1910)







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THANK YOU

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