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**Deputy President  
Members of Convexco  
Vice Chancellor  
Executive Management Present  
Convocants**

## **Introduction**

Ladies and gentlemen I greet you today in a very high spirit, with the progress that we are making up to this far. Corvid 19 has given the country and the world a very traumatic time, hence making progress under these conditions must be really celebrated.

The university is facing difficult times, we strongly believe that they will pass. We must give credit to the Acting Management with the efforts they putting in place to bring about stability.


We remain concern about the acting as they do not give confidence to the potential donors, we call upon management to speed up the process of appointments of substantive people in respective positions.

We big farewell to the outgone register Mr. Naidoo who since retired in July after he has dedicated two decades serving our beloved institution. We thank him for the contribution he made to our institution, and wish him all the best to his endeavors.

On the same note we further congratulate and welcome Mr. Masala as the Acting Register, ultimately secretary to Convocation. We believe that we are in good hands and you'll give the best of your abilities to the betterment of MUT.

## **Report on Alumni**

Last year we reported that we have 38996 graduate since the establishment of MUT, this number has since increased as students are graduating yearly. We are currently seating at just above 40000 and still



going forward. This shows that our institution is growing, and convocation continues to be the majority stakeholder of the institution.

Once more I welcome the class of 2020, and class of 2021 into convocation. Make your presence be felt.

We will always welcome any progressive contributions to convocation and the institution. MUT is your home, be at home and feel at home. I feel the pain of you not walking up the stage on the day of your graduation, we could only pray for things be better for those who will graduate next year. You are now ambassadors of MUT fly our flag high.

### **Housekeeping matters**

Convocation is regulated by Convocation constitution in line with the statute as approved by council and minister of Higher 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.**

The Convocation and CONVEXCO is guided by these above function from the statute to properly execute its work. There's a lot that needs to be done to put MUT Convocation where it's supposed to be in as far as playing its role in the institution.

We have finally made it to the Convocation induction, the first of its kind in MUT and further we have made it mandatory to go to induction immediately after election. It's now a matter of time before it becomes a constitutional mandate.

We further started with our benchmarking, where we are meeting different convocations from different institutions, with a clear understanding that we come from different backgrounds. Colleagues I must say that we are learning a lot and indeed we are taking that which we believe it would work for MUT. A proper report will be compiled upon conclusion of the entire benchmarking exercise on what is archived and the way forward.

Convocation continues to attract more interest from many people who knew nothing about. This is a great milestone achieved in a very short space of time. It is attested by the high level of attendance that we saw when our first chapter was launched.

Today I stand proud in front of you to announce that we have achieved one of the last year AGM resolutions, which mandated us to ensure that we launch a chapter. This is another milestone completed. Gauteng Province has a chapter now which is led by:


<b>Khanyisani</b>	<b>Chiya</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
<b>Thabiseng</b>	<b>Molebeng</b>	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>
<b>Nkosiyethu</b>	<b>Ngcobo</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Vela</b>	<b>Mbuyisa</b>	<b>Additional</b>

This means that all our alumni in Gauteng do have leadership that will ensure their wellbeing. This chapter must at all material times ensure that our alumni in Gauteng reconnects with their alma mater.

What was also remarkable on our inaugural Chapter launch was that one of our graduates who had come to attend the lunch for assistance in mentoring and career development got employed on the spot

Convexco has finally met the Master Class. This is a well-organized group of MUT graduates who have been making progressive donations and contributions towards the development of the institution. I want to thank them on behalf of Convocation for the strides they have been making in ensuring that MUT develops. I further challenge them to give all their efforts in ensuring that:

1. MUT Change its curriculum.
2. MUT makes enrols on the 3<sup>rd</sup> stream income.



Masterclass should be treated as source of wisdom in the convocation, hence I ask you to find a way of officialising this structure in the Convocation Constitution.

This structure must further be regarded as a home to former leaders of Convocation as it is the case with the chapters. Being in the master class does not necessarily take away your membership in a chapter, you will belong to both.

We are continuing with the Launching of Chapters, MUT must be felt everywhere. I encourage you convocants to make sure that you get into chapters and make meaningful contributions.

Compatriots, colleagues and Convocants, Convexco as per your resolution in our last AGM, has made progressive amendments to the Convocation Constitution. Today the amendments are presented here, let's participate and correct where we feel it needs improvements before we sent the document to council for final approval.

Amongst our resolution to the previous AGM, we resolve on making contribution to the Convocation in a form of R200. This has since not been done by you convocants.

It must be noted that CONVEXCO is not in the position to force members of convocation to begin to contribute, however we do appeal to you convocants that we adhere to our resolution so that we are not seen as people who taking decisions for the sake of taking them.

### **Stake Holder Relations**

We maintain a healthy relationship with most stakeholders in the institution. Council allocated us a budget that has manage to assist us in dealing with most of our operations. That budget is vested in marketing and communications department.

However our problems continues with Marcomms. Many attempts have been made by the VC to find an amicable solution, we remain optimistic that a better working way would be found. This has led MARCOMMS to attend only one of the 3 events that we had.

CONVEXCO is not in office to nurse anyone's feelings, rather to serve the institution as per the mandate and directive of the 2019 December AGM up

until 2023. We appeal to all stakeholders to work hand in glove with Convexco and convocation to achieve all that is desired by our alma mater.

## **Strides Made**

In the last AGM, Convexco reported that Council endorsed the prioritization of MUT Graduates in employment and procurement of goods and services. We made this call on the bases that when we fundraise for the institution it would be easy to engage alumni and all progressive forces who would easily rescue the institution.

This was prompted by the fact that many of MUT service providers do who have been benefiting for decades in the institution, have not bothered to give back to the institution even when the university is severely bleeding. We believe that our graduates would have good heart to give back to their alma mater given a chance.

Despite the Council endorsing this and further instructing the VC to ensure that it find the reflection in the supply chain policy, it has met some reluctance from some officials. We however optimistic that this would soon be a reality.

Furthermore Convexco Ordinary meetings now has a standing item that speaks to Entrepreneurship in the attempt to monitor and support our Alumni who are venturing in such space.

Convexco also reported on the last AGM that there was an IF Task Team established to look into matters of transformation where two of Convexco members are members, we are happy to announce that the process of a transformation concept document has made significant progress as it's awaits to be endorsed by IF and sent to council for approval.

Today we are submitting the Amendments to the AGM, as we seek to improve our constitution. Let's engage, disagree to agree. We fully understand that contradictions are a source of development.

Convocation deployees to Council are both now part of the Council Executive, the President Chairs the FIC and Ms Mnyando Chairs SAC. This symbolizes the contribution and commitment the deployees have and shown to Council.

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While we continue to support and wish the deployees well and further call them to excel in the portion the Council has entrusted them with.

Furthermore we call upon you Convocants to take the opportunity to apply everytime when Council advertise for post for Council members. We must occupy MUT Council, this is our institution. I would be proud the day we would have at least 40% of Council Members being MUT Graduates with relevant expertise.

Convexco has held numerous event, that seek to ensure capacity building in members of Convexco. This includes Summit, induction and the ongoing benchmarking. We are going to have a gallerdinner in December in an attempt to fundraise funds.

Convocants I appeal to you that we support our Alma Mata. MUT needs us and through Convocation we can take this institution to even greater heights

### **In Conclusion**

The Convocation needs all of us as convocants. We must give are the best of our abilities in serving our alma mater. A lot is being done, however there's still a lot more that needs to be done to get the institution where it should be.

We can never emphasize the importance of bringing the substantive people in all the acting post, this speak directly to the stability of the institution.

Furthermore we call upon the institution to look deep on the matters of curriculum change, this will speak directly to the kind of graduates we produce. We can no longer accept having graduates who are unemployable due to the mismatch of skill or outdated curriculum being offered by the institution.

We further call upon the master class to get closer to their alma mater with proper advice and guidance with what the industry is looking for.

Colleagues you are ambassadors of MUT lets fly the flag super high where ever we are.

I Thank you.