

Alumni in action

Convocation Executive visits Founder and former Premier to seek help



Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, fourth from left, with the MUT Convocation Executive, and MUT staff in front of the Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi Museum and Documentation Centre

This important trip was initiated by the University's new Convocation Executive, which was elected on 7 December 2019. Its president, Sandile Dlamini, said that as part of Convocation's plan for contributing to the improvement of conditions at the University, they would contact strategic partners and request them to help out. The Prince of KwaPhindangene, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, was naturally their first choice. This decision was supported by the Vice-Chancellor and the University Registrar who are also by virtue of their positions, members of Convocation Executive.

"We wanted to hit the ground running," Sandile said. As former student leaders, Sandile and his team understood the urgency of the situation. Their standpoint was that it did not make too much sense that every year the same problems occur at South African universities, and nothing is done about them. Who does not know there will be problems related to housing next year? We are all expecting that the lack of post-graduate funding will be one of the issues the students will put on the table next year. There will be

huge numbers of applicants that will be turned away because of a lack of space. There are many other issues that Sandile and his team are aware of. But the said ones require urgent attention, and universities need outside partners to help deal with them.

The Convocation Executive is acutely aware of this fact, and their plan has been commended in very high places and supported by the University's executive leadership. This is a giant step for the Convocation