



### Reflections on the 4IR, entrepreneurship and nation-building initiatives

The MUT Strategy 2020-2025 has not yet been implemented but the mood at the University is already on the next five years. In October there were five big initiatives that indicated that the University was reflecting at the type of graduate it aims at producing, and the kind of nation it would like to contribute in building. Both these themes take centre stage on MUT as the University looks ahead. Questions that the Executive Management Committee (EMC) grapples with are what we are doing to ensure that by the time MUT students graduate, they are able to make meaningful contributions in economic and social development of immediate communities, South Africa and the world. On entrepreneurship and raising awareness on the face of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the University has begun to take a concerted effort at highlighting the necessity for shift in the mindset, and discussed plans to nurture the students as they embark on a phase in their study and their lives.



## The Anchor University concept is real and growing

The Anchor University will always be associated with Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, the University's Vice-Chancellor and Principal. Within a month of joining MUT, Dr Malaza, at every available opportunity, spoke about MUT being an Anchor University, a term meaning that the University has to be part of its immediate community; and partners with the community in all development plans.

Dr Malaza continues to talk about MUT being an Anchor University. To many, this was all new, but the more the University discussed its new perspective, it became inevitable not to discuss the role of MUT as a University at Umlazi Township where it is located. In fact, the 'Anchor University' is a global phenomenon.



University Presidents and/Vice-Chancellors are leading anchor universities. This is a familiar occurrence in the USA in particular. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Anchor Institutions Task Force (AITF), Dr Blade Nzimande, South Africa's Minister of Higher Education, Training, Science & Innovation, led a South African delegation to be a part of the engagements. Speaking at the AITF, Dr Nzimande expressed his appreciation of the Anchor University concept and how universities which are anchored in their communities could help quell poverty, unemployment and help in dealing with the inequality challenge.



These are some of the gains that Anchor Universities are making. For many, Anchor Universities have turned violent neighbourhoods into economically and educationally thriving societies. More advanced Anchor Universities have partnered with the health departments and are playing pivotal roles in improving the health of the people in their surroundings.

The University of Pretoria, for instance, has made some headways as an Anchor University because of the support from its top leadership. Its former Vice-Chancellor, Prof Cheryl de la Ray, led the anchor strategy and the University has never looked back. MUT desires to follow suit.



## The ICT Department brings the AI revolution to campus



The age of disruption is upon us! Big data management, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotic support are nerve-racking technological developments that we find ourselves having to navigate consciously or unconsciously, and are all here to stay. This is the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)! Exciting! Threatening? Either way, the University's Department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) wants MUT to become intentional and do something to embrace and prepare for the 4IR. Setting the tone at the 4IR seminar conceptualized by the department was lecturer Dr Bethel Mutanga who deconstructed the drivers of the 4IR. "These are three drivers of the 4IR, and they are merging the physical, digital and biological worlds in ways that create both huge promises and potential peril. In the digital space

we speak about Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Cloud-Based technology, among others, whereas in the physical space we speak about 3D printing and robotics and in the biological space we speak about the bio-engineering and biotechnology. Some jobs will be disappearing as robotics, etc will replace man", he said. Dr Mutanga's presentation made the audience sit up and pay attention because most of the drivers of the 4IR that he kept referring to were shown already in action somewhere in the world. Mostly disturbed by the developments in other countries were the students, who were probably thinking about their future in this web of confusion. The fact that the University is doing something about the 4IR is a step that it is going to steer MUT to where the world is going. Dr Vikash Jugoo, HOD ICT, needs to be commended for leading this dialogue.



## Fourth Industrial Revolution must be owned by Africa and girls must be at the forefront



“The time to own our graduate success has come”, said MUT alum, Sandile Mahlaba, Microsoft Provincial Executive for KZN, who graduated from MUT’s Faculty of Management Sciences. Mahlaba is passionate about MUT and owes his success to MUT. “Not only did MUT give me a qualification; it opened many doors for me. As early as in my second year, I was already globetrotting, carrying the MUT flag on MUT ticket. It was thus befitting for me to recommend to my fellow organisers that MUT

be also considered as one of the hosts for this national community project. We ran a boot camp for Grade 11 girls by partnering with wide-ranging stakeholders, with the Kgalema Montlante Foundation being a lead donor. “Although the girls came from surrounding schools, what was important to them was to see MUT being at the forefront of this,” said Mahlaba. “We want girls to start thinking about the role they could play in the future and make them dream big,” he said. The University’s Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, during the opening ceremony of the AI competition, reiterated the MUT Strategy 2020-2025, which puts communities at the centre of development. “What Mahlaba is doing is at the very core of the vision we have set for ourselves - to be a transforming, equitable, sustainable and academically excellent University of Technology, anchored in its communities.”

Mahlaba’s forward thinking is on the same page as MUT Strategy 2020-2025. This drive to create opportunities for the local community is at the heart of MUT Strategy 2020-2025. Globally, universities are turning to their communities and finding ways of uplifting those communities and this is also the essence of what Minister Blade Nzimande is driving at. “The time for the private sector to rise and become strategic partners is here. It can no longer be only government tackling challenges. Solutions are right at the private sector,” Dr Nzimande said at the Anchor Strategy meeting in Washington DC



## MUT opens an opportunity for its students to be job creators



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Professor Marcus Ramogale, asked students during the Student Entrepreneurship Week (SEW) at MUT a question of ‘who determines they should be employees instead of employers?’ The University, he said, has embraced entrepreneurship by recognising it as one of its core curriculum in an effort to empower students to be able to create their businesses even whilst they are still students at the University. Giving students insights into entrepreneurship, Professor Ramogale gave an overview of The CASHFLOW Quadrant, a book written by Robert Kiyosaki. Professor Ramogale encouraged students to be on the right hand side of the quadrant and to

Seriously consider becoming job creators, than employees. Some parts of his presentation which resonated with the students included the notion that to be a successful entrepreneur, “you need courage, perseverance, creativity, sound human relations, risk-taking attitude, perseverance and curiosity”. For many budding entrepreneurs at MUT, all these characteristics are familiar. “As young entrepreneurs with no access to funding and no inheritance, we have come to adopt hassling as a way of life. One thing certain, is that we will soon be on the right hand side of the quadrant as the Prof suggests,” echoed Mpumelelo Sikhosana of Ccos clothing who is a designer for men and women’s clothing. Fellow students are his top supporters.



## MUT's Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme Public lecture insightful



It was quite befitting that the second public lecture held at Seme Hall be on the man the hall is named after. Delivered by Dr Moss Mashamaite, the author of a book titled “The second coming, the life and times of Pixley ka Isaka Seme”, the public lecture was hailed by many as ‘speaking truth to power’. Highlighting the fact that the history of Dr Pixley ka Seme was ‘untold’, Mashamaite reassured the audience that he had dug deep as far as the Columbia University (New York) and the University of Cambridge (UK) where Dr Seme studied.

Addressing the audience made up of academics, students and members of the Seme family, Dr Mashamaite mentioned five lessons that could be learned from Dr Seme the man. “He taught us to disregard circumstances and forge ahead; to disregard age and know we are never too young or too old to change the world; to disregard vilification and to cherish unity; that although we may be many tribes, we are but one Africa; thus being at the forefront of Pan-Africanism.” Public lectures are exactly meant to educate, inform and to be a call to action. Dr Mashamaite’s call to action for MUT was to start having a Seme Day, just like the Columbia University marks his regeneration of Africa speech.

One thing which the University has also begun to do is to host a mini-exhibition in honour of the hero. In this case, an upscale gallery was put together and the University is tentatively assigning some space to make these galleries a continuity.





#### Commonalities between the Founder and the Vice-Chancellor

Both Fort Hare alums reminisced about life at Fort Hare. Although both attended Fort Hare, probably four or more decades apart, for MUT Founder, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and MUT Vice-Chancellor, Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, it seems the boys will be boys stories are timeless. To the amusement of a few guests and EMC members, stories at hostels remained the same, and most probably still do.



In all seriousness, the two Virgos share a lot of respect and admiration for each other. “The time that the Founder spends at MUT is appreciated and the irreversible time concept is indeed true, but we can do our best today to make tomorrow a happier time. The support by the Founder is appreciated and provides insightful history into the University’s establishment and even on Dr Pixley ka Seme who was his relative,” said Dr Malaza.

