

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 10th 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.

