

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.

