

FROM ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL



Prof Marcus Ramogale

Looking back and looking forward

The year 2017 was a remarkable year, both for MUT and for me personally. What started off as a brief acting appointment as Vice-Chancellor and Principal in 2016, unexpectedly spilled over to 2017. It was a challenge I accepted with great humility, and I am glad to have been able to add value to the Institution in line with the aspirations of the Founding Father, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the late benefactor of MUT, Mr Harry Oppenheimer.

Despite being under-resourced, MUT has made substantial gains over the past year that should be applauded. Our eighth consecutive clean audit was one of our most significant achievements. It is a great honour for me to have led an organisation whose audit yielded no adverse findings by external auditors. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all staff members for all their hard work for this successful outcome.

On the academic front, the development of new programmes by all faculties deserves applause. Seven new programmes were approved for launch in 2018. These are outlined in more detail in the Quality Management Directorate's report. The accreditation of existing MUT programmes was also a success. Visits by professional bodies to assess our programme offerings yielded positive results, and no academic programme lost its accreditation.

Here are selected results of these stakeholder visits, particularly from the Faculty of Engineering:

- The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) visited the University on 15-17 May 2017 and gave full accreditation to the Diploma in Chemical Engineering and the Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. It gave conditional accreditation to the Diploma in Electrical Engineering and the Diploma in Civil Engineering. The Diploma in Chemical Engineering has been accredited by ECSA until May 2021.
- The Diploma in Mechanical Engineering has been accredited by the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) until May 2021.
- The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) visited the Department of Construction Management and Quantity Surveying on 20-21 July 2017 and issued conditional accreditation (SACPCMP) until December 2020.
- The South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP) visited the Department of Construction Management and Quantity Surveying on 20-21 July 2017 and issued conditional accreditation (SACPCMP) until December 2020.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the appointment of a new Council in mid-2017, chaired by Mr Morilane Morilane and his deputy, Dr Zethu Qunta. The new Council has expressed its commitment to non-interference with University business operations. The new Council has also said that it would not want to be prescriptive on how the University should be run.

We applaud our new Council members for the willingness they have shown collectively to contribute to a better future for MUT.



Mr Gona Govender

TEACHING & LEARNING MATTERS

From the Office of the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching & Learning - Mr Gona Govender

The scholarship of teaching and learning is at the centre of our being at MUT. Goal Number 1 in our Strategic Plan 2015-2019 is to "enhance the quality of teaching and learning, and educational inputs". The year 2017 saw a great deal of effort being invested by departments assigned to drive the realisation of this and other pertinent goals as outlined in the audited section of this publication. This report features selected projects from:

- the Teaching & Learning Development Centre (TLDC);
- Library Services; and
- the Quality Management Directorate (QMD).

Notwithstanding the challenges in human, financial and infrastructural resources, leaders in these departments have been instrumental in supporting the academic agenda and enabling the deans to meet their strategic objectives to improve the pass rate with skills relevant to the country and across the globe.

Some of the heart-warming stories that have resulted from this behind-the-scenes support are best reflected during graduation. For example, Noxolo Mdunde from Lamontville, and her colleague Nombuso Mokoena from KwaMashu, are two female students who graduated in Electrical Engineering and are flying the MUT flag high at Sapref in a very male-dominated field. There is also the story of Phumzile Ngwane, a 42-year-old widow who graduated with a diploma in Human Resource Management, which also testifies to the priceless support of the scholarship of teaching and learning at MUT. Phumzile first registered with MUT in 1997 but had to leave the University because she ran out of funds. Phumzile obtained 80% in Labour Law, and 75% in HR Management.



Dr Manyane Makua

THE TEACHING & LEARNING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (TLDC)

Dr Manyane Makua, Senior Director

The Teaching & Learning Development Centre (TLDC) continues to be at the forefront of dynamic teaching and learning developments at MUT. Over and above leading the installation of cutting-edge technologies in some of our classrooms, the TLDC is also on the cusp of establishing two Interactive Teaching and Learning Classrooms/Labs to cater for the increasing demand for technology-facilitated teaching and learning at the institution. We are not yet 'there' but we are certainly making strides and we thank the Department of Higher Education and Training for its continued support.

In 2017, the Centre facilitated various professional development interventions for academic staff. Central to these was the registration of academic staff in the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education (PGDHE) offered by Rhodes University and UKZN. Our academic staff members are highly appreciative of these opportunities.