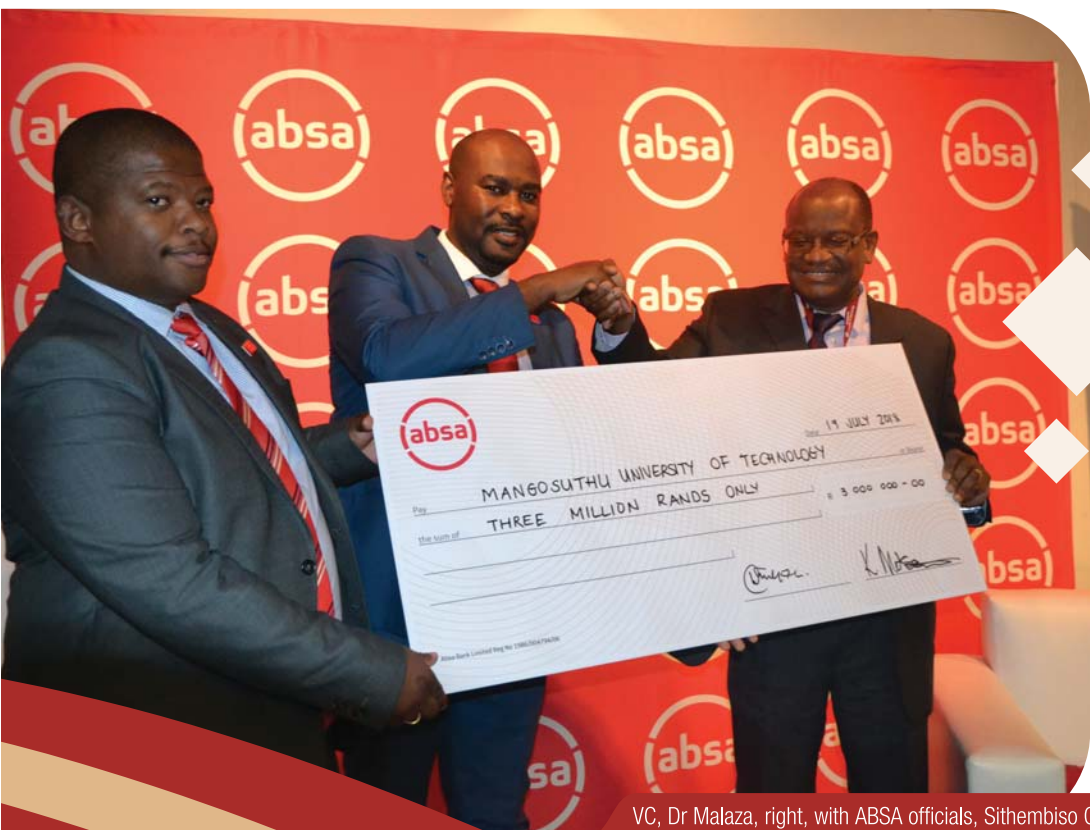


STUDENTS TO MOVE INTO THE NEW RESIDENCES SOON

The new residences will finally be opened. Everything is ready but hot water. Luven Naidoo, the Operations Director, is working hard behind the scenes. This has to happen soon. "Dr Malaza is very strong on delivery", he says. The process to name the new buildings has commenced and is spearheaded by Dr Malaza. He has been to the new residences. Students flocked to him and his presence has given them hope that the residence will be opened in their lifetime at MUT.



MUT RECEIVES RELIEF IN STUDENT BURSARIES



VC, Dr Malaza, right, with ABSA officials, Sithembiso Cele, Head of Public Sector; and Keketso Motsoene, Head of Enablement, during the handover

The VC delivered the following speech on 19 July 2018 during the R3 million ABSA cheque handover for student bursaries.

I wish to express our sincere gratitude to ABSA for the support towards student bursaries within two consecutive years.

The support comes at a point where universities, both nationally and globally, require a third stream income to support needy students who are academically astute.

The dramatic events of the #FeesMustFall movement in South Africa over the past two years have revealed to us the ugly face that has been brought by the income gap between the have and the have nots.



Dr Malaza and some of the bursary recipients, and ABSA officials

Former President, Thabo Mbeki said during the Racism Conference in 2016 in Midrand, "South Africa is a country divided into two nations - the 'relatively prosperous' whites, and the black and 'poor' people living under grossly underdeveloped conditions. One of the nations is white, relatively prosperous regardless of gender or geographic dispersal - it has ready access to a developed economy, physical, educational communication and other infrastructure. The second and larger nation of South Africa is black and poor, with the worst affected being women in rural areas, the black rural population in general and those with disabilities." This is the REAL world from where our students emanate.

The news of free education in December 2017 further created expectations for students that education would be free for all. This was not to be the case and has subsequently plunged universities across the country under dire circumstances.

It is therefore with great appreciation that we welcome support from ABSA. This support should not be taken for granted either by the University or the students. The saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" has never been so relevant. In most developed countries, parents do not even have to pay for their children at universities because the corporate world is very responsible in improving society's lives. Most students in those countries receive scholarships. In the USA for example, donor giving in 2017, was \$43.6 billion (<https://www.philanthropy.com/article/Donations-to-Colleges-Up-6-in/242441>).

We hope that this partnership with ABSA could be replicated by other banking sectors and other corporations.

I am grateful to my predecessors in executive management here at MUT for carving the way to make this sponsorship possible. Last year, we welcomed the first donation of R3 million and here we are again, meeting to receive the second donation of the same amount as last year.

We are grateful that ABSA has kept its promise to deliver to MUT a R3 million cheque for students' bursaries over three consecutive years, with a total commitment of R9 million. The bursary is earmarked to support 50% first year students, 30% 2nd year students and 20% final year students. The students in the fields of Commerce, Management, Engineering, Science and Technology will benefit from this sponsorship. The commitment means a lot to us.

We selected 50% of the bursary candidates among first year students who obtained an "A" aggregate in matric. The remaining 50% for second and third year candidates with a 30%/20% split respectively were selected on merit. Other candidates who fell under the "missing middle" were also taken into consideration during selections.

The total number of beneficiaries funded in 2017 was 48 students. In closing, I would like to reassure the ABSA delegation that MUT is reviewing its Strategy 2020-2025. As part of this process, I have met face to face with over 400 staff members in academia, research and support services. We are determined to rebuild a MUT whose graduates will be sought after by industry both nationally and internationally. My engagement with staff has centred on how we could shape and own this University. We have challenged our staff to start reflecting on the critical skills that each one of us should bring to the table.

By the 8th of August, I should have also engaged industry players like you, who should play a critical role towards grounding us for the 4th Industrial Revolution. Therefore, beyond this official donation, I would like to see greater collaboration with you on how you could participate in the development of MUT. For example, I see an ABSA branch right here on campus to assist our students so that they do not have to carry large amounts of cash from here to make deposits at the banks.

This is just one example of how we could collaborate. On a higher level, we need to start thinking about work place shadowing for our staff, guest lectures by your staff to management and academics.

Let us walk together and see other greater collaborations within Umlazi Township and how you could use us as a gateway for the development of this township.

Many thanks for all your support. Please also note the students' gratitude for the financial support.