



# SPIRIT

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**INSTALLATION AND INVESTITURE**

**OUTLOOK FOR MUT AND ITS  
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**MUT SPORTS**

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**



**MUT**

MANGOSUTHU  
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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# THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S VIEWPOINT

**A**fter a very personal and emotional bumpy ride to 2023 and all the agonies of the first term, I can only say one thing: He lives, He reigns.

The song sung just before the new Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) Chancellor was robed, 'I surrender' had a fresh symbolic meaning to every constituent about the roles bestowed on us, a meaning which, unfortunately, many in our communities have not had. I am therefore grateful to be a part of the MUT community and I am emboldened by the stories of positive energy that are being told and re-told through various experiences.

The stories in this publication bring the reawakening spirit of MUT. There is a sense of renewal and sympathy towards MUT by the staff themselves as well as our constituencies, judging from the speeches and many workshops that have taken place. This spirit of renewal is intentional and is being driven by those setting the tone at the top, from the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, to the MUT Founder, MUT Chancellor, MUT Administrator, MUT Vice-Chancellor and many more vowing for MUT to be a success story.

There is a lot of emphasis on what MUT can do for the community, but at the same time on how MUT could partner with those with access to resources for a greater MUT that towers above its community.

As Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, reaffirmed MUT's role in the community, the MUT executive could categorically concur with the Minister's message, as its main tenets are so boldly documented and implemented through MUT's Anchor Strategy 2025. The Anchor Strategy aims to establish a multi-sector collaborative approach towards revitalising Umlazi Township; be it socially, physically and/or economically. Through the Anchor Strategy, MUT will play a lead role in bringing together all stakeholders



Editor-in-Chief: Mbali Mkhize

that have a shared vision of forging relationships within the community; driving economic prosperity and urban renewal as well as leveraging their resources for mutually beneficial improvement in the community.

Thus, MUT will create communities of experts with coalitions from within and outside MUT to draw diverse collective expertise to make a difference in Umlazi Township.

The election of the Chancellor who is revered in his hometown will help fast-track our Anchor Strategy and we are indeed humbled that he already has a very strong network from which MUT could benefit in its journey of renewal.

The executive and senior management lekgotla also put a strong emphasis on its culture change programme and enlarged our vision of how a financial turn-around project that is being implemented can bring about culture change.

Is this not a need for celebration? The outlook of MUT is in the good hands of various stakeholder groupings. ❖

# VC'S CORNER



Professor Ramogale

In this edition, I wish to share some food for thought that I have already shared with the executive and senior management during a strategic planning lekgotla held at Zimbali in March 2023. This lekgotla specifically focused on how we could turn around MUT. It was a culmination of many stakeholder engagements such as those held with the MUT Turn-Around specialists on how we could save MUT and make it a better University.

Let me start by sharing some wisdom on strategy as defined by experts in the entrepreneurial business world.

Millionaire talent agent Patrick Whitesell said, “You can have all the right strategies in the world; if you

don’t have the right culture, you’re dead.” David Cummings, technology entrepreneur and founder of several companies employing thousands of people, concurred and said, “Corporate culture is the only sustainable competitive advantage that is completely within the control of the entrepreneur. Develop a strong corporate culture first and foremost.” On the same topic, business executive of a Fortune 500 company Tricia Griffith commented, “With the right people, culture, and values, you can accomplish great things.”

I strongly believe that MUT has the right people with the right skills, and I say this with confidence as someone who has spent over a decade at MUT in executive management and almost five years as acting Vice-Chancellor. Drawing on Dr Charles Cotter’s workshop on Change Management, I take heed of his message that “we need to change the

organisational culture first". Dr Cotter further said that changing organisational culture becomes necessary when certain situational factors exist. These include a dramatic crisis, leadership changes, and a weak culture.

During the lekgotla, we learnt what various leaders observed about successful, strong organisations and considered how MUT can benefit from existing wisdom to become the institution we know it can and should be.

Management consultant Peter Drucker is the author of the well-known saying, "Culture eats strategy for breakfast". He held that a strong organisational culture ensures organisational success and that without a strong culture, even the best strategy will fail.

A World Bank report on national competitiveness listed "sound values" as a common denominator in successful countries.

Closer to home, Nelson Mandela strongly advocated for an "RDP of the soul". He emphasised 'interiority' – inner resources – rather than external resources as a precondition for national success. Similarly, Steve Biko advocated for the rebuilding of the black psyche and instilling self-pride as a means to psychologically liberate black people.

Both Mandela and Biko stressed the need for self-reflexivity as a critical and analytic posture as opposed to traditional scapegoating; self-reflexivity is about re-orientation, critical inwardness, the discovery of our ignorance.

We can go back to what history tells us about this ancient wisdom. Socrates said, "To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom." Socrates saw self-knowledge as the totality of all philosophical injunctions.

If this is such a beneficial practice, why is self-reflexivity not popular with politicians? The short answer is that there is no self-reflexivity in politics because the enemy is invariably external – for example the colonialist, imperialist, capitalist, racist and so forth. This fixation on external threats is not only a mobilising tactic intended to win votes but also a product of paranoia. And why this fixation? Because mobilising people against an external enemy (e.g. that group, that party, that person) is easy, whereas

mobilising people against an internal enemy (our selfishness, our mediocrity, our wrong choices) is hard.

The MUT journey of self-reflexivity, assisted by the turnaround consultants, revealed a flaw in our culture of taking. The pure intent of this culture was informed by ancient authoritative teachings, for example:

- The instruction to grow and to steward – "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." (Genesis 1:28)
- The promise of growth and success – "I will make you a mighty nation. I will make you abundant. I am going to make you blessed so that you can be a blessing." (Genesis 12:2,3)
- The promise of resources to gain wealth – "May God give you of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine." (Genesis 27:28)
- The Talmud teaches that "Every blade of grass has its Angel that bends over it and whispers, 'Grow, grow!'"

This sounds laudable, so what is the problem? MUT's culture of taking is only one side of the coin and ignores a crucial principle: we also need to give! How are we then meant to grow? Prosperity is ensured by value addition. We need to ask ourselves, how can we enhance the lives of others? What quality outputs can we have or what quality impact can we make by garnering the most or highest level of assets – whether skills or time or knowledge, etc. – for the benefit of others? The combination of quality and quantity will affect the value we add, and hence, the prosperity we enjoy. Of course, the more we prosper, the more impact we can make by giving to our students, our community and ultimately, our country.

We see the 'sowing and reaping' principle in countless examples of everyday life. If one gives, gives, gives, one will get, get, get and so the cycle continues.

Now the question is, are we ready for a culture of giving at MUT? We have taken what we could from what was offered, is it not time for us to step up to the next level of a fruitful existence where we become those who are known as a blessing, a problem-solver, a solution? In turn, we will also grow – that is the natural and spiritual law – all with the purpose to enlarge our impact in our communities even more. ❖

# INSTALLATION AND INVESTITURE



Sandile Zungu, MUT Chancellor

**P**rominent businessperson and AmaZulu Football Club owner, Sandile Zungu, was installed as the new MUT Chancellor on Friday, 17 March 2023 at MUT's historic Pixley ka-Isaka Seme Hall. The Umlazi Township born-and-raised entrepreneur is the fourth Chancellor of MUT, following in the footsteps of Lindiwe Sisulu (MP); former KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Willies Mchunu; and Human Rights Activist and Order of the Baobab in Bronze recipient, Reverend Dr Khoza Elliot Mbuyisa Mgojo.

Zungu will be the first MUT Chancellor from Umlazi Township since the University opened its doors of learning nearly four and a half decades ago.

“We are honoured to have a person of Sandile Zungu’s stature, integrity, and brilliant record of leadership in South Africa’s business corridors of power as our next Chancellor. His election is further evidence of MUT’s commitment to not only develop the community of Umlazi Township but also to recognise the potential of its people,” said Professor Marcus Ramogale, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal of MUT.

There are many parallels between Zungu’s story and that of MUT, which makes him a good representation of where MUT comes from and where the institution is going. Like MUT, Zungu’s journey started from humble beginnings in Umlazi Township, where he commenced his high school journey at Vukuzakhe High School, and later matriculated from Hilton College. Engineering was his first love, Zungu completed a Bachelor of Science (Mechanical Engineering) at the University of Cape Town. But mechanical engineering was just the beginning for Zungu.

Little did many know that his fortunes would later be tied to entrepreneurship, in the same way that the father of entrepreneurship at MUT – Professor Ramogale – wishes for MUT students to take up the entrepreneurship baton in this current climate of a spiralling unemployment rate. Professor Ramogale has become famous for reminding students every turn he gets that, “Nobody is born to work; use your qualifications to start a business.”

Zungu went on to complete a Master of Business Administration and the Programme for Global Leadership at Harvard Business School.

His track record includes being the founder and executive chairman of Zungu Investments Company (Pty) Ltd (Zico), chairman of EOH Holdings, non-executive director of Grindrod Limited and Novus Holdings, member of the BRICS Business Council, President of the Black Business Council, member of the Presidential Black Economic Empowerment Advisory Council, and Chairperson of the University

of Cape Town Graduate School of Business Board of Advisors. He has also won numerous awards in recognition of his business activities.

His accolades include being one of the top 10 participants in the erstwhile KwaZulu-Natal regional finals of the Old Mutual National Science Olympiad, Business Map Dealmaker of the Year, Outstanding Business Strategy Award winner at the sixth final of the World Young Business Achievers, World Economic Forum's Global Leader for Tomorrow, and member of the World Economic Forum in his capacity as Young Global Leader.

To soccer aficionados, Zungu is better known for being the owner and President of AmaZulu Football Club, a Premier Soccer League club based in Durban.

Zungu was previously honoured by MUT at its 2014 graduation ceremony which was attended by his late mother and also his late wife.

### **MUT Administrator welcomes the New Chancellor**

Professor Lourens Van Staden, MUT Administrator, is the former vice-chancellor of Tshwane University of Technology who earned his stripes as an academic who rose through all the leadership ranks at



Professor Lourens Van Staden, Sandile Zungu

universities; a researcher who supervised over 30 Master and Doctoral degree candidates for several universities locally and abroad, published over 40 peer-reviewed articles and technical reports and presented over 30 papers nationally and abroad.

Apart from being officially introduced to the MUT community last year when he resumed his duties in October, and undertaking his civic engagements across the University Professor Van Staden had an opportunity to meet some of MUT's strategic stakeholders during the inauguration of the new Chancellor. Acknowledging all in attendance, and most importantly the MUT Founder, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Professor Van Staden reminded everyone that the inauguration and investiture of the new Chancellor was not just "a ceremony but it is also an opportunity for MUT to pay a special tribute to Umlazi Township, which the institution proudly calls its home. There is no better way to say thank you to Umlazi than by choosing one of its own to be Chancellor. This decision is not only an expression of faith in the University's immediate community but is also a reminder that the destiny of the University and that of Umlazi are intertwined."

Professor Van Staden reminded everyone of the important role played by universities which is to pay careful attention when choosing their leaders and/or people who will officially represent the institution because of the great responsibilities bestowed on universities. If "a fish rots from the head down", it is safe to surmise that a healthy one is also healthy from the head down. This idiom is a reminder that it matters who leads, and conversely, that not everyone can lead. This is more so in the current South African higher education system which faces several challenges.

Speaking directly to the Chancellor, Professor Van Staden concluded, "Mr Chancellor, the University is humbled that you accepted its request. But 'to whom much is given, much will be required'. The University trusts that you will see value in contributing to its re-energising efforts to create meaningful partnerships with corporate South Africa. Your position in the business sector gives you the influence and respect that can change the fortunes of this University. It is well-known that historically disadvantaged institutions are not looked at favourably by potential donors and funders. We hope that your association with MUT will remind the business community that if they are serious

about making a difference that matters, MUT should be their first stop. This University is a great place for those who have a thirst for making a difference. I have no doubt that you will render your responsibilities as Chancellor with great honour, humility and distinction. I wish you a fruitful journey at MUT.”



Foregrounding the role of the University Chancellor, Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, first defined the role of MUT within the context of Umlazi Township. The minister was addressing guests at the inauguration of MUT’s new Chancellor on 17 March 2023.

“A university of technology must aim to become an anchor institution in the development of the localities in which they are embedded. I would like to see our post-school education and training institutions working much more collaboratively than in previous times, specifically to construct partnerships between universities, TVET colleges, industry and local communities around key economic sectors. In this regard, I see the District Development Model as an ideal geographical set of spaces around which to construct workable partnerships between these institutions collaborating in solving development challenges at a local level – for example, water management, food production, renewable energy for low-cost housing, and so forth.”

In addition, the Minister reminded the Chancellor that his election as the Chancellor of MUT “presents enormous opportunities for this University to tap into your networks for funds to contribute toward a sterling

future that must be felt and experienced by the people of Umlazi. Having nominated Mr Zungu, the University must seek to leverage his networks and associates to improve the profile of MUT, including linking MUT with industry to facilitate work-based learning for all learners of this University.”

While reaffirming the Chancellor’s role as being to preside over all congregations and confer all degrees and award all diplomas and certificates at graduation, the Minister pointed out that “though the office has no executive powers, given the context of our higher education system, the Chancellor provides leadership to the University without being its manager or governor. You are an ambassador advocating to raise its profile, and advancing its interests nationally, regionally, and internationally. As the University’s titular head, you have an important ambassadorial role for the University, working with the Vice-Chancellor and the Council Chairperson, in this case the Administrator, to represent the University in the external community. As MUT Chancellor you may be expected to act as mediator and unifying symbol during times of disputes”.

The Minister wished the Chancellor well on behalf of both his Departments of Higher Education and Training, and Science and Innovation.

### **Show me your friends, and I will tell you who you are**

The inauguration and investiture of new MUT Chancellor Mr Sandile Zungu – renowned businessman, owner of the AmaZulu Football Club; and one of the first African learners to attend the Hilton College, one of South Africa’s top private schools, during Apartheid,



Sandile Zungu and friends

as well as being one of first Africans to graduate with a Bachelor of Science (Mechanical Engineering) from the University of Cape Town – brought many of the who is who to MUT.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were:

- Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation;
- Madam Bridget Motsepe-Radebe, Pan-African Parliament Ambassador for Women Entrepreneurship and Economic Development in Africa;
- Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the MUT Founder and Member of Parliament;
- US Consulate represented by Ms Susan Knowles and Mr Thulasizwe Ngcobo;
- Chinese Consulate represented by Anlin Sun, Acting Consul General;
- Dr Nkosinathi Sishi, Director-General of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET);
- Chief of Staff at DHET leading a cohort from the Minister's team;
- Emeritus Justice Sisi Khampepe, Chancellor of the University of Pretoria;
- Dr Judy Dlamini, Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand;
- MUT Chancellor, Mr Sandile Zungu, his family and business partners;
- MUT Administrator, Professor Lourens Van Staden and his technical team;
- Professor Marcus Ramogale, the MUT Acting Vice-Chancellor, his executive, Senate, staff, students, alumni and organised labour;
- Members of the royal family;
- Industry captains;
- The Convocation Executive.

The high-powered attendees left their comfortable businesses, homes, and workstations to witness a watershed moment as an erstwhile young boy from Umlazi came of age to become the titular head and representative of the University and confer degrees in its name. Over the next five years, this titular head will cap close to 15,000 students who will be going to the world of work, with similar aspirations held by the industry captains and all the high-powered guests who attended the Chancellor's inauguration.

Big-ups to the Chancellor for keeping the dream alive for the young students, and to the Umlazi

community whose story will be told over and over again because of the many achievements you have made. In the main, your story will be told by over 140,000 parents who will be witnesses to you capping their children. In their hearts, they will be praying for their children to emulate the successes you have achieved.

### **Symbolism of the song played prior new MUT Chancellor acceptance speech**

It would be remiss of this publication not to share the lyrics of the song that was played before the Chancellor's acceptance speech. The calmness inside the hall as the Choir performed marked a landmark achievement not only for the Chancellor, but for the MUT community, the people of Umlazi, the Chancellor's family, friends and business partners.

This publication takes pleasure in sharing the Chancellor's speech:

"I am deeply honoured for the opportunity to contribute to Mangosuthu University of Technology as its Chancellor for the next five years. I was initially reluctant to accept the Chancellorship, only because of the calibre of leaders in whose shadow I will have to walk. Let's name the former MUT Chancellors: Reverend Dr KEM Mgojo, former premier Willies Mchunu and former Minister Lindiwe Sisulu. How do I begin to walk in the shoes of such African giants?"



"All to Jesus I surrender  
All to Him I freely give  
I will ever love and trust Him  
In His presence daily live  
I surrender all  
I surrender all  
All to Thee  
My blessed Savior  
I surrender all  
All to Jesus I surrender  
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine  
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit  
Truly knowing that Thou art mine".



MUT Chancellor and Wife, Nozipho kaMagubane

I am not the one to shy away from responsibility. I, therefore, commit to doing my best to honour the tradition of Chancellorship which my predecessors championed for this University.

“My journey and that of MUT are similar in many respects. Like MUT, I was born and raised in Umlazi Township, which is also where I matriculated. MUT and I also share a common first love, engineering. My first qualification is in mechanical engineering, and for MUT, engineering was the University’s founding faculty. Many people probably know me better as a businessperson or an entrepreneur, which by coincidence is also where the University is headed.

“I want to introduce an idea that challenges the often-imagined barrier and/or belief that to contribute to intellectual discourses about issues that our communities face, one must be an academic or a researcher. This idea forms the foundation of a lot of what I am going to share with you.

“I am not the first person to comment on the role of universities and neither will I be the last. For example, in his inauguration as Chancellor of UNISA, former president Thabo Mbeki said, ‘Higher education is also important for good citizenship and for enriching and diversifying people’s lives.’ While former president of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, in his 1963 speech as Chancellor of the University of East Africa said, ‘For let us be quite clear; the university has not been established purely for prestige purposes. It has a very definite role to play in development in this area, and to do this

effectively it must be in, and of, the community it has been established to serve.’

“Part of what I am doing with this speech is to invite you to imagine what the role of our beloved MUT should be, given the current challenges. This is an important exercise for two reasons: Firstly, MUT is located at the heart of a sprawling township, Umlazi, which means that its role cannot be the same as the role played by other relatively more privileged universities in their respective communities; and 2) being located in Umlazi also means that the University has first-hand experience with some of the challenges that the community is faced with. But universities are where new ideas are developed, debated and tested; it is also where future generations are educated and trained.

“Universities have a moral obligation to also train and educate their immediate community to meet their practical daily needs. For MUT, this would mean reaching out to various stakeholders and offering them much-needed education on issues or subjects that have an impact on their lives and their development. In other words, MUT should be the centre of knowledge not only for those who have been accepted to study and have paid their tuition but also for the rest of the community. As unemployment continues to wreak havoc, MUT is better positioned to champion entrepreneurship beyond the University’s borders by offering seminars on subjects such as cash flow management, tax planning and compliance, customer management and technology innovation in businesses. This will help unlock the entrepreneurial potential of Umlazi Township and bring closer to MUT much-needed corporate partnerships.

“Institutions such as MUT also occupy a place of pride in the hearts and minds of the people of Umlazi and the rest of South Africa. On a symbolic level, the institution represents hope and ambition. Umlazi, like many of our townships, requires the revitalisation of hope and ambition for citizens whose power banks of hope have been severely depleted. With its great symbolic power, MUT can restore hope. Imagine MUT designing a comprehensive and accredited course for taxi drivers focusing on customer centricity, embracing technology, cashless payment methods, and safety health environment and quality. Giving these trained taxi drivers a certificate of attendance (or more) would restore hope and self-pride. For not only does that certificate say they have completed training at MUT,

but it also says they have the potential to better their lives. Imagine the impact of that training on the lives of South Africans who use taxis daily. The possibilities are limitless when we begin to think of the University in this way.

“Ask any young urban parent about the group of people who are most important in their parenting journey, eight out of 10 would say grandparents. Out of those eight, five will probably say, “if only they could also help with homework”. Imagine a course designed to help pensioners read and write and use a computer with the internet. Think about how proud these grandparents would be of their new sense of responsibility, which also allows them to share in the intellectual development of their grandchildren.

“After all, universities are part of an ecosystem of knowledge generation and sharing. What this means is that the University also has a double-edged role of producing and engaging with public intellectuals or what Italian scholar, Antonio Gramsci, called the ‘organic intellectual’. These intellectuals come with various ages and genders and share their thoughts on various spaces and languages. More platforms are required to intentionally engage with these public intellectuals and the rest of our communities. Knowledge sharing forms the basis for any attempt at developing knowledge that engages communities because sharing knowledge is a two-way street.

“How can universities meet this obligation? MUT, like many other universities, has three pillars; that is teaching and learning, research, and community engagement. It is the latter of the three that I think holds the key to intensifying the role of the University in the community of Umlazi. This University is rich with academics and researchers in skills areas that could be of great benefit to the community of Umlazi. There are academics who are experts in accounting, law, marketing and agriculture, to name a few. Refocusing community engagement to respond to community needs would revitalise the hopes and ambitions of the people of Umlazi.

“MUT also has another untapped potential, that of students. We celebrate these students’ graduations every year, but we seldom give a thought to the fact that their education is Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) or not. We need to start integrating public service as part of the requirements for one to graduate

with a qualification. Every student can contribute to increasing access to knowledge for community members who need it the most. Why is an electrical engineering student not using their expertise to assess household electrical wirings in our informal settlements and where there is a greater need? The same question would apply to agriculture students and students who excel in mathematics and sciences, to name a few.



Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, MUT Founder at the inauguration

“In conclusion, a university is only as good as the community that surrounds it. When the community prospers, the university also prospers.

“With these few words, I wish to assure you, Ndunankulu ka Zulu wonkana, Mntwana wakwaPhindangene that I am very excited about becoming Chancellor of the institution you conceptualised in 1974. Honourable Minister Nzimande, you can count on the Chancellor of Mangosuthu University of Technology to make this a world-class tertiary institution.”

# OUTLOOK FOR MUT AND ITS FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

## MUT Turn-Around Strategy in motion

MUT executive and senior management have embarked on a bold project of deepening its understanding of a culture change. This is a trajectory which the Office of the Vice-Chancellor is directing as MUT plans its Vision 2031.

Teaching and Learning consultant, Dr Mark Hay, who facilitated the discussion at the MUT Turn-Around Strategy Retreat, did a few polls with the team to gauge perceptions of how they viewed management. “The hard truth is that everyone in the room is management. Each one of you is a decision-maker in your own right. We are no longer in the phase of blaming management as we are all leaders here,” said Dr Hay as part of setting the tone. “We need a serious and harder discussion as we move onto the next chapter of the University; we need to look into the future sustainability of the University. We cannot allow our University to run out of money and continue as if it is business as usual,” he added.

The hard truth is that the DHET has tightened the belt, and this leaves universities to come up with imaginative ways of running institutions with austerity but not compromising quality. Universities must start thinking about the future and rule out government bailouts. Once this philosophy is embedded in every manager’s mind, that is the beginning of the culture of partnering with DHET.

Today universities, globally, have started developing scenarios, with the worst scenario being that of switching off the lights and calling it a day! MUT does not want to do that. Instead, the MUT Turn-Around Strategy Retreat sought to come up with a common tactic and a common commitment to the survival of the University.

The Turn-Around Retreat allowed all levels of management, including organised labour and student leadership to speak with one voice on how they can all make the University survive “not just for ourselves, but for the next generation and the community of Umlazi



Dr Mark Hay

Township which sees MUT as a beacon of hope”, said Dr Hay.

The Turn-Around Retreat was therefore an initial partnership to lay the foundation that everyone is a leader. Noting that MUT is at a stage where most universities that reawakened before it was too late were, the Turn-Around Retreat provided an opportunity for all levels of management to connect as leaders of the University.

Accompanying Dr Mark Hay was the core financial turn-around engine, led by Amanda Jitsing and Thando Radebe. “We should be asking ourselves hard questions, such as whether we can survive for a year, where are our assets taking us to? Are they growing

the University, are we moving 10 years beyond from here onwards? What about in 10 years? We need to be able to make forecasts of what may happen in the future.

We really need to focus on cash-producing assets or cash-generating assets which will elevate our reputation. Let us start looking at our students as one of those assets so that when people walk into our University, they will see our students as stock options. These become our stock, our industry, our output and when industry receives those students, they see them as revenue and income is guaranteed for their business.” said Radebe.

Snippets from the Retreat as presented by Amanda Jitsing must entail strengthening and repositioning MUT through a 3S Approach: Stabilise and fix problems/challenges; Strengthening our leadership; and Shining as MUT.

For university students, the beginning of the year signals yet another year to register towards a qualification. For students who cannot afford to pay the required fees, this period can be one of the most stressful of times.

### **MUT SRC receives R1.1M from the Motsepe Foundation.**

This year, the Motsepe Foundation reached out to the Student Representative Councils (SRC) of 26 universities with a generous donation of R30 million to help students with their registration fees for the

new academic year. These SRCs received varying amounts. The MUT SRC received R1.1 million, which was allocated to the SRC Trust Fund.

Vusi Mthethwa, MUT SRC President, said the money went a long way in assisting students who could not afford some of the fees required before they could register. These were mostly students who were still not registered even as the registration appeal period drew to a close.

Mthethwa explained that some of these students’ applications were rejected by the NSFAS for various reasons, along with applications from students who were self-funded with a family income of between R350,000 to R600,000 per annum. The funds helped 33 students with their registration.

Explaining how the money was distributed, Dr Thembi Kweyama, Dean of Students and Chair of the SRC Trust Fund, said the funds were distributed using the selection criteria stipulated in Section 6 of the SRC Trust Fund Charter. Among others, students seeking funding needed to have passed at least 60% of the courses they registered for in the previous semester or year.

Students who were registering for semester courses will also be funded for second-semester registration, granted that they meet the requirements set out in the Charter.

Mthethwa added that a portion of the funds was set aside for the SRC’s programmes to strengthen the support that the SRC gives its constituencies. ❖



Dr Thembi Kweyama, Dean of Students receiving the cheque

# BREAKING GENDER STEREOTYPES



Nosipho Nyembe, MUT boxing coach, and Zanele Jili, a fourth-year Public Finance and Accounting student

## **Our boxing ace runs out of opponents**

While boxing is one of the oldest sports in the world – it first featured at the Ancient Greek Olympic Games in 688 BC and at that time was very crude. – Women’s boxing is struggling to take root in most parts of the world. In South Africa, female boxing

became professional as late as 2006. With less support, this sport is likely to continue to struggle.

Despite this, there are female South Africans who are doing a lot to raise the profile of female boxing and continue to chip at the accompanying stereotypes. Boxing South Africa says sport can



A very proud Jili and her coach

be used to level the playing field. MUT is lucky; the University has exceptionally dedicated individuals who engage in boxing. Some of them are Nosipho Nyembe, MUT boxing coach, and Zanele Jili, a fourth-year Public Finance and Accounting student, who was born in Limpopo and raised in Pretoria, then moved to Durban when she was 16 years old. The two are doing wonders for women's boxing. So far, 2022 is the highest point in their boxing relationship. Nyembe said Jili was "the most successful female boxer in 2022. She was dedicated throughout the year."

**“ I jog after every meal which is three times a day, plus training at the University with my coach, on the beach sand every weekend until the tournament ”**

Jili's success was both a plus and a minus for her, Nyembe relates. At the University Sports South Africa (USSA) Championships, which took place on 10 May 2022, Jili had no opponent, the match was a walk-over, and she was awarded a gold medal. According to Nyembe, that would have discouraged most boxers. But not Jili, Nyembe emphasised.

Jili continued training and won a silver medal at the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Elite Championships, which took place on 25 June 2022. She also did very well at the eThekweni District Women's Tournament where she won the Best Elite trophy and a gold medal. "I couldn't be more proud of her; it shows that hard work really pays off."

As, of course, does having a coach who understands you and pushes you to the limit! Nyembe added that Jili was sparring with male boxers, some of whom were professionals. For anyone aware of Jili's training regime, this success should not be a surprise. Her training regime is the basis for her success. Jili jogs first thing in the morning, at 5 am, for at least 5km. "Then after all my

classes, I train with my coach from 4 pm to 6 pm," said Jili. She ups the ante when a tournament nears. "I jog after every meal which is three times a day, plus training at the University with my coach, on the beach sand every weekend until the tournament," said Jili. Such a regime is likely to make Jili realise her dream, which is to be a South African female junior heavyweight champion. Jili intends to turn professional in 2026 when she will have qualified to be an accountant.

Jili describes her professional relationship with her coach as a sister-to-sister relationship. "I remember the first time I took my gloves off during a sparring day. I walked out and I cried because I felt I wasn't ready for the USSA Games. Coach called me back to the ring and told me that if it has anything to do with me personally, I could talk to her. Since then I have felt like I could talk to her about anything. I think it's safe to say she's like a sister-coach," said Jili.

### **First place for electrical engineering student in 2022 USSA Bodybuilding Games**

Zinhle Sithole is a very dedicated athlete. Even when she is under pressure with her studies, she makes time for fitness workouts. This is how Sithole's coach, Zolani Khoza, described the 22-year-old Sithole. An S4 student from Mtubatuba in northern

KwaZulu-Natal, Sithole is a serious bodybuilder who is on the verge of receiving the national colours because of her love of the sport and dedication towards it.

In the 2022 annual USSA Games that took place at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Edgewood Campus, Sithole placed first.

She was among five MUT bodybuilders selected to compete in the South African competition. Sithole did well in competitions before the 2022 USSA Games. She said she



Zinhle Sithole



chose to do bodybuilding because she likes to keep her body healthy.

### University makes its position on GBV known to new students

Dr Paulette Naidoo, Director of Student Counselling at MUT, a Higher Education Leadership and Management alumnus and a gender activist minces no words when it comes to gender-based violence (GBV) issues.

“ Dr Naidoo’s passion to end GBV has seen her delivering a workshop with partners from UNISA and the University of KwaZulu-Natal at the SASUF Goes Digital conference, held in September last year. ”

During the orientation of first-year students, she said orientation was an important programme to introduce students to the University, which can be a challenging space to navigate for new students. The orientation gave students “a comprehensive overview of all support services and departments relevant to their academic and psychosocial needs”, explained Dr Naidoo whose unit is in the Department of Student Affairs. Dr Naidoo said the students’ entry at Seme Hall was symbolic of the beginning of their time at the University, and that this is where their time will end when they graduate.

Dr Naidoo spoke to students about the importance of taking care of their mental health and well-being by seeking help timeously from the Student Counselling unit. She emphasised the unit’s commitment to the eradication of GBV on campus and encouraged all students to report acts of GBV and to seek the necessary support from Student Counselling in dealing with GBV.

Her unit has enhanced its approach to GBV by partnering with Thuthuzela Care Centre in Umlazi to reinforce student knowledge of and about GBV. “As a University, we recognise that GBV is a social issue and we need to involve the community. It is therefore important for us to partner with an established NGO in addressing the scourge of GBV. It is important for students to know when they arrive that the University has a zero-tolerance approach

to GBV, a stance taken by MUT’s Senate seating in 2018,” she said.

Dr Naidoo’s passion to end GBV has seen her delivering a workshop with partners from UNISA and the University of KwaZulu-Natal at the SASUF Goes Digital conference, held in September last year. She presented a paper, titled ‘Student perspectives on Gender-based Violence’, and presented a GBV poster designed as a tool for promoting student agency and social justice. This workshop explored the use of student-centred creative art platforms (GBV poster design) as a powerful tool for understanding, responding and preventing GBV in higher education institutions. The parents of all MUT students must feel a sense of relief that this scourge is being addressed at the University and is also informed by evidence collected from research. ❖



Dr Paulette Naidoo,  
Director of Student Counselling at MUT

# MUT SPORTS



Siyathuthuka Mabaso

Among the South African basketball players who will travel to China for the World University Games, taking place from 28 July to 8 August 2023, will be Siyathuthuka Mabaso, an Advanced Diploma in Information and Communication Technology in Applications Development student from Pietermaritzburg.

On 17 March 2023, Mabaso (22) will be joining the South African team for a national camp which will be held at Wits University to prepare for the World University Games. Mabaso hopes to be chosen for the national team after these games. He currently has the KwaZulu-Natal colours. His brother, also his inspiration, had the black and white colours for KwaZulu-Natal. Mabaso said he was going to focus on his studies and his sport to give himself a chance

to achieve this goal. “That is one of my goals this year,” he said.

This 1.91-metre-tall player was chosen as ‘Star Player’ in the USSA Games at Wits University. These games were played from 2 to 8 December 2022. The MUT team played eight games and obtained number six out of the 24 universities that took place in the tournament. MUT thus qualified for the annual Varsity

Cup. Mabaso said for a player to be chosen as Star Player, they have to have an average of 22 points per game, 12 rebounds per game, and five assists per game. Mabaso plays power forward, centre, and shooting guard.

### **China World University Games and the Goalkeeper of the Tournament**

Soccer goalkeepers play a unique and very important position in a match. They are almost like a number 15 in rugby; if this player misses a ball that drops down their throat, a try is scored. In the case of a soccer goalkeeper, it could be worse sometimes. Nowadays, the goalkeeper's role has become very complicated; the goalkeeper is now a goal-minder, a sweeper, and an attacker! That reflects how much the modern game has changed. The MUT Soccer team's number-one goalkeeper is aware of all these changes and has put himself in a good frame of mind.

Mthokozisi Nqweniso, who hails from the Eastern Cape's Mount Ayliff, is a second-year accounting student from Umlazi's N Section who was chosen as 'Goalkeeper of the Tournament' in the 2022 annual USSA Games that took place at Secunda, Mpumalanga, from 4 to 10 December.

Out of the six matches that the team played, Nqweniso played five; he was given a rest when the team qualified for the final. He got a clean sheet out of the five matches and conceded just one goal in the final. His teammates scored six goals. This grand performance has resulted in the MUT team getting promoted to Section A of the tournament for 2023.

Nqweniso (19) has the right frame of mind for a goalkeeper. He has embraced that this is a somewhat lonely position, which requires him to communicate with his colleagues. Explaining how he achieved such a feat – being the Goalkeeper of the Tournament – Nqweniso said he reached deep down in himself and asked some questions that motivated him. One of these questions was: How do I achieve a clean sheet?

Like most sports people, Nqweniso has to deal with nerves before the game. He explains: "I was a good performer because I respected every match. Generally, I prepare well for a match. I look at the mistakes from the previous match and listen to my teammates' comments about my performance.



Mthokozisi Nqweniso

The day before the game I calm my nerves. I play my music. I tell myself I won't concede a goal."

What if you concede? How do you recover? "A good save after conceding makes me recover. I speak to myself. I also communicate with my defenders. I don't shout at the one who made a mistake that led to a goal. Shouting at him will make him nervous. Mistakes are not planned!"

Nqweniso wants to make it to the top league and be a professional player. ❖

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

**T**he hardest job about marketing is that people do not always know what you are doing, what you go through and how you go about it.

Now that the dust has settled and that MUT has been able to select its best and preferred students for 2023, here is to the team that has no free Saturday, no half-day Fridays, and no 8h00-16h00 job, but they make MUT known nationally and internationally.

This team does bundu-bashing, navigates the toughest of terrains, and sometimes if they are lucky, hobnobs with high-ranking individuals and officials who are a part

of registration campaigns across various provinces.

Last year, more than 87,000 students applied to MUT of whom slightly more than 3 000 could secure spaces.

While everyone is eager to know about registration at universities at the beginning of the year, and in some cases in the middle of the year, hardly anyone thinks about who brings the students. All the universities have teams that communicate with schools in various ways. The MUT team interacts with schools throughout the year, to give them the required information so they apply in time and apply properly. In their own words:

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## *Zama Sishi*

“My role is more behind the scenes, so, not many people associate me with the student recruitment team and function. A good strategy and plan are very important when engaging stakeholders from such a highly competitive environment. It is my responsibility to craft a winning student recruitment strategy, develop a bespoke recruitment plan, develop the messaging and collateral material, establish the partnerships and engagement opportunities for the University, as well as develop and defend the student recruitment budget. We have made it a point to start closer to home by building a strong base with the 28 Umlazi Township high schools. The University’s Anchor Strategy also requires us to do just that. The doors are not always open for one to walk into a school to recruit, a solid relationship between the Institution, school principals, Life Orientation Teachers, and Circuit management is what enable us access to our neighbouring schools. Our annual plan stretches from recruitment in surrounding schools, and then to almost all the corners of KwaZulu-Natal; national recruitment; international recruitment with a focus on Eswatini, Kingdom of Lesotho, and the Republic of Botswana. To optimise the recruitment efforts, we employ various recruitment strategies, ranging from school visits, career exhibitions, Open Days, campus tours, online recruitment, workshops, giving recognition awards, giving motivational talks, career profile testing, offering sponsorships, placing advertorials on media, and other strategies.”



Zama Sishi

### ***Sthembile Maphumulo***

“We cast our net far and wide. We cover the whole province of KwaZulu-Natal; we do inter-provincial visits, and international visits to diversify our student population.” The University has students from the SADC countries and beyond. We empower LO teachers in various ways including providing learning material used for the L.O sessions.

Our visits are not only about MUT information and requirements, but we also motivate learners and give them examination tips to excel in their studies. In March, the team visited Lesotho to recruit potential students for 2024. The week spent travelling around different districts in Maseru presented us an opportunity to engage more than 12 000 very eager learners who marvelled at the prospects of furthering their studies in South Africa.”



Sthembile Maphumulo and learners of a Lesotho school



Sthembile Maphumulo

### ***Ayanda Bulose***

“It’s more than just a job. It’s about ensuring that each and every learner is given a chance to build their future.” Bulose has been Schools Liaison Officer for six years. He has travelled KwaZulu-Natal extensively, giving the learners at high schools the vital information they need to apply for post-matric studies. “I will give it eight out of 10,” Bulose said, referring to how familiar he now is with the province. Building relationships with key stakeholders is the key in the line of work I do, ensuring that my stakeholders are regularly updated about the developments of the institutions and new program offerings makes it easier for me to gain access to the schools for presentations. ❖



Ayanda Bulose, middle, and students that he recruited

# ALUMNI CORNER

## GROWING OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY

As we count down to graduation 2023, which will be happening from 17 to 22 April, we are reminiscence with excitement on the latest cohort that will join the MUT Alumni community. The week of 8-13 August 2022 was the first for in-person graduation at MUT. After two years of re-adjusting and changing the way MUT celebrates the most important milestone in the life of young graduates, the graduates could not have been more blessed. Attending a graduation ceremony gives a sense of really getting into one's next chapter, which is a rite of passage. Both parents and graduates felt a moment of self-

fulfilment as the hard labour for both came to fruition.

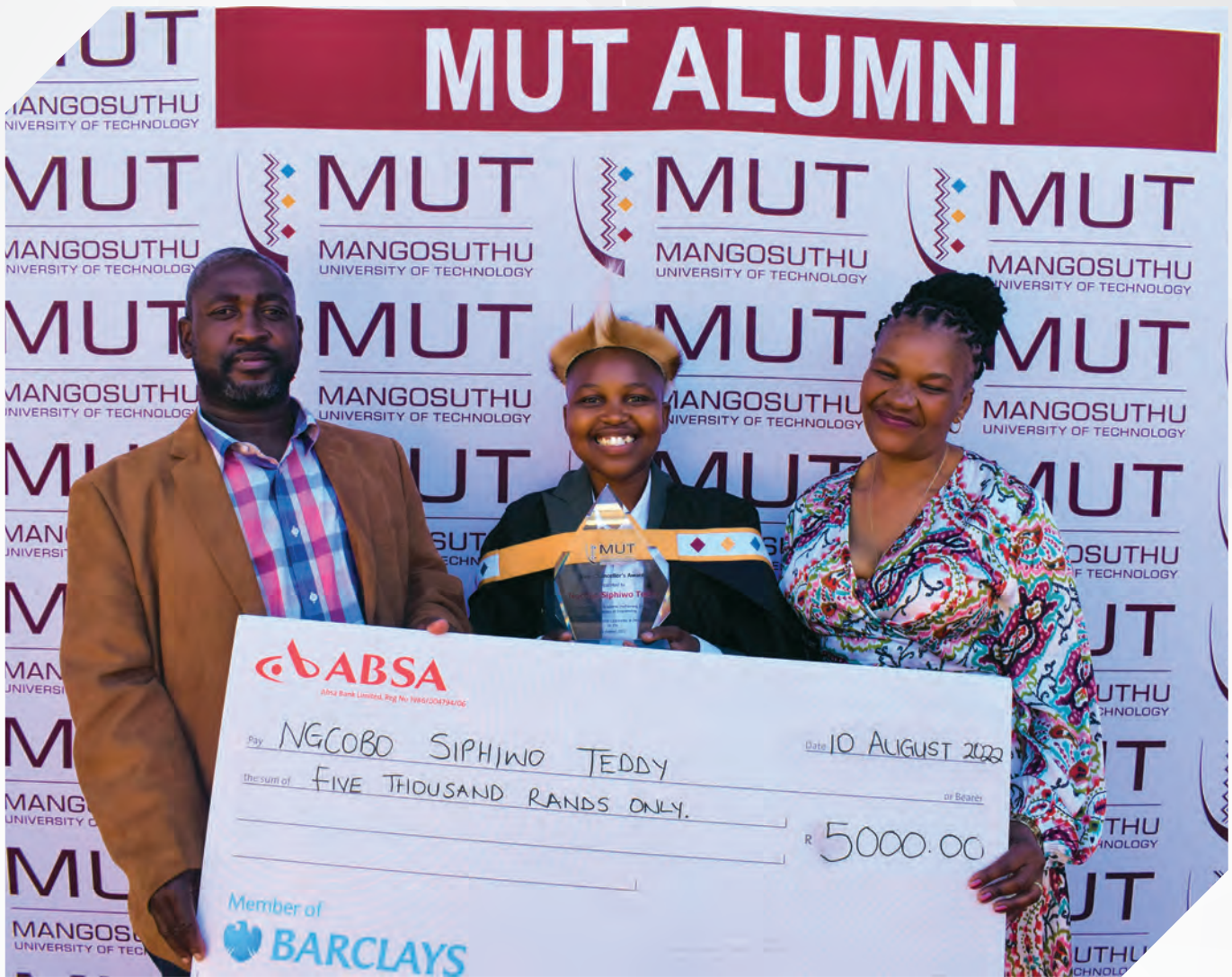
Graduation is a momentous occasion, especially for the MUT alumni relations office as it symbolises the growth of the MUT Alumni community. The 2022 graduation resulted in the addition of 2970 names to the alumni database, thus an increase in the number of brand advocates who will be taking the MUT name with them for the rest of their professional journeys. The joy that filled the iconic Seme Hall with song and dance indicated a cohort of graduates



Chandika and Trishal Banto



Arisha Sivlal, 2022 Faculty of Natural Sciences best student



Teddy and her proud parents

with a positive spirit and love for their alma mater. What stands out about the class of 2022 is that the University awarded the very first professional degrees with 44 students graduating with a Bachelor of Health Sciences: Medical Laboratory Science, and 42 students graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health. We also acknowledge the continuation of Department of Nature Conservation to graduate Master's students. This department is a pioneer indeed. Vertical growth of MUT's qualification mix provides a wealth of knowledge to graduates giving more opportunities for the empowerment of current students and contributing to the sustainability of MUT.

The alumni relations team extends more special congratulations to women who dominated the graduation statistics across the faculties. Most notable is the resilience of women over the ages

of 40 and 50 who, besides many challenges that go with raising a family, and holding a full-time job, managed to pursue and complete their studies. Also, to the two ladies who graduated top of their faculties, Sipiwo Teddy Ngcobo, who was awarded Vice-Chancellor's award for being the highest performing graduate in the Faculty of Engineering, and Arisha Sivilal was the highest performing graduate in the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Arisha also earned the Vice-Chancellor's award. Phakama Mbokodo!

The graduation also hosted some double trouble in the form of twins and siblings who brought extreme excitement to the ceremonies. Hearty congratulations to the Bantho siblings, Chandika and Trishal as they both graduated Cum Laude with a diploma in Information Technology: Software Development.

# FIVE YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

## – AZADI CONSULTING STOOD THE TEST OF TIME

Starting out on your own at a tender age is a thought that brings shivers down the spine of many. But Nkululeko Mthembu took a giant leap in 2017 when he left a stable job in the bustling construction and quantity surveying sector. Creating a fail-proof strategy and a solid five-year plan was an ace up the sleeve of a young man from eShowe, in the north of KwaZulu-Natal, when Mthembu founded AZADI Consulting, a quantity surveying and project management firm. Five years is a great milestone and more so in a time when many businesses had to sadly let go of thousands of employees and close shop because of COVID-19 challenges. Entrepreneurs contributions to the economy is undoubted, and they are the heroes never celebrated enough for the relief they bring to young graduates in need of opportunities. The five-year journey at AZADI Consulting has brought joy to many. The firm currently employs 44 employees that deployed across different sites. It has trained and absorbed several MUT graduates. The University has enjoyed several philanthropic gestures from

Mthembu since 2018 because he values so much the friendships developed through his association with MUT. “Each time I give to the University, I am doing it out of love because at MUT I met brothers and sisters, and this has led to very strategic network opportunities.

I have been exposed to many opportunities through referrals from fellow MUT graduates,” said Mthembu.

Mthembu is very proud of the work his company achieved during the COVID-19 rush where they refurbished hospitals, converting ordinary spaces into isolation wards. The company is currently working on a number of projects where AZADI Consulting is leading 60% of the projects and for 30% they employ other consultants. Mthembu believes that as an entrepreneur he has a civic duty and has since established a non-profit wing of the firm which is called Khanyisa Imita. The non-profit has been at the forefront in providing youth employment, employing 144 young people who work on various community development projects. The social responsibility

programmes include collecting medication from clinics, and delivery to the elderly around eShowe’s wards 11, 12, 13 and 28. Home-based care, including recycling and repairs of old wheelchairs which are donated to those in need is another community cohesion programme undertaken by Khanyisa Imita. Cleaning of schools to prepare for examinations, donating school shoes and uniforms, as well as assisting school learners with career guidance. Mthembu has made several donations to MUT with the latest being the donation of toiletries for MUT students and stakeholders.

“I am out of words at the growth of the organisation. The future seems interesting as we look forward to the



Nkululeko Mthembu in his office

next five years. It is never easy to establish and run a business because at the beginning it is all about you and a dream, but as time goes on you need to consider your employees and their families who now depend on you. As a company, we have had our ups and downs during the first five years; we have had burglaries and lost all our electronics. Fortunately, we have all our work backed up and we were able to recover data from cloud storage. One of the

employees had a car accident. By God's grace no life was lost in that accident. Also, we had our company car stolen on our premises in broad daylight. I am very proud of the solid relationship between AZADI and MUT, together we have created a solid organisation. We are still standing because we love what we do. Vision 2029 is exciting as we look forward to the 50th anniversary of MUT," Mthembu said.

## MUT ALUMNUS SPREADING HIS WINGS IN SAUDI ARABIA

The world is becoming increasingly interconnected, and many experience this on a daily basis through social networking online. The story of an MUT student that graduated many years ago is an example of this fact. Thabani Khanyile is a Mechanical engineering graduate class of 1990, who found better career prospects overseas and seized the opportunity with both hands. Khanyile works for Saudi Aramco, one of the biggest oil companies in the world. It has 79 000 employees around the globe and seven refineries that pump oil from the ground. Remembering when he was in high school, Khanyile pictured himself designing cars for Toyota. However, this did not work out; fate was to lead Khanyile to a different direction; things worked out perfectly in the end.

Considering Khanyile's time in the 1990's, without a qualification, you would not have access to attractive career path. Being at a university was the greatest opportunity for a black child. Khanyile says the time



Thabani Khanyile

at MUT was filled with a lot of discoveries for him, one example is that it was his first time having direct interaction with white people. "The lecturers were very open and had understanding that English language was one of the barriers to learning at that time. The lecturers understood the challenges of the community of Umlazi. They were inspiring and patient with us. This helped in building our confidence to learn," said Khanyile.

Khanyile has achieved a lot, with countless accolades under his name. One of these was establishing a logistics company, Sesikhanyile Logistics. The company is responsible for hauling and transporting goods across the South Africa and beyond. Khanyile's vision is to return to South Africa, expand his business and put the skills he acquired to enhance experiences of graduates of his beloved MUT. Khanyile encourages fellow MUT graduates to explore international

opportunities. "There are so many opportunities for those who seek opportunities beyond their homestead. Once you venture outside of your home surrounding you get exposed to new cultures and get an international perspective on professional and social life. Mechanical engineering was a great window that opened all these opportunities. Considering our time in the 90s, you really had to have a qualification to kick-starts a decent career," he said.

## CROSSING CHASMS AND DIGITAL WAVES



Sindisiwe Santi

The future never looked brighter for Sindisiwe Santi, Class of '14, our very own IT guru who is climbing career ladder like a real superstar. With a career that is under 10 years, Santi is aligned with one of Africa's premium telecommunications networks, MTN. Santi is working as a Business Analyst Manager. Evident from the moment she got selected as the very first MUT's Abe Bailey Travel scholarship recipient. Santi is a hard worker who, throughout her studies, attained the MUT's Deans Commendation awards for

outstanding examination results which later placed her at the top of her faculty when she was named the top performing graduate in the Faculty of Natural Sciences during her graduation, and was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award. Her excellence has been a build-up of winning streaks attained from the desire to be an inspiration to others. Santi is part of a digital online managers responsible for the business analysis of multiple digital platforms within MTN. She is part of a team that is implementing strategies within digital environment, which includes agile implementation, project management, and governance.

"Studying IT at MUT came with the thought-provoking task of deciding which IT profession one wants to pursue. Something about business analysis caught my attention and got my creative juices flowing. It felt like a mammoth task but I knew I was ready for the challenge. It was both exciting and scary because, for one, I never had formally managed a team. That alone was going to be something new and somewhat uncomfortable. However, I knew all the work I had done over the years prepared me for any work challenge within the IT environment, so I grabbed the opportunity with both hands, and wanted to do the best and be the best," said Santi. Santi's previous exposure and engagement as a business analyst in the telecommunications industry and the financial sector provided her invaluable experience from the different positions. This gave her the confidence that propelled her to climb the corporate ladder and got to management, and mentored and le other business analysts in the industry.

As a leader, Santi understands the value of giving back and taking others along the journey to success. She is a mentor and philanthropist, offering support to many

families through her foundation called Charis Charity Foundation. The foundation is a non-government organisation (NGO). Santi's civic duty does not only end at the foundation, She also provide care and mentorship to young leaders in Mpumalanga province,

working under the Arising Leaders of Tomorrow, another non-profit organisation. Santi credits her success to MUT, her supportive family and friends, and God who makes all things possible for her and those she works with.

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## BREAKING CYCLES AND CHANGING DESTINIES

Grabbing an opportunity and using it well was the key to success for Mlamuli Zondo as opportunities do not come knocking that easily. The SAP development programme which Zondo encountered from Facebook while he was completing his National diploma in IT at MUT has opened doors for him. In reality, these doors were knocked down by Zondo's hard work and resilience. Tenacity has kept his focus. Zondo attained R98 000 worth of funding to complete the development programme. Zondo said it took a lot of commitment as he had to juggle studying and attending the SAP course in Durban North every day. Luckily, there was an option to attend evening classes at MUT.

Zondo learned leadership the hard way by first managing himself. He said he remembers giving up on his development course briefly because he felt overwhelmed by the amount of his University work. Fortunately, his funders had realised his potential and encouraged him to return and finish his training. "Despite coming from a very complicated family structure where it was impractical to ask for anything from my parents because they had no financial means to assist, I was intentional with everything I did as I worked towards making sure that one day when I had my own family, they never lived a difficult life like me. There was no time to play, even my pastime had to be something meaningful. I used to keep my sanity through Ballroom and Latin dance sessions at MUT's Dining Hall, to distress from a lot of work that went into successfully completing my Information Technology diploma Cum Laude," he said. Zondo thanks MUT for the qualification and a culture grounded on strong ethical values. He is now responsible for managing IT infrastructure, software, applications, and resources tailored for solving business problems, and mentoring a team he is entrusted with. He has completed a lot of career development programmes which have equipped him

with skills to work with national and international organisations.

Hard work pays off indeed, the Alumni section in the Department of Marketing and Communications pays tribute to Zondo for changing his circumstance, and giving guidance and mentorship to others. He is now able to say his dream has been realised; Zondo is now providing a comfortable life for his wife and daughters. We could not be prouder of Zondo's achievements. His successes are a testament to MUT's Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Marcus Ramogale's message to MUT alumni to never allow their backgrounds to determine their destinations. ❖



Mlamuli Zondo

