

## REFLECTING ON 2023 AND A MESSAGE FOR THE HOLIDAYS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



Dear Mangosuthu University of Technology Family,

As we bid farewell to 2023, a year marked by both challenges and triumphs, we come together as a community to reflect, remember, and celebrate the profound journey we've undertaken.

In this year, we experienced the poignant loss of our esteemed founder, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi (May His Soul Rest in Peace). His visionary leadership, dedication to education, and passion for community development have left an enduring legacy that will forever be woven into the fabric of Mangosuthu University of Technology. As we pay tribute to Prince Buthelezi's impactful contributions, let us carry forward his ideals of integrity, innovation, and inclusivity into the years to come.

During this period of reflection, we also find ourselves at the dawn of a new era with the inauguration of our distinguished Chancellor, Mr. Sandile Zungu. Since assuming this pivotal role, Chancellor Zungu has already demonstrated remarkable dedication and passion for the betterment of our university. His visionary leadership and proactive approach have breathed new life into our academic community, inspiring both staff and students alike. We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the positive impact Chancellor Zungu has already had on Mangosuthu University of Technology. His commitment to fostering excellence and advancing our institution's mission is commendable. The energy and enthusiasm he brings to the role are indeed catalysts for positive change, and we are fortunate to have such a dynamic leader guiding us into the future.

To our dedicated staff, your hard work, resilience, and unwavering commitment to our shared mission have been the bedrock of our successes throughout

the year. Your collective efforts have played a pivotal role in ensuring that we continue to work towards achieving even higher standards of excellence that should define our university.

To our talented students, your commitment to learning, adaptability, and achievements in various fields have showcased the incredible potential within our academic community. We are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to witnessing your continued success in the coming year. The role played by the student leadership throughout the year is highly appreciated.

As I undertook my role as the Administrator appointed to take over the functions of the Council, the University community has worked with me and my team to overcome challenges and embrace opportunities, laying the groundwork for a stronger and more vibrant Mangosuthu University of Technology. It has been a privilege to work alongside our dedicated staff and students and I am honoured to share (below) some of the achievements we've made in pursuit of the mandate given in the Terms of Reference for my appointment as the Administrator at the University:

- While undertaking the functions of the Council, the Management Team and I, together with the Technical Team that supports me, have made significant progress towards improving the systems that support the operations of the governance structures. These are the systems that will provide the foundation for the Council (and its sub-structures) to work more efficiently in the future. The functions of the Council were undertaken on time, and the quality of the outputs continued to improve.



- In September, we hosted the Administrator-Stakeholder Summit which was a resounding success. The information gathered from the conversations that took place at this Summit will be part of the building blocks for the Five-Year Development Plan for the University that the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation has mandated me to develop.
- All the critical work that needed to be undertaken in preparation for the resumption of the recruitment process for senior management positions in the University has now been completed. The recruitment process for senior management positions will thus resume in January 2024, with the position of Vice-Chancellor and Principal being the first to be processed. The filling of the other senior management positions will also be undertaken early in the new year.
- Significant progress has also been achieved on the other aspects contained in the Terms of Reference for my appointment. Details on progress in those areas will be shared with the University community at appropriate times.

As we celebrate the successes of the past year, I would like to express my gratitude to each member of our community for your hard work, dedication, and unwavering support. Your resilience and commitment have been instrumental in the positive changes we've witnessed.

Looking ahead, let us carry the momentum of our achievements into the coming year. There are still challenges to overcome and goals to reach, but with the collective spirit that defines our university, I am confident that we will continue to thrive and strive for excellence.

As we turn the page on 2023, let us carry the spirit of our founder, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the momentum instilled by Chancellor Sandile Zungu into the future. Together, we stand poised for greatness, guided by a rich legacy and inspired leadership.

*I extend my warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season, a restful break, and a New Year filled with even greater accomplishments.*

Warm regards,

*Prof. LR van Staden*

Administrator: Mangosuthu University of Technology



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