



Greetings to the University Community!

As part of my ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, I am pleased to provide you with an update on the significant progress we have made towards the fulfilment of our mandate as outlined in the Terms of Reference for my appointment as the Administrator for the University, published in Government Gazette No. 47280 of 10 October 2022. The focus for this Issue of the publication is the following two items contained in those Terms of Reference for my appointment:

- c. *Initiate the independent external investigation (a forensic audit) into the range of financial control weaknesses and suspected financial irregularities as a matter of urgency. Further, where criminal activity is evident, full legal processes must follow so that there is visible consequence management for illicit practice.*
- e. *Take responsibility for the appointment and for the filling of senior level posts including that of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, within 12 -18 months of the term of office of the Administrator.*

Now, here is the update on these two focus areas:

1. INITIATION OF FORENSIC AUDITS AND ADDRESSING FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES

The commitment of my Technical Team and I to this task has been unwavering, and I am pleased to report that significant strides have been made in this regard.

To date, seven forensic audits have been completed, each meticulously examining various aspects of financial and operations within the University. These audits were conducted with the utmost professionalism and thoroughness, ensuring that no stone was left unturned in the pursuit of transparency and accountability.

Following the completion of these audits, detailed reports were compiled, highlighting findings, recommendations, and necessary actions to address any identified weaknesses or irregularities. I am pleased to inform you that these reports have been diligently handed over to the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marcus Ramogale for immediate implementation of the recommendations. It is imperative to emphasize the importance of this step. Through the implementation of these recommendations, we are not only rectifying past shortcomings but also laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient financial framework that will support the University's growth and development in the years to come.

The progress we have made in initiating and completing these forensic audits is a testament to our unwavering commitment to the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance. However, our work does not end here. We remain steadfast in our dedication to the progress of the University and will continue to work tirelessly alongside the executive management of the university to address any challenges and seize opportunities for advancement.

2. APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR LEVEL POSTS, INCLUDING VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL:

Significant progress has been made towards the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor & Principal for the University. The position was advertised in January of this year, marking a crucial step forward in the recruitment process. Subsequently, the shortlisting and interview phases have been completed successfully.

The next critical step involves the presentation of the appointable candidate(s) to the University Community, in accordance with the provisions outlined in Section 8.13.7 of the Institutional Rules (that guide the recruitment process for the position of Vice-Chancellor & Principal). **This step is pivotal as it provides an opportunity for active participation from all stakeholders in the University community.**

I encourage all members of the University community to be vigilant for further communication regarding the details of the presentation. Your active involvement in this process is essential as we collectively strive to shape the future leadership of our institution.

Once the recruitment process for the Vice-Chancellor has been concluded, we will all move with speed to fill the senior positions within the University that are vacant. The importance of speedily bringing the stability to the leadership team of the University cannot be overemphasized.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I express my sincere gratitude to the entire University community for your continued support and engagement throughout this journey. As we move forward, I urge each member to remain engaged and committed to our collective mission.

The progress achieved thus far underscores our commitment, both from myself and my dedicated Technical Team, to fulfilling the mandate entrusted to us. Each milestone reached is a testament to our collective efforts towards advancing the University's goals and aspirations.

It is imperative to recognize the significance of these achievements and the positive impact they will have on the University's trajectory. By adhering to transparent and inclusive processes, we are fostering an environment of accountability and excellence.

As a community, we will together continue to strive for excellence and uphold the values that define our institution. We can overcome any obstacles and ensure that Mangosuthu University of Technology emerges stronger and more resilient than ever before

Thank you for your attention, and please stay tuned for further updates and announcements.

Warm regards,

Prof. LR van Staden

Administrator: Mangosuthu University of Technology

shape and own the future

