



# uDENGEZI

## VC NEWSLETTER

Date Issued: 10 March 2025

### MUT Vice-Chancellor Signs MOA with University Incubator Consortium

On 12 February 2025, Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) marked a significant milestone as Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Nokuthula Sibiya signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the University Incubator Consortium (UNIIC). This consortium includes a diverse group of universities and institutions from across the globe, committed to fostering collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship. The signing ceremony took place at the University of Mpumalanga, in Mbombela, where Professor

Sibiya joined representatives from Asia Pacific University, Universitas Trisakti, Universitas Telkom, Universitas Multimedia Nusantara, Palawan State University, Western Philippines University, Mindoro State University, University of Mpumalanga, University of Rwanda, Adamson University, Department of Science and Technology-MIMAROPA, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, Tshwane University of Technology, Occidental Mindoro State College, and National University of Kaohsiung.



*Professor Sibiya, left, with other signatories during the signing of the MOA*

The MOA outlines the scope and objectives of the collaboration, which include promoting knowledge and technology sharing, academic mobility, joint research and publications and entrepreneurship activities. The agreement aims to enhance the educational experience for students and staff by providing opportunities for mutual visits, ideation bootcamps, advisory services for start-up companies and joint conferences.

Professor Sibiya expressed her enthusiasm for the partnership, stating: "This agreement represents a significant step forward for MUT. The consortium's goals align with my dedication to entrepreneurship development at MUT. By joining forces with these esteemed institutions, we are creating a platform for innovation and collaboration that will benefit our students, staff and the broader community."

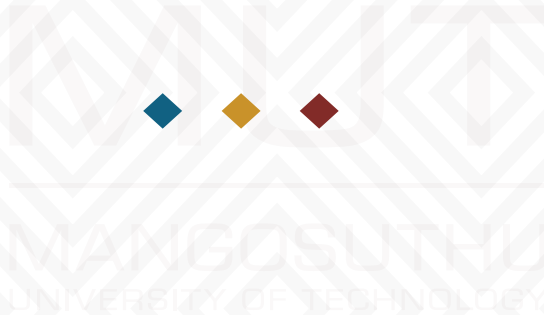


*Professor Sibiya, seated, fifth from left, with delegates who attended the Africa-Asia Roundtable at UMP*

The UNIIC consortium is dedicated to supporting start-up and spin-off companies, providing guidance on regulatory requirements and facilitating access to venture capital and funding opportunities. The collaborative efforts will also

focus on joint research projects, sharing curriculum and teaching materials, and organising conferences to build research capabilities.

The MOA marks a new era of collaboration and growth for MUT. This partnership will lead to significant advancements for the University.



## Professor Nokuthula Sibiyi advocates for joint research and entrepreneurship

Professor Nokuthula Sibiyi, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of MUT, played a pivotal role in the Africa-Asia Roundtable held on 12 February 2025 at the University of Mpumalanga. As the chair of the sessions on policy collaboration and collaborative research and innovation, Professor Sibiyi facilitated crucial discussions and guided the dialogue toward meaningful outcomes.



*Professor Nokuthula Sibiyi*

The session on policy collaboration between Africa and Asia emphasised the importance of creating frameworks that support joint research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Panellists discussed the need for harmonized policies that facilitate academic mobility, funding opportunities and technology transfer between the two regions. Discussions highlighted successful collaborative research projects and the

impact of regional partnerships on innovation. Participants shared experiences and best practices, leading to the identification of new areas for joint research and potential funding sources to support these initiatives.

Collaborative approaches for entrepreneurship development focused on strategies to support start-ups and spin-off companies were explored in detail. The session also underscored the importance of ideation boot camps and competitions to foster creativity and innovation among students.

Several potential future projects were outlined, including mutual visits and academic mobility programmes, joint Hackfest, advisory services for start-ups, joint research projects and annual conferences to build research capabilities. These outcomes reflect the collective efforts of the participants to promote collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship between African and Asian universities. The roundtable provided a platform for meaningful discussions and the development of strategies that will drive progress and create new opportunities for students, researchers and entrepreneurs in both regions.

Overall, Professor Sibiyi's leadership was instrumental in creating a platform for meaningful discussions and the development of strategies that will drive progress. Participants responded positively to Professor Sibiyi's leadership during the Africa-Asia Roundtable. Professor Sibiyi's ability to facilitate discussions and create a collaborative atmosphere was highly appreciated.

MANKOSUTHU  
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## Continued Support for the Vice-Chancellor at MUT

I am thrilled to share the positive relationship and unwavering support I have received from our Council. This support is crucial for our University's progress and success. My vision for the University aligns closely with the Council's goals, which are creating a unified front dedicated to fostering a culture of excellence.

I am particularly grateful for the support by Professor Stanely Mukhola, our chairperson of the Council, and Conny Mamejta, our Deputy Chairperson. They have both expressed their confidence in my leadership and have pledged their full support to my vision and strategies, ensuring that the university reaches a level of growth that will attract the right partnerships.

Mamejta plays a pivotal role in the Council. With her extensive experience in administration and leadership, she

provides ongoing guidance and support to me. Mamejta's background in managing complex organisational structures makes her an invaluable asset to the Council and MUT at large. I was greatly honoured during my recent attendance of the Africa-Asia Roundtable discussion at the University of Mpumalanga on 13 February 2025 when Mamejta dedicated time to meet and give support to the project. Although it happened by coincidence for both of us to be in Mpumalanga Province, Mamejta rearranged her diary and made sure that we touch base before I come back to KZN.

This strong relationship and continued support from the Council, including the dedicated guidance from the chairperson and deputy chairperson, are vital for MUT's future. The collaborative spirit between myself and the Council members will undoubtedly lead to significant advancements and benefit the entire University community.



*Second from left, Ms Conny Mamejta, Deputy Chairperson of council, third from left, Professor Sibiyi, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, with MUT staff Zama Sishi, left, and Rogerant Tshibangu*

## Successful registration at MUT with over 13,000 students enrolled

Collaborative efforts and constructive engagements between the University's management and student leadership have significantly contributed to a successful registration period for the new academic year. As the executive management, we have established open communication, making sure that the SRC is kept abreast and included in all processes relating to the registration of new and returning students. These engagements have not only built trust, but have also ensured that the voices of students are heard and considered in

decision-making processes. The student leaders have played a crucial role in this process. Their dedication to representing the interests of their peers and their willingness to collaborate with University's management have been vital in creating a harmonious and productive atmosphere on campus. By working together, they have been able to address potential issues before they escalate, ensuring a smooth and efficient registration process.



*The Memela twins, Phila and Phinda are some of the students that registered in January 2025*

As a result of these efforts, the registration period at MUT has been a resounding success. By Friday, 7 March 2025, the University had already registered over 13,000 for the new academic year. Students have been able to complete their registrations without significant delays or disruptions, allowing them to focus on their academic pursuits from the very beginning of the semester. Some key examples of this success include the timely payment of NSFAS allowances,

the efficient placement of students in residences, and the commencement of the academic programme on schedule. Although we have had to move lectures online due to water challenges, there has not been any disruption to teaching and learning. This seamless start of the academic year highlights the importance of collaboration, open communication and mutual respect in fostering a positive and productive university environment.

*Let us connect next month*

