

## Speech for the Installation and Inaugural of Chancellor Mr. Zweli Mntambo

By Prof. Mandla Radebe, Chairperson of Council

06 June 2024

- Chancellor, Mr Zweli Mntambo
  - The Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University and the guest of honour for our Chancellor, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi
  - Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Khehla Ndlovu and members of the management committee
  - Senate members
  - Members of the institutional forum
  - President of Convocation Mr Sangweni and all members of convocation
  - SRC president and members the SRC
  - Distinguished Guests,
  - Esteemed Colleagues,
  - Honoured Students,
  - Ladies and Gentlemen,
1. Avuxeni, and welcome to this momentous occasion—the installation and inaugural ceremony of our new Chancellor, Mr. Zweli Mntambo. Today, we stand at the threshold of a new era for VUT, an era marked by promise, progress, and transformation.
  2. Those who are familiar with VUT, and perhaps the sector at large, will know that last year in particular, our sector, VUT included, was in the limelight for all the wrong reasons. However, credit goes to this council, which has worked collaboratively with all stakeholders within the university to stabilise the institution. I believe we are now at the threshold of achieving greater things.
  3. Therefore, Mr. Mntambo, your appointment as Chancellor comes at a critical juncture for our institution and our country. Your impressive and extensive experience within the sector and in business, your dedication to social development, and your unwavering commitment to education make you uniquely qualified to lead us into the future. We are confident that your leadership will inspire innovation, foster inclusivity, and strengthen our resolve to achieve excellence.

4. As we embark on this journey together, it is important to reflect on the core values that have brought us to this point. Our university is built on a foundation of integrity, perseverance, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge. These principles will guide us as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.
5. Community engagement remains a cornerstone of our mission. It is through collaboration and partnership that we can truly effect change and make a lasting impact. Your vision, Mr. Chancellor, aligns perfectly with our commitment to bridging the gap between academia and the broader society. Together, we will work towards creating an inclusive environment where every voice is heard, every talent is nurtured, and every dream is given the chance to flourish.
6. Our students are the heartbeat of this institution. They are the future leaders, innovators, and change-makers who will shape the world. It is our duty to provide them with the tools, resources, and support they need to succeed. Under your chancellorship, Mr. Mntambo, I am confident that we will enhance our educational offerings, expand our research initiatives, and foster a culture of excellence that will empower our students to reach their full potential.
7. It is precisely for these reasons, that on behalf of Council and the entire university community, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for accepting our overtures to become the Chancellor of VUT.
8. Mr. Mntambo, we are honoured to have you as our Chancellor. We look forward to your leadership, your vision, and your unwavering commitment to advancing the mission of VUT. Together, we will build a brighter, more prosperous future for all.
9. We congratulate you Mr Chancellor as you assume this role!!
10. Sithi halala Mntambo oluhlazana omhle phe ngenhliziyo, Vezi, Dlakude, Mthimkhulu, Jiyane, Msuthu!!
11. Thank you, and congratulations once again, Mr. Chancellor!!

**End.**