



**VAAAL UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY**

INSTALLATION OF CHANCELLOR ZWELIBANZI VINCENT MNTAMBO



2024 g



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Chairperson of VUT Council

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VUT Chancellor

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VUT Chancellor

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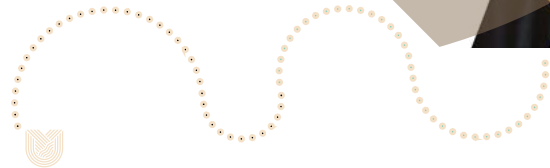
*Prof Mandla Radebe
Chairperson of Council*

*Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo
Chancellor*

*Prof Khehla Ndlovu
Vice-Chancellor & Principal*

FOREWORD

*Prof Mandla Radebe
Chairperson of Council - VUT*



Pomp and ceremony were the order of the day on 06 June 2024, as the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) and the broader academic community witnessed with joy and optimism the official installation of our esteemed Chancellor, Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo. Graced by dignitaries from academia, business, and government, the event was celebrated in two parts: the official installation at the Desmond Tutu Great Hall on campus, followed by a luncheon at the Riverside Sun Hotel in Vanderbijlpark.

Documenting the celebrations of this momentous occasion is of paramount importance. It serves not only as a memento for those present but also as a lasting legacy for future generations. This publication captures the essence of a landmark event in the history of our institution, heralding a new era of leadership, vision, and commitment to excellence.

Appointing a University Chancellor is no easy task, given the wide pool of outstanding leaders we have in South Africa. However, Mr Mntambo's profound experience and unwavering commitment to academic excellence ideally position him to spearhead VUT into a promising era of growth and innovation. His forward-thinking vision for higher education in South Africa complements VUT's dedication to making knowledge and learning accessible to all. As Council, we are proud of our choice to appoint Mr Mntambo as the University's Titular Head for the next five years.

The role of the Chancellor, as the titular head and representative of the university, extends beyond merely conferring degrees. This role is pivotal in forging strategic relationships with key stakeholders. Although the Chancellor does not hold executive powers, this role is crucial in helping the university achieve its objectives. Mr. Mntambo's leadership will be instrumental in these efforts, ensuring that VUT continues to thrive and excel.

Having presided over the installation ceremony, I am honoured and privileged to welcome you to this special publication, which includes a detailed account of the installation ceremony, featuring inspiring speeches, the dignitaries in attendance, and the ceremonial traditions that underscore the gravity of this occasion.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our new Chancellor and express my deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of this historic event. This publication serves as a testament to our collective efforts and a reminder of the bright future we are building together.

Let us celebrate this significant milestone with pride and look forward to the continued growth and success of our university under the capable stewardship of our new Chancellor.



*Prof Louis Molamu
Registrar (Acting)*

*Prof Maggi Linington
DVC: Teaching & Learning*

*Prof Mandla Radebe
Chairperson of Council*

*Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo
Chancellor*

*Prof Khehla Ndlovu
Vice-Chancellor & Principal*



Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo

Mntambo's early career includes lecturer and later senior lecturer positions at the then University of North West (UNW), the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) where he inspired many students in the fields of Constitutional Law, International Law and Jurisprudence.

His problem solving and negotiation capabilities guided him in successfully leading the Independent Mediation Service of South Africa (IMSSA), an NGO which specialised in the resolution of industrial conflict. In that role he led the establishment of a division which helped resolve community and political conflicts in the period leading up to SA's democracy in 1994.

He subsequently served as the first Director General of the Gauteng Provincial Government where he left an indelible mark as a people-centred change leader.

On the business front, Mntambo's success track record includes being founder and Director of Sediba Consulting, Eyesizwe Mining and Exxaro Ltd. His other chairmanship roles included the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration; Eyesizwe Mining; Metrobus; South African Tourism, and the Paleontological Scientific Trust. His qualifications include B.Luris; LL.B (UNW) and LL.M (Yale).

His interests are spread across a wide range of disciplines which include, law, public service management, business leadership, education, conflict resolution, tourism, nature conservation, history, the creative arts and the origins sciences.



Prof Mandla Radebe, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo, Mr Jabu Moleketi, Dr Vuyelwa C Mlomo-Ndlovu and Prof Khehla Ndlovu

VUT CELEBRATES THE INSTALLATION OF ITS CHANCELLOR WITH GREAT OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE.

On 06 June 2024, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) celebrated the installation of its new Chancellor, Mr. Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo, a renowned business leader. Graced by dignitaries from academia, business, and government, the event was celebrated in two parts; the official installation at the Desmond Tutu Great Hall on campus, followed by a luncheon at the Riverside Sun Hotel in Vanderbijlpark.

Mntambo, who will be the institution's titular head for the next five years, was appointed by the University Council on 11 September 2023 after careful consideration and an extensive nationwide search for a suitable candidate fit for the role.

Speaker after speaker, Mntambo was described as a man of integrity with a deep sense of dedication to social development and an unwavering commitment to education.

Chairperson of the VUT Council, Professor Mandlakhe Radebe who presided over the installation, said Mntambo's appointment comes at a critical time, pointing out that VUT and the sector at large had been in the limelight for not so good reasons in recent times. He also added that Mntambo's distinguished background positions him as a dedicated ambassador for VUT, who would advocate for its interests and enhance its brand visibility on national and international fronts.

Expressing confidence in Mntambo's leadership, Radebe said: *"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."*

In his inaugural speech as Chancellor, Mr. Mntambo stated that he was humbled to take on the mantle of Chancellor for VUT, which he said has for long been shaping young minds. *"VUT is a place that has given birth to ideas, where the futures still are to be forged,"* he said, adding that he embraces the university's motto

INSPIRING THOUGHT. SHAPING TALENT.

The keynote address was delivered by Chairperson of the Thabo Mbeki Board of Trustees, Ms Geraldine Joslyn Fraser-Moleketi, who was elected to SA's first democratic parliament in April 1994 where she served in the Executive and Cabinet. Currently the Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University (NMU), Fraser-Moleketi started by welcoming Mntambo to "the club" saying that VUT is fortunate to have a man of his calibre as Chancellor. Reciting former President, Thabo Mbeki's famous *"I'm an African"* speech, Dr Fraser-Moleketi said it actually reflects and captures Mntambo's love of being an African.

Other speakers included Advocate Leah Qcabashe SC from the South African Judicial Services.

Taking to the podium to give acknowledgements, Prof Khehla Ndlovu, VUT Vice Chancellor and Principal, said eh day was of great significance to VUT, highlighting that the University had been without a Chancellor for a while. He also emphasised that as VUT embarks on this new chapter, it was important to spare a moment to appreciate the legacy of our past Chancellors: Mr Tokyo Sexwale, Advocate Pansy Hlakula and Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi, saying they laid the important building blocks for this thriving University of Technology. *"Mr Mntambo, I have no doubt that these great giants have left a solid foundation during their respective tenures, on which you can stand firm as you take over the reins. Let us honor their contributions and pledge to build upon their legacy with renewed vigor."*

Ndlovu further said Mr Mntambo's credentials speak for themselves, and he has no doubt that his Chancellorship will be nothing short of exponential growth for the institution. *"Your forward-thinking vision for the country's higher education aligns perfectly with the core values of our university and complements our dedication to making knowledge and learning accessible to all, as well as fostering young leaders who will advance societal interests through technological innovation, excellence, and inclusive growth. We look up to your elevation and consummation of your relationship with our institution with great expectations and optimism for the future,"* he said.

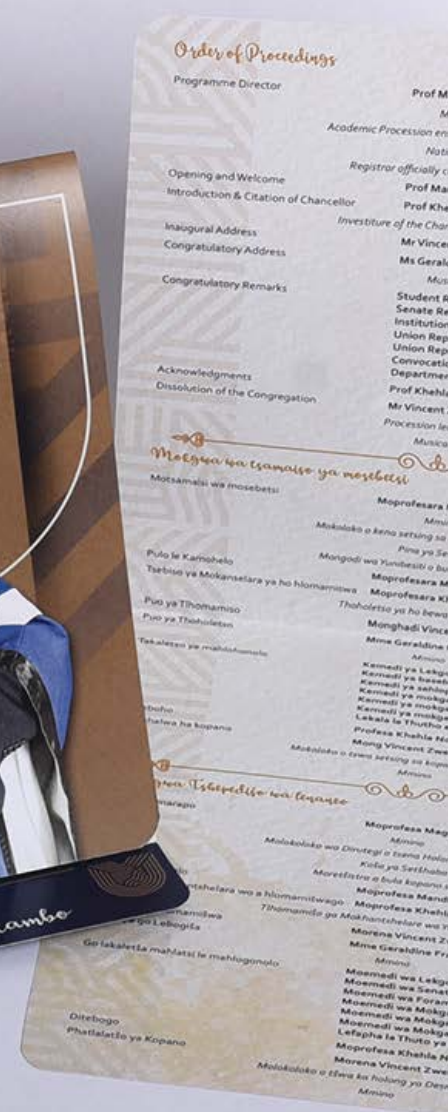
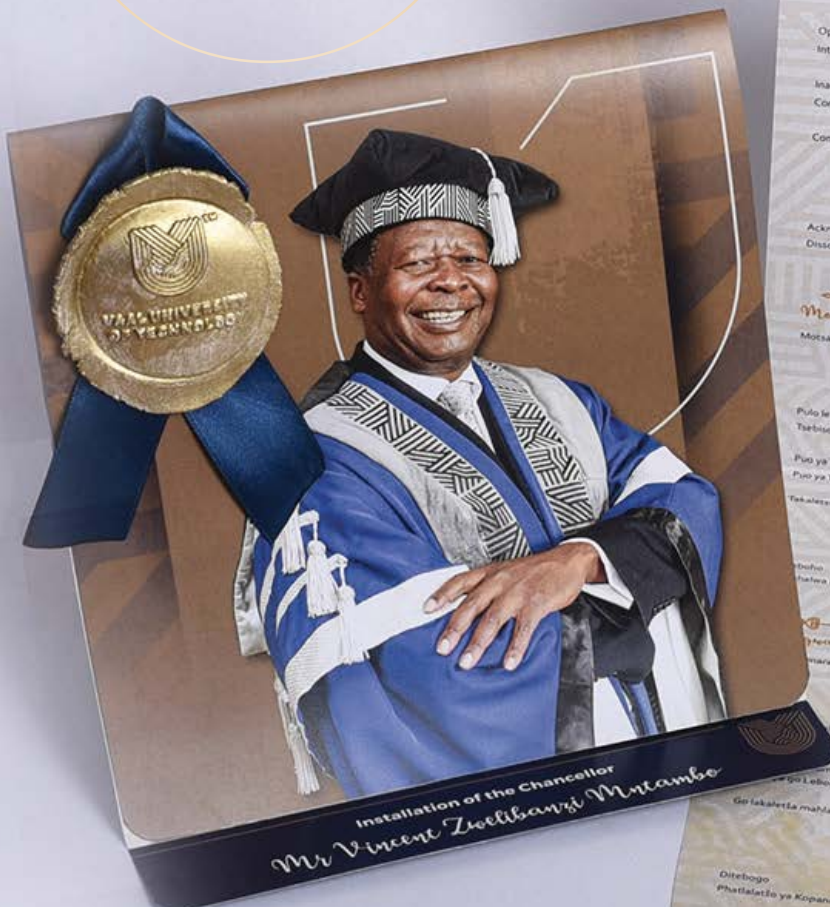
To add grandeur to the event, attendees were treated to live performances from the VUT Choir, award-winning musician, Brian Temba as well as Musical Expressions Ensemble by Classics of Turf.



Prof Mandla Radebe, Cllr Siphon Radebe, Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo, Cllr Peter Teixeira and Prof Khehla Ndlovu

Programme

JUNE · 06 · 2024



Order of Proceedings in Desmond Tutu Great Hall

Programme Director **Prof Maggi Linington** - *DVC: Teaching & Learning*

Musical Item

Academic Procession enters the Desmond Tutu Great Hall

National Anthem

Registrar officially constitutes the congregation

Opening and Welcome **Prof Mandla Radebe** - *Chairperson of Council*

Introduction & Citation of Chancellor
Prof Khehla Ndlovu - *Vice-Chancellor and Principal*

Investiture of the Chancellor & Oath of Affirmation

Inaugural Address **Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo** - *Chancellor*

Congratulatory Address **Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi**

Musical Item

Congratulatory Remarks **Student Representative Council**
Senate Representative
Institutional Forum
Union Representative (NEHAWU)
Union Representative (NTEU)
Convocation Representative
Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation

Acknowledgments **Prof Khehla Ndlovu** - *Vice-Chancellor and Principal*

Dissolution of the Congregation
Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo - *Chancellor*

Procession leaves the hall

Musical Item



SPEECHES



Prof Mandla Radebe

Chairperson of Council - VUT



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

We congratulate you Mr Chancellor as you assume this role!

Sithi halala Mntambo oluhlazana omhlephe ngenhliziyo, Zezi, Dlakude, Mthimkhulu, Jiyane, Msuthu!

Thank you, and congratulations once again, Mr. Chancellor!

Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo

Chancellor - VUT

I stand before you today with a profound sense of humility as I take on the mantle of Chancellor of this esteemed institution. The Vaal University of Technology has its roots in the Vaal Technical School which was established in 1966. It has been, over these many years, a crucible where young minds have been shaped. *Inspiring Thought. Shaping Talent.* as your motto proudly proclaims!

It is a place that has given birth to ideas, where the futures still are to be forged. Vice Chancellor, members of Council and Senate, I accept the responsibilities of this investiture because of my deep belief in the transformative power of education. Today, as we look towards that horizon of endless possibilities, I invite us to free our minds and explore the liberation that knowledge, creativity, and boundless innovation can bring.

The freedom I invite you to consider is not a type of unbridled irresponsibility. It is the type that is in line with the reality of our optimal performance as human beings. However uncomfortable the reality, we see that the human spirit thrives on challenge. It is through the refining discomfort of constraint, that the strength, the resilience, and the brilliance of the human mind are forged.

Consider what I have just said in these terms:

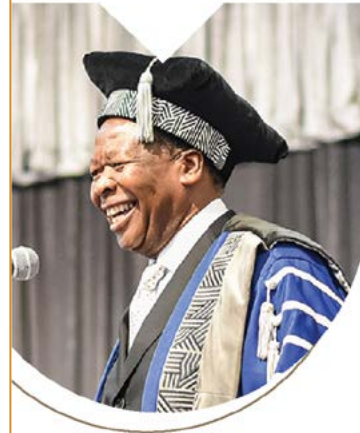
Far beneath the earth's surface, under conditions of immense pressure and heat, carbon atoms are forced into a crystalline structure, transforming into precious and raw diamonds. This process is a powerful metaphor for our lives and our academic journey. The pressure, the heat, the constraints, are not merely obstacles - they are catalysts for transformation, driving us towards endless horizons of brilliance and fortitude.

Standing as we are in a university of technology it is perhaps appropriate to relate this concept in technical rather than geological terms. Technology is often associated with computers, algorithms and the like. Some grand computing machines which have become ubiquitous in our lives today are the first thing which comes to mind when we hear the word technology. We take for granted and often forget, that all of us carry the most powerful super-computers man never made! It sits just above our necks...

It remains to this hour, the most puzzling thing we humans carry around. There is the chance that the species known as mankind may possibly not discover and fully explain the deep secrets and complex algorithms that this somewhat under-utilised organ called the brain is capable of.

Yet today, we make song and dance over something we call AI - Artificial Intelligence. What I do find interesting is that half the world is frenetically trying to study, understand, deploy, and gets regularly terrified of AI, which as we say is definitely artificial...but we then go on to IGNORE the most complex supercomputer man never made - the brains and minds we lift up from the pillow every single morning! That's what we do. Us, humans....!

In the early days of AI, the pursuit of artificial intelligence seemed boundless. Researchers envisioned machines with the unfettered cognitive capacity of the human brain, capable of solving almost any intellectual problem. However, this approach led to a conceptual dead end. Without a framework, without



*POEM by Rabindranath Tagore:
WHERE THE MIND IS
WITHOUT FEAR*

*Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been
broken into fragments
By narrow domestic walls*

*Where words come out from
the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches
its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of
reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of
dead habit*

*Where the mind is led forward
by thee
Into ever-widening thought and
action
Into that heaven of freedom,
my Father, let my country
awake*

focus, these early AI systems floundered because Intelligence does not exist in a vacuum.

For AI to truly learn and interact with the world, it needs a body, a set of constraints, a way to experience and act within its environment. Think of it like this: a newborn baby's mind is a vast, uncharted territory. But it's through interacting with the physical world – touching, grasping, seeing - that the child learns to differentiate, create categories, and understand cause and effect. The novel developments and breakthroughs we see in AI today, are simply trying to create what already exists in us - outside of our physical and mental selves. What AI is doing is to simply express most of its rather limited capabilities - to do the things that we mostly have and could perfectly do ourselves - if we decided to use half of our brain power.

Now, AI enjoys increasing freedom to empower us in numerous ways:

- Self-driving cars that sense the environment and make real-time decisions enhance personal mobility and transform transportation.
- AI-powered medical diagnostics accelerate disease detection, saving lives.
- Robots working alongside humans in factories increase efficiency and allow us to focus on more creative, higher-value tasks.

The story of embodied AI teaches us a profound lesson: Sometimes, true freedom emerges not from boundless possibility, but from thoughtfully chosen constraints. One of the boundless possibilities we need to attend to is how we use our brains and how we free our minds.....

Our academic pursuits aim to confront or embrace this challenge. The discipline, the rigorous study, and structured learning, may seem like constraints. Yet, it is these very elements that hone our minds, that prepare us for the moment when we leave the comforts of an academy such as VUT to venture into the real world into the University of Life. Many a young graduate or diplomate do not realise that true education starts when the you get gowned and capped. Those symbolic acts are not merely a recognition of academic achievement - they are but a marker, a rite of passage into a world where real education will happen because education does not stop on the graduation stage.

Our presence here in Vanderbijlpark, is significant in its symbolism. The individual after whom this town is named navigated the path from constraint to freedom. There is significant inspiration to be found in the story of Dr. Hendrik van der Bijl, an illustrious figure whose legacy illuminates not only Vanderbijlpark but also the annals of South African history. His academic pursuit in Physics, Mathematics and his groundbreaking research in electrical engineering, were underpinned by a disciplined approach to learning and exploration.

Dr. Van der Bijl's acceptance of a national advisory role, transitioning from an engineer to a visionary architect of South Africa's industrial foundation, underscores the profound impact of a mind freed by purposeful education. His leadership in establishing Eskom and Iscor laid the groundwork for the nation's industrial growth, showcasing how a free, enlightened mind can envision and execute projects of monumental significance beyond the scope and mere fixation of the movement of electrons.

FREEDOM and constraint are not opposing forces but complementary facets of growth. Our academic and ethical frameworks provide the structure within which true innovation and freedom of thought can flourish.

Dr van der Bijl was not just a man of steel mills and power lines, he ignited the belief that electrons knew no prejudice, that progress flowed through veins of all colours. He could for all intents and purposes, be regarded as the founder of Eskom, Iscor and the IDC. He was the principal architect and first chairman of all three of these solid institutions which endure to this very day. So, when you next switch on a light bulb, think of what legacy VUT can bequeath the many generations still to come. His legacy is that of a man who was instrumental in wiring a nation, not with dogma, but with volts of possibility **when the mind is free.**

Despite the dogma of the time, we now stand in a South Africa that embraces his belief in technology and innovation as forces of unbiased good. It's a call to each one of us to contribute to a legacy of enlightenment, to shine a light in the dark places of ignorance and to harness our collective intellect for the betterment of society.

The lasting legacy of light, the flow of currency through the veins of South Africa's industry, regulating the heartbeat of our economy and the steely backbone of much of our politics and physical infrastructure, was built through what appeared to be insurmountable constraints of the time. Legacies such as those of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Dr. Hendricks van der Bijl become possible when the mind is free.

As I assume the role of your Chancellor, I extend an invitation to you all—students, faculty, and the wider university community—to join in the many noble pursuits of a university such as ours, with free and open minds.

Let us answer for ourselves the question posed earlier: Could it be that there is a new kind of a much needed freedom? What is that freedom? Where could we find it? What could we do with it?

I Thank You.

Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi

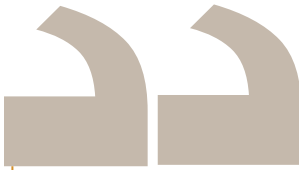
Good morning everyone. Let me just remove the elephant from the room. You've all seen these very tall men who have come ahead of me and I think there's a need to turn this thing around because if I stand up here, I'll even be taller than all of them. Let's just turn around a little bit, thank you. So that's to just avoid the microphone hitting me at the middle of my nose, but I don't feel any less tall than anyone else.

Good morning everyone. I will acknowledge our Chancellor of VUT and say congratulations to you and I stand on all your acknowledgements of everyone present in the room who should be acknowledged. Our presiding officer, if I can call it that, has sort of warned me that I should try and stick within time. I'm not sure if anyone said anything strange about me to you, but I will abide. So, I cut out all the acknowledgements, but that doesn't diminish the role of either faculty or the leadership of the student body or anyone else for that matter.

Congratulations and welcome to this club of chancellors. I thought, listening to your input and also from a common road and journey that we followed, that probably I should bring another chancellor into the room. And that's someone who's a figure in history, in African history. I do so because one of your loves is also history, and you see yourself as a historian of sorts as well. And I thought, along with the illustrious figures that you had mentioned, I turn to Ahmed Baba who was one of the greatest African intellectuals of the 16th century. He was a prolific writer and Islamic scholar and his works included a number of opinions, including that on slavery, and a number of biographies of famous jurists. Timbuktu's Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research, which houses some 30,000 manuscripts and is one of Africa's most important collections of historical chronicles and scholarly texts, is named after Ahmed Baba. There is also a crater on the planet of Mercury named after him. He remains a national icon in Mali today and is recognized across the world. Some of his works, especially in mathematics, have been drawn on by some of the outstanding universities in France.

I cannot claim that as a Chancellor, I am quite of the ilk of Ahmed Baba, but I thought as we heard a reflection of your history and road that you followed and your question today of is there new freedom, I thought I should bring in a memory of a chancellor who represented the best in Africa, and we probably need to look at how we can draw back on that.

As I do so, I want to take you back, Chancellor, to "*Nil Desperandum*" - Never Despair. That was the motto of Musi High School in Pimville, Soweto, where you cut your teeth in education. If your brother, the Reverend Teboho Moleketi, was here today, which he probably is in some way, he would have reminded you of a saying by your uncles, I believe, who said, "*If there's not a song written in your name, write your own song.*" I'm paraphrasing that. I think today, in terms of that journey that started out in Pimville, and Pimville is one of the oldest townships in the southwestern townships of Johannesburg, it's one that you can look at and think of even before 1948 because that township is more than 100 years old. You'd think of it in terms of grit, in terms of informal settlement that eventually transformed in some way into a township with four-roomed houses. From those very beginnings birthed a number of people



who are associated with our democracy and probably a new kind of freedom, including the likes of successful businesspeople like the Chancellor Mntambo, founder of Exxaro.

When he was reflecting on what this area is associated with and that it's not only about the fumes, I'm not going to go on and reflect on other fumes that may be there, but also just state that in line with that newfound and new forms of freedom, it's also his involvement not just as a founder but as a board member, present day, to look and work from a governance perspective, an oversight perspective in the development of strategy to say, "*What does the future look like?*" So, there's also striving for the future.

Let me just say about the other luminaries that came out of Pimville, and let me boast a little bit. So, I know you, but I also married someone who comes from that township, and in that reflect on the fact that that township, as I said earlier, bore politicians, musicians, sportspeople. I think the ones who are really recognized are sportsmen rather than women, so we need to look for the women who may not have been mentioned at the time. Academics, poets, and you can name so much more.

As I conclude on the township, I want us not to forget PUBS - the Pimville United Brothers. I see many nodding their heads when they think of PUBS. Maybe the alums of the township should see whether they can revive PUBS, and then we don't need to support Pirates any longer, and we go towards another one.

In essence, I conclude that part of my speech by quoting President Nelson Mandela, Madiba, when he said, "*It is not beyond our power to create a world in which all children have access to a good education. Those who do not believe this have small imaginations.*" Close quote. I think this is precisely why I took you on this little journey, because those children who came through education didn't have small imaginations, neither did their parents. We want this center of learning to not be impeded by small imaginations, but actually birth the big ideas, the innovative ideas of what's required to transform our country.

I'm going to go to a second part, and don't worry, I'm going to try and stay within the time required. As I move on to that, I want to share with you - and we have the CEO of Exxaro in our midst today, Dr. Nombasa Tsengwa, who can attest to this. We went on our strategic planning session as Exxaro to the Eastern Cape last year. As we were traveling in a vehicle between venues, going out to one of the sites where Exxaro, through Synergy, has the wind turbines, we were given a lecture on terrestrial biomes in South Africa. I think some people in the car sort of felt a little bit awkward, thinking, "*What exactly is biomes?*" Fortunately, there's a thing called Google, and now you can even do it on others, and very quickly, we tried to join into the discussion about the eight biomes that are there in South Africa - the grassland, the savanna, and so on. I can go on, but you'll check the rest. One thing that the Chancellor, our fellow board member, always tries to remind us is around the importance of biodiversity. The issue is that when you travel across South Africa, the most remarkable change in biodiversity is what you see when you're ready to look.

So, even as I was driving on, I believe it's the R52 - is it the 51, the road we were coming on? R59. I sort of looked and thought, just in case the Chancellor asked me what biome did I cross, I thought, "*Let me look and try and locate it,*" and I thought it was, it is the grassland, you know, the bit that's there, amongst others. Actually, the savanna, or, well, one of the two. I know that in Gauteng, it's either the grassland and or the savanna.

But I thought that I'd take this biome and actually say that as there may be eight as it relates to biodiversity, we could also equate it to our lives. In this instance, as we congratulate Chancellor Mntambo, we equate it to - let's call it biomes in terms of the different journeys of his own life. There are many to be said, but I think that's for another time.

I'd want to conclude today in the spirit of the biomes because it struck me as I was rereading and listening to the "*I am an African*" speech that it actually reflects and captures your love for being an African. Owing to a degree your being to the hills, the valleys, the mountains, and the glades, the rivers, the deserts, the trees, the flowers, the seeds, and the ever-changing seasons that define the face of our native land. Those were the words of President Thabo Mbeki, and I think it so captures the beauty of our country. As we consider this freedom, remember we owe it to all that, but above all, as this generation, we should defend the legacy of the future for the young and the other beautiful ones yet to be born.

Congratulations and welcome.



VAAAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



[Link to the live streamed event](#)



TOP LEFT:
 Prof Louis Molamu - Registrar (acting)
 Dr Simphiwe Nelana - DVC: RIC1 (Acting)
 Prof Khehla Ndlovu - Vice-Chancellor and Principal
 Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo - Chancellor
 Prof Maggi Linington - DVC: Teaching & Learning
 Dr Sibusiso Mchunu - DVC: Resources & Planning (Acting)

TOP RIGHT:
 Prof Khehla Ndlovu - Vice-Chancellor and Principal
 Dr Vuyelwa C Mlomo-Ndlovu
 Ms Dudu Hlatshwayo
 Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo - Chancellor

BOTTOM LEFT:
 Prof Lazarus Maleho - Executive Dean: Human Sciences
 Dr Johannes Maseko - HoD Accounting
 Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo - Chancellor
 Prof Christa Grobler - Executive Dean: Applied & Computer Sciences
 Prof Khaled Abou-El-Hossein - Executive Dean: Engineering & Technology

BOTTOM RIGHT:
 Ms Dudu Hlatshwayo
 Ms Naledi Mntambo - Daughter
 Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo - Chancellor



Mntambo Family



LUNCHEON Programme

Riverside Sun Vanderbijlpark





SPEECHES



Advocate Leah Geabashe, SC

Congratulations to you, Rre Zwelibanzi Vincent Mntambo, our newly installed Chancellor of the Vaal University of Technology. Nhlangothi! Halala!! Mme Dudu Hlatshwayo, Dumela!!

Salutations to the Chairperson of Council, Professor Radebe, the Vice Chancellor and Principal, Professor Ndlovu, and your Executive team. It really feels good to be in the company of learned people like yourselves, professors! I come from a school of thought that believes that education, i.e. learning, is key to the advancement of a people.

Mme Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi Chancellor of the Nelson Mandela University and Rre Jabu Moleketi, Dumelang!

Greetings to the members of the VUT Council and Senate, the leadership and members of the labour movement, the Student Representative Council, Heads of Faculties, Staff, the Mntambo family, representatives from the 3 spheres of government, in particular the executive mayors who have joined us today, all dignitaries and guests ... Good afternoon!

I stand here as a proud South African, a former colleague and friend to the Chancellor whom I've known for more than 30 years!

To those of you who have yet to get to know Zwelibanzi Vincent Mntambo - first and foremost:

He is an African, the son of Ganuganu and Phokoane. Setlogolo sa Batshweneng!

inNteth'ende njengecimbithwa!

Lwandle aluwelwa, luwelwa zinkonjane!

Nhlangothi!

Mlondo!

Msuthu!

Vezi!

To borrow from the language of President Thabo Mbeki as cited from his speech *"I am an African"*, and as attested to by Mme Geraldine in her address this morning, I can confidently state that Zwelibanzi draws his being from the hills and the valleys, the mountains and the glades, the rivers, the deserts, the trees, the flowers, the seas and the ever changing seasons that define the face of our native land!

Ke ngoana wa moAfrika, and one we are all so proud of! He has earned the space he occupies today as the Chancellor of this august institution!

What are the characteristics that define Zwelibanzi?

He is a patriot, a scholar, a business leader and a gentleman. He embodies the constitutional values of human dignity, equality, non-racialism, tolerance, rationality, harmony and inclusiveness. He fights for the truth. He will not tell you what he thinks you want to hear! Likewise, don't tell him what you think he might want to hear! Tell him the unembellished truth, which truth he will appreciate and defend. He is solutions driven! He will deal with what you have placed before him in the most rational manner, sensitive to the context within which advice is being sought from him. However, remember as you seek his

counsel that context is everything! It informs every decision, recommendation, and advice given!

He is a team player, a pragmatist! His leadership style being that of a servant leader who sets objectives and then gets the whole team to own and achieve those objectives. He is a versatile leader, making his presence felt at the helm, at the rear, alongside those in the middle... a man of and for all seasons of leadership.

He is a man of integrity and sound character, doing as he says he will do. A God fearing man, a man with a sense of humour, a family man, an inclusive South African!

Chancellor, this institution has been standing for the past 50 years. It has an illustrious history of being a trailblazer in the field of technological education! Your responsibility is to take care of that which has been placed under your care!

Zweli, you are now part of an institution that, in 2023, had a total headcount of 19 731 students, the majority being undergraduates (95%). These are local and international students.

VUT has strategic partnerships with among others, various universities in South Africa, the South African Technology Network, the Department of Higher Education and Training, the South African Quality Assurance, the National Research Foundation, the Innovation Hub, and a plethora of professional bodies.

Chancellor, to paraphrase from the Book of Esther and Mordecai's statement to Esther: "Yet who knows, maybe it was for a time like this that you were made Queen!" In this instance, maybe it was for a time like this that you have been made Chancellor!

Put differently... and... to borrow from Franz Fanon's writings: "Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it."

In context, the elections results of 29 May 2024 have presented you, VUT, under the stewardship of this Chancellor, with the opportunity to fulfil your mission! Technology has come into a time where its task is to propel humanity through rough seas, and broker a future that secures our planet and its resources for future generations!

The ball is in your court!!! Fulfil this mission!!

May the Good Lord be with you, Chancellor, and with your team, as you lead this institution into its ordained destiny as a premier institution of learning!



Prof Khehla Ndlovu

Vice-Chancellor and Principal - VUT



Program Director, quite a mouthful has already been said by the great speakers who came before me including Advocate Leah Qcabashe, as well as Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, who gave a befitting keynote address earlier this morning at the Desmond Tutu Great Hall. But be that as it may, I must confess that besides the fact that my name is on the program, there was no way I was going to let this moment pass without me adding my voice to the chorus of congratulating Mr Zwelibanzi Vincent Mntambo on his official installation as the Chancellor of the Vaal University of Technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me start by indicating that for some time now, VUT has been without a Chancellor. Therefore, this is a day of great significance for us where we gather as the VUT Community and Friends of VUT to celebrate that we now officially have one! As we embark on this new chapter, may we spare a moment to appreciate the legacy of our past Chancellors: Mr Tokyo Sexwale, Advocate Pansy Hlakula and Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi who laid the important building blocks for what was then a young and thriving University of Technology. Mr Mntambo, I have no doubt that these great giants have left a solid foundation during their respective tenures, on which you can stand firm as you take over the reins. Let us honor their contributions and pledge to build upon their legacy with renewed vigor.

Speaking of great giants, Mr Chancellor, your credentials speak for themselves, and I believe that your tenure as VUT Chancellor will be nothing short of exponential growth for the institution. Your wealth of experience in public service and leadership roles across the business sector, uniquely position you to propel us to new heights. Over and above your extensive expertise and leadership within the business community, what stands out for me is your deep understanding of South Africa's higher education landscape coupled with a profound commitment to academic excellence and a compassionate appreciation of the transformative power of education.

I believe these attributes are what is needed to spearhead VUT into a promising era of growth as well as challenge us to push the boundaries of what is possible. Your forward-thinking vision for the country's higher education aligns perfectly with the core values of our university and complements our dedication to making knowledge and learning accessible to all, as well as fostering young leaders who will advance societal interests through technological innovation, excellence, and inclusive growth.

This installation coincides with VUT's celebration of twenty years as a University of Technology this year. It was in 2004 when we saw the restructuring of the higher education landscape, leading to the birth of VUT and many others. Since then, the institution has seen significant growth in its activities and reach. Reaching two decades is no small feat, and I think that deserves a round of applause! Most importantly, such anniversaries are not only moments to reflect on past achievements but also to look forward to future advancements and contributions to the world of technology and academia.

Time permitting, I would like to make a few reflections on our 20 years:



1. Academic Achievements and Graduate Success:

Throughout the years, VUT has and continues to offer an expansive catalogue of industry tailored undergraduate and postgraduate programmes which span the fields of Applied and Computer Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Human Sciences and Management Sciences. Our innovative learning method facilitated by committed and esteemed thought leaders is the reason our institution has remained a reputable contributor to the country's knowledge edifice over the two decades. At every chance we get, we proudly celebrate our esteemed alumni by shining a spotlight on their invaluable contributions in diverse fields locally and internationally. From groundbreaking innovations to transformative leadership roles, our alumni exemplify the embodiment of our institution's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering lifelong connections.

2. An incubator of techno-entrepreneurial graduates and innovators

Located in a historical industrial hub, our vision is "To foster Learning and Innovation for a Digitally Smart and Sustainable Industrial Progress and Socio-Economic Transformation." Our mission is to produce techno-entrepreneurial graduates and innovators who will serve as catalysts for a vibrant transformation of a flourishing and sustainable society, industry, and commerce. To achieve this, we provide technology-enhanced teaching and learning, quality living and learning communities, high-impact research and innovation that contributes to solving society and industry challenges.

3. Innovation and Research:

With several centres of excellence and NRF-rated professors, we pride ourselves with being associated with world-class academics and researchers who not only produce ground-breaking research that solves real life problems, but also empower aspiring researchers to engage the most experienced minds in several research fields. We are the only university in South Africa that fully owns a Science and Technology Park which is home to the Technology Transfer and Innovation – a strategic technology hub that endeavors to promote SMMEs and industrial competitiveness. Its strategic location (Sebokeng), available infrastructure as well as the current entrepreneurial culture make it an ideal implementing agency for driving regional government programmes within the Southern Gauteng region. The VUT Law Clinic which is also housed at the same precinct, offers free legal services to the indigent members of the Emfuleni community on matters related to Domestic Violence, Maintenance, Divorces, Drafting of Wills, Children's Court, Social justice issues such as the right to housing and unlawful evictions as well as labour related issues especially unfair labour practices.

4. Industry Partnerships:

The university proactively forges collaborations with industries to ensure relevance and applicability of education and research. These relationships with partners from industry, commerce, professional bodies and communities across South Africa also enrich our academic and research endeavors and enhance the value of our qualifications. Just last week, we hosted the Golden Triangle Chamber of Commerce Members Meeting on campus to highlight the vibrant relationship we have with the local business community. VUT is not just an academic institution; it is a cornerstone of this community, and we are dedicated to fostering an environment where businesses can thrive alongside educational excellence.

5. Community Engagement

The need to foster meaningful relationships between academic institutions and their surrounding communities, has been a focal point of discussion over the years. Through our Department of Community Engagement, VUT continues to play a crucial role in promoting social responsibility, civic engagement, and sustainable development in the broader surrounding communities to create a positive impact and reciprocal and mutual learning for the benefit of social humanity. In addition to giving back to the community, such initiatives are aligned to, and underpinned by one of the University's strategic pillars of Socially Engaged Scholarship.

Ladies and Gentlemen, without further ado let me do what I was assigned to do.

Mr Mntambo, it is my honour and pleasure to congratulate you on your official installation as Chancellor of our University. I believe I speak for the entire VUT Community when I say we warmly welcome you as the titular head of our institution for the next five years. We look up to your elevation and consummation of your relationship with our institution with great expectations and optimism for the future.

We wish nothing but sufficient prosperity for your Chancellorship to enable us to realize our dreams and ambitions as an institution. Indeed, we have big dreams as VUT, but what we don't have are the material resources to turn them into reality.

We therefore hope to ride on your extensive business acumen and powerful networks to significantly enhance VUT's brand visibility and influence both locally and globally, but most importantly unlock the resources we so desperately need.

May I close, by once again extending my sincere congratulations and by giving you my honest pledge to work with you alongside Council, Management and all our stakeholders for the betterment of VUT.

I THANK YOU.





TOP: Prof Khehla Ndlovu, Cllr Siphon Radebe, Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo, and Cllr Peter Teixeira
 BELOW: Ms Kediemetse Mokotsi, Mr Jaco Verwey, Prof Khehla Ndlovu, Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo and Ms Carla De-Villiers-Malan



Mr Vincent Zwelibanzi Mntambo and Naledi (daughter)

MY REFLECTION AS CHANCELLOR:

History is often shaped by exaggerated hopes. It can also be shaped by exaggerated fears and moments of despair. The future of VUT is likely to be shaped by any of these and other factors.

The academy has these choices to make: to build a great future and a lasting legacy or submit to defeat.

We live in challenging times. As Yuval Noah Harari writes:

"Centuries ago human knowledge increased slowly, so politics and economics changed at a leisurely pace too. Today our knowledge is changing at breakneck speed, consequently, we are less and less able to make sense of the present or forecast the future."

Studying history, looking back to where we come from, aims to loosen the unfortunate grip of the past which seeks to stunt the spirit of triumph and resilience.

He goes on to say:

"Movements seeking to change the world often begin by rewriting history, thereby enabling people to reimagine the future."

What is critically important though, is for all who make these histories, to do so not with the aim to perpetuate the past, but to do so in order to oftentimes be liberated from a tortured past.

Similar to many institutions of higher learning, VUT has had its fair share of difficulties especially at the level of institutional management and governance. One of the unfortunate consequences for this experience, is the loss of stature and brand value in the eyes of many. The impact on additional sources of income from private sector funders and foundations become harder to enlist. Cutting edge research and many other endeavours suffer. This is where the challenge for those who lead lies.

The day prior to my inauguration, Wednesday 5 June, I undertook a tour of the Vanderbijlpark campus with the Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties and other senior executives. By the end that tour and several discussions over lunch and dinner, I was convinced that VUT has illustrious academic strengths. A number of them punching far above their weight.

The flawless preparations and proceedings of my investiture as Chancellor the next on June 6th confirmed that the institution has strengths to build on. There is a strong sense of belonging.

An enduring sense of community, of self pride and want to do well. These are strong elements to build on.

I had no doubt as I delivered my inaugural address, that here is a place which everyone calls home; home for those inside and far beyond the walls of Desmond Tutu Hall. A community of people who have faith and resolve to build a legacy and a brighter future for VUT.

This community centered around this academy, has the privilege and freedom to reimagine that future and sign up to the art of the possible!

I once more, wish to thank all those who turned the day into an auspicious and joyful occasion.

V. Zwelibanzi Mntambo
 Chancellor



A big thank you to the organising team for the hard work.

Photography: Naledi Nkosi
Design & Layout: Candida Odendal



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