

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

Inauguration



SERVANT LEADERSHIP ... Professor Sibongile Muthwa was installed as Nelson Mandela University's first black African woman Vice-Chancellor at a moving inaugural event at the institution's Indoor Sports Centre on 17 April. In keeping with the University's ethos of access and inclusivity, the event was open to all staff and students as normal University activities were suspended for the afternoon.

"So, humbled, inspired, accountable and once more: resolute... I am resolute in my conviction that this university – our university – will soar from its rock-solid foundations to become a giant African-based edifice of intellectual inquiry and advancement... a transdisciplinary centre of excellence. Together we can achieve this, and more".

A new era **p2** VC's acceptance speech **p5** Gallery **p21**



NEW LEADERSHIP ... Nelson Mandela University's Chair of Council Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill (from left), Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa are the only all-female leadership at South Africa's 26 universities, and look forward to leading the institution into an exciting new era.

Nelson Mandela University celebrates historic inauguration

A new era of women in leadership

IN THE 100-year anniversary of the birth of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela it is just fitting that its namesake University celebrates a new era of black women in leadership with the inauguration of the first black vice-chancellor in the history of the institution as well as a new chancellor.

The inauguration of Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as Chancellor and Professor Sibongile Muthwa as Vice-Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University took place at the University's Indoor Sports Centre on Tuesday, 17 April 2018.

The historic event at which the two dynamic African women officially took up the leadership mantle of Mandela University follows the renaming and launch of the institution on 17 July last year, to usher in an exciting new era for our University.

The inauguration is a major event on the University calendar and effectively sets the tone for the next five years. This inauguration is also relatively unusual as both the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor begin their term in the same year.

"It is the difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we had"

Key dignitaries

The event was attended by key dignitaries from all sectors of society, as well as personal guests of the Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor.

Department of Higher Education and Training Director-General Gwebinkundla Qonde, provincial Premier and Nelson Mandela Bay Mayor Athol Trollip, the former first lady Zanele Mbeki, the grandson of Nelson Mandela, Mandla, Vice-Chancellors from nine universities, the CEO of Universities South Africa Prof Ahmed Bawa and others.

Many of these shared messages of support and congratulations for the new leadership along with representatives from the Alumni Association, Senate, the SRC and both the University's unions.

Significance of the name

As the only institution in the world to bear the name of one of the most revered leaders of the 21st Century, the University is mindful of both the privileges and responsibilities that this offers. While the University will benefit from the world-wide recognition of its name, it must endeavour to live the legacy of Mandela. Nothing less is expected of Mandela University.

Professor Muthwa, as the first black African female vice-chancellor of

the institution, will be leading this legacy transformation commitment towards creating a more socially just and equal society.

Or to quote our namesake ... "It is the difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we had".

With the ethos of Mandela at the heart of all decisions, all normal university activities were suspended for the afternoon to enable as many staff and students as possible to join the inaugural celebrations. A second venue – Inauguration at Goldfields Auditorium – was opened to accommodate staff and students with a pre-event concert and then live streaming of the auspicious occasion.

Prof Muthwa and Dr Fraser-Moleketi join Chair of Council, Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill to complete the female trio of woman leaders.

Honorary Doctorates

Entrenching the role of women in leadership, was the awarding of honorary doctorates to three black women a day after the historic inauguration.

Recognising three "phenomenal women acknowledged as doyennes in their respective fields", Mandela University bestowed the honorary degrees on Justice Mandisa Maya, Professor Marina Xaba-Mokoena and Gcina Mhlophe.

Their work philosophy mirrors the University's in that it is anchored in meaningful community service.

Prof Xaba-Mokoena, a retired medical doctor, was awarded an honorary doctor of philosophy degree for her "incredible advocacy in involving communities in the training of health practitioners that would later serve them in addressing inequalities in our society".

Supreme Court of Appeal President Maya received a doctor of laws degree "in acknowledgement of her significant contribution to the development of law in South Africa, the promotion of constitutional democracy and the protection of human rights".

Renowned storyteller and poet Mhlophe received a doctor of literature degree in recognition of her work to preserve storytelling as a means of keeping history alive and in encouraging a new generation of readers.

Graduation 2018

The Port Elizabeth graduation period began on 18 April when the newly installed university leaders capped a total of 5080 students, including 61 doctoral and 329 masters and MTech degrees, over 13 sessions in Port Elizabeth and George. This brings the total number who finished their qualifications in 2017 to 6 788, with some having already graduated during December.

'Universities must transform'

The inaugural address of Mandela University's new Vice-Chancellor acknowledges the many challenges ahead but boldly commits to harnessing the collective goodwill to overcome these and grasp exciting opportunities ahead.

It is no secret that South Africa, nearly 25 years into democracy, is still facing a large number of societal challenges. One of the fundamental challenges facing the South African society, one that was exposed by #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall, is the stalled transformation of South African society.

Recent political changes in our country give hope that we are emerging from a particularly difficult period in our young democracy.

It is too soon to tell the extent to which the government can regain the confidence of the nation, re-establish the legitimacy of state institutions, and meaningfully reduce social injustice, poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The signs are encouraging and it is still too early to make definitive pronouncements, but the government alone cannot achieve this.

The higher education sector also needs to put its collective shoulder to the wheel. The objective conditions within which we work are constantly changing. New challenges and opportunities have arisen.

I have listened to the inputs made by staff and students over the last two months. Among the challenges articulated around the academic project is a need to overhaul the enrolment value chain to be more flexible, agile and responsive. The teaching and learning enterprise needs to confront and address a range of operational and strategic challenges from overcrowded lecture venues to wrestling with the issues of decolonisation and Africanisation of the curriculum. Our research portfolio needs to ramp up research outputs and innovation, and foster a larger cohort of emerging and socially diverse academics able to respond to the developmental challenges facing our country and continent.

We need to redefine the purpose of engagement and reposition engagement with communities to make a meaningful contribution to overcoming societal challenges.

This is particularly important as we bear a special responsibility associated with the name Nelson Mandela to align our intellectual resources to the historic task of creating a non-racial, equal and democratic society.

We are ready to respond to the clarion call to the nation made by our president, Cyril Ramaphosa, in his state of the nation address to rise to the challenge of creating a new society.

Towards this end, we will commit our resources, skills and expertise to work with government, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and civil society in communities where our campuses are located, as well as the wider nation on the major grand challenges focused on tackling unemployment, poverty and inequality.

HISTORIC MOMENT ... Professor Sibongile Muthwa is officially installed as the University's new Vice-Chancellor by Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, the new Chancellor. Prof Muthwa will be leading the legacy transformation commitment towards a more socially just and equal society.

If we fail to achieve an equal society, the university cannot fulfil its mission and purpose.

Towards this end, we have launched two major new and exciting growth areas through which Nelson Mandela University wants to directly contribute to the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality in society.

"We are ready to respond to the clarion call to the nation made by our president, Cyril Ramaphosa ... to rise to the challenge of creating a new society "

First, the development of South Africa's first dedicated ocean sciences campus to provide state-of-the-art teaching, training & research facilities and innovation support to boost the emerging ocean economy, in support of marine food security, aquaculture, marine manufacturing, (including boat-building), marine technologies, port logistics and small harbour development, with specific focus on boosting SMME and community economy projects to take up new economic opportunities.



"As we broaden access to quality higher education, we need to ensure appropriate support mechanisms are put in place, and that conditions conducive to teaching and learning prevail."

The new campus has also already attracted investments of more than R550-million for new infrastructure, labs, equipment and expertise dedicated to ocean science and technologies, and we plan to launch a second phase of expansion and modernisation from this year to 2020.

The second major growth area involves the launching of a new medical school by 2020, to provide cutting-edge, context-specific medical training, research and innovation services to improve the quality of healthcare services in our public hospitals and clinics, and quality of health within our communities.

We have already launched the pre-medical phase, and are currently busy with preparations to support returning South African trainee doctors from the Cuban-South African programme.

We are also currently working on approval for the full-scale launch of medical undergraduate training (MBChB) by 2020, subject to funding and accreditation approval by the government.

The medical school project will be a multi-billion rand investment into the local economy, and will create new work opportunities for medical and healthcare professionals and students, and a source of technological innovation to improve on the quality of healthcare in our institutions and society.

As we broaden access to quality higher education, we need to ensure appropriate support mechanisms are put in place, and that conditions conducive to teaching and learning prevail.

Concerns that emerged from the listening campaign in this regard include:

- Ensuring that our human resource policies, procedures and management systems are agile, people-friendly, responsive and efficient;
- Dealing decisively with issues relating to gender-based infractions and other exclusionary practices;
- Resetting the relationship between management and organised labour;
- Building the financial sustainability of the university; and
- Rethinking support systems that define student life and learning – from safety and security, to transportation and accommodation – to ensure that we mitigate the negative effects of an unequal society and enable all students, whatever their circumstances, to live and learn on a relatively level footing;
- I want to reassure the University community that we have heard you and we have much more clarity in how we will together tackle these matters going forward.

The change agenda we are conceptualising to address the challenges will have to be owned and implemented by all of us, in collaboration.

I have no illusions, and know that our success lies only in our ability to harness our collective goodwill and in our success to build institutional solidarity dedicated to ocean science and technologies, and we plan to launch a second phase of expansion and modernisation from this year to 2020.



CELEBRATORY DANCE ... Nelson Mandela University students give a tribute performance in dance and poetry as a means of welcoming Prof Muthwa, seated on stage with other higher education dignitaries, many of whom addressed the new leadership with messages of support.

A symbol of what South Africa can become

Meet our new Vice-Chancellor

"I AM a symbol of what South Africa could be if the country worked. Then there would be plenty of people from humble backgrounds who could rise to become leaders, professionals, academics, entrepreneurs or whoever they want to be. So in taking up this position, I feel compelled to play my part in getting the country working through higher education," says Nelson Mandela University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sibongile Muthwa, whose career in both South Africa and the United Kingdom includes leadership positions in development, the public sector, and academic institutions.

Now the only university in the world to carry Nelson Mandela's name has indeed appointed its first woman- and black African woman Vice-Chancellor.

"As we all know, our sector and country are at a crossroads," she says. "As a higher education institution, we need to be acutely attuned to the issues of our country, including poverty and inequality, and to be committed to improving the lives and educational opportunities of the marginalised.

"At the same time, we need to distinguish ourselves nationally and internationally as a new generation university and to advance our teaching, learning and research stature and our positive growth trajectory.

"This includes positioning ourselves as South Africa and Africa's foremost marine and maritime university through our new Ocean Sciences Campus; establishing our new Medical School, and playing our part in improving basic education from the first day of school through our focus on the Foundation Phase."

Prof Muthwa is unequivocal that every person with academic ability should have the opportunity to attend university: "If they cannot afford it, it must be for free. But if they can afford it, they need to pay."

The post of Vice-Chancellor at a South African university today is one of the most complex, difficult jobs in the land, and Prof Muthwa has no illusions. During the 2015/16 #FeesMustFall environment, she recognised the legitimacy of the student protests and played a prominent role in managing the volatile environment, as Student Affairs was part of her portfolio.

"Contestation of ideas, the battle of ideas and paradigms, and constant reassessment and transformation of the status quo are hallmarks of a learning organisation," says Prof Muthwa. "However, we need to carefully manage the dynamics of how these contestations and battles are played out so that we build rather than destroy.

"As the Vice-Chancellor I will use my agency as a leader to drive change and improve the lives of all South Africans. At the same time, I need to secure the University's long-term sustainability and global value proposition, such as through the Ocean Sciences Campus, which attracts top students and academics, international partnerships and investment."

Leadership style

Her leadership style is distinguished by a key characteristic: "I do not take decisions on the spur of the moment or feel pressurised by the prevailing mood. I believe there is a far greater depth to decision-making when you step aside from the moment and take time to think about the impact of any decision," Prof Muthwa explains.

"I definitely need to sleep on things, but then I act and take clear-cut decisions with the support of a strong team and with the courage to follow through on my decisions. In leadership, I believe it is extremely important for people to know where you stand and to know that you are a person of integrity. And if, down the line, it turns out that you have taken the wrong decision then you admit you were wrong."

Another Muthwa-ism is that leadership is not about postulations and

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Prof Sibongile Muthwa

speeches, "It is about how you show up, especially during tense, difficult times".

Leadership, she adds, is also about letting go: "I always say to my colleagues, no matter how strongly you feel about something, you cannot win every battle. Some battles you let go."

Prof Muthwa uses the example of having worked closely with former Vice-Chancellor Prof Swartz for the past seven years. "We often disagreed on the detail, and sometimes it required letting go of a fixed standpoint or losing that battle because in the bigger picture we share a strong mutual belief and commitment to "the noble outcomes of transformation".

"I am indebted to Prof Derrick Swartz for his sterling and visionary work, his inspirational leadership, and for laying a firm foundation which has contributed to making the University what it has become, and which lives up the responsibility of carrying Nelson Mandela's name."

Early years

Prof Muthwa grew up in rural Umbumbulu, KwaZulu-Natal, where she inherited her love of reading from her grandfather, who had taught himself to read. Both her parents were teachers but she spent most of her time with her grandfather. She read about educated black people with impressive careers and doing great things to bring about a liberated South Africa and decided she needed to leave Umbumbulu to receive the best possible education.

"It is because of an excellent education that I was able to advance to where I am today," says Prof Muthwa. "This has inspired my commitment to changing the trajectory of every young person whose life would be very different without a good education. The proviso is that they must have a burning determination to succeed."

Education

She became a boarder at Sacred Heart Secondary School in Verulam, KwaZulu Natal where she achieved a university entrance matric.

Today she has a PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, an MSc in Development Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics, a BA Honours from Wits University and a BA in Social Work from the University of Fort Hare.

From 1999 to 2004, she was the Director of the Fort Hare University Institute of Government. From 2004 to 2010, she served as Director General of the Eastern Cape provincial government. From 2010 to 2017, she served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support at Nelson Mandela University. In 2016, she also served as Acting Vice-Chancellor and demonstrated her ability to manage complex, volatile dynamics with skill, compassion and courage.

In 2018 Dr Muthwa took over from Professor Derrick Swartz, who has served the institution with distinction for two successive terms, since 2007.

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WE CAN DO THIS ... Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi acknowledges the University's namesake Nelson Mandela along with Acting Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support Lebogang Hashatse and Chair of Council Nozipho January-Bardill.

Set to be 'transdisciplinary centre of excellence'

This is an abbreviated version of the inaugural address of the new Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi who told the close to 2000 guests that she was "deeply humbled" to lead this key institution at such a critical time for higher education and for our transformative, developmental nation.

Deeply humbled, with my revolutionary flag at half-mast following the loss of our Mother of the Nation, Mam uWinnie Madikizela, we have recently been left reeling by the passing of people who were leading contributors to the building of our democracy, such as Ambassador Dr Zola Skweyiya, who was schooled in the Eastern Cape. These are just two of an extraordinary constellation of stars in whose hallowed footsteps we follow in this most inspirational, enigmatic and giving of provinces.

Think about it: From Sarah Baartman to Charlotte Maxeke and Albertina Sisulu (whose birth 100 years ago we commemorate this year), Olive Schreiner, Walter Sisulu, OR Tambo, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Joe Gqabi, Alfred Nzo, Steve Biko, Robert Sobukwe, Chris Hani (assassinated in April, 25 years ago); Thabo Mbeki and Auntie Sophie Williams-De Bruyn (one of the leaders of the 1956 Women's March on Pretoria) ... Which other region in the world can claim to have produced a list of icons and leaders of this stature?

Not to mention the most towering tree in the forest, our father and namesake, Nelson Mandela. Many years ago, as one of the younger members of his cabinet, I answered to him, and I must confess, today, I cannot help but to still feel accountable as I am installed as the Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University.

In 10 days' time we will celebrate the 24th anniversary of uTata President Mandela's, installation as South Africa's first democratically elected president, mindful that our journey is just beginning. It is up to us to determine how high we will fly. Some turbulence will be unavoidable, but it cannot deter us from our path.

Where are we headed?

We'll draw some of our inspiration from Africa's rich academic traditions that can be traced back to Egypt, Morocco and Mali during what Europe self-diagnosed as its medieval period. Fifty-five years ago, in defiance of the then-government's best efforts to stifle our African heritage, Nelson Mandela undertook an African re-connection odyssey, travelling through 16 countries including Tanzania, Ethiopia, Algeria, Morocco, Mali, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Kenya – and then onto England before returning

through Botswana. It was on this trip that our former President led an ANC delegation to the Pan African Freedom Movement for East, Central and Southern Africa (later to become the OAU) and he of course used it for much more.

Distinct footsteps, again ...So, humbled, inspired, accountable and one more: resolute... I am resolute in my conviction that this university – our university – will soar from its rock-solid foundations to become a giant African-based edifice of intellectual inquiry and advancement... a transdisciplinary centre of excellence.

As the titular head, I look forward to working with Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sibongile Muthwa, a woman of the highest academic calibre and integrity, and Chairperson of Council, Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill, another role-model. This is the only university to have a trio of women - strong women, unapologetically so – at the helm. As Ngozi Chimamanda says: "I have chosen to no longer be apologetic for my femaleness and my femininity. And I want to be respected in all of my femaleness because I deserve to be."

For me this appointment is an immense honour, and an enormous responsibility, located in the Eastern Cape, where my late father was born – in Tsomo, in 1932. In a way, my appointment completes the circle back to the region from which the Frasers hail. My father was a teacher, in mathematics, biology and science (and he improvised creatively when he took us to catch frogs to dissect for his pupils in a lab that was inadequate) and as he looks down today - I believe it will be with full approval and pride because education was important to him.

My mother, who is here today, was born in Klipfontein, Cape Town. As with so many South African working class families she had to leave school at an early age. Proudly, we can declare that her youngest two siblings went on to become a professor in literature and a psychologist. Mummy, it is a long road from the days when you and Uncle Mervyn (who is also present today), walked the dusty streets of Klipfontein - in the 1940s and 50s - selling Christmas stamps to workers along with The Guardian, The New Age followed by the Spark.

Education was important, and at that stage of our country's history some had to sacrifice for others to study. We must fully remedy the whole issue of access to education and knowledge.

From my parents and my grandparents, I learned that education is not only about the academic learning but also about political, economic and social justice, as best described by Richard Shaull in the foreword to Paulo Freire's seminal work on Pedagogy of the Oppressed.

He wrote: "Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world."

Jabu Moleketi, my husband, and I have sought to impart these values to our children. We have also emphasised the need for knowledge of our history. (See full excerpt of [the fallacy of the dark continent](#).)

Decolonising education

Debating the meaning of decolonisation in the context of higher education, on BBC Radio 4 in February, Dr Meera Sabaratnam, Lecturer in Politics and International Studies at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, characterised university education as "challenging received wisdom".

Responding to Dr Sabaratnam, senior lecturers in International Relations at Department of Social Sciences at Oxford Brookes University, Maia Pal and Doerthe Rosenow, ask: "Isn't 'decolonising' just assessing that knowledge was made and transmitted by white European men? "A lot more started to be known about the world from about the same time as when these men went to 'make contact' with the rest of the world by pillaging, spreading diseases, fighting, negotiating, abducting, deceiving, robbing, raping, enslaving, and killing others," they continue. "And obviously, to be able to shared the experiences of this 'contact', it was needed to bring some of these people back to the European continent, and put them on display for the sake of the public interest (as

"I have chosen to no longer be apologetic for my femaleness and my femininity. And I want to be respected in all of my femaleness because I deserve to be."

Sarah Baartman was).

Specimens of their bodies, of their houses, of their land, of their minds were needed because one can't acquire more knowledge without possessing it, right?"

Dr Fraser Moleketi shares various points on the subject before concluding her insights with the following:

So where should our focus lie, as a nation, as a higher education sector – and closer to home – at the Nelson Mandela University?

Accelerating transformation

Our namesake, uTata described racism as, "a blight on the human conscience". He said: "The idea that any people can be inferior to another, to the point where those who consider themselves superior define and treat the rest as subhuman, denies the humanity even of those who elevate themselves to the status of gods."

Many years later, just last month, in fact, a white woman became the first South African to be sentenced to a prison term for the use of racist language of a nature reminiscent of the worst periods of our past. The sad reality, we all know, is that Vicky Momberg is by no means the last bigot in our midst.

But it's not just the bigotry that should alarm us; it's the affliction of entitlement to continue enjoying the best resources our country has to offer – to the continued exclusion of the overwhelming majority of citizens – that is of greater concern.

If we fail to accelerate, comprehensively, addressing apartheid power relations in our land – socially, psychologically, educationally and economically – we render non-racialism vulnerable and run the risk of threatening the realisation of a transformative developmental state, besides failing the legends in whose footsteps we tread.

Our universities have a critical role to play in this regard. Now is not the time for anger or aggression; as an institution we must grasp the opportunities that real transformation presents.

One of the challenges we face is a public discourse that sometimes reflects transformation as only partially desirable. Let's be very clear about this: Transformation is not about charity; it does not equate to a lowering of standards, corruption, or the punishment or exclusion of any particular group. It does not infer inferiority or a lowering of standards, but superiority, progress and sustainability. It is a process we must engage, and we must emerge fairer, more compassionate, and with a greater sense of pride, equity and justice when we are done. It is not just desirable; it is a necessity.

Maintaining the status quo – be it economically, in the ownership of land, the demographics of our institutions, or opportunities for our children – is tantamount to booby-trapping our nation's future, besides betraying the principles of our legendary elders and the anti-apartheid struggle.

The transformation required of our universities straddles every aspect of their existence, from admission policies, fields of study and curricula, to pedagogical approaches, the demographics of staff and student bodies, and the quality of their output.

We must confront the issue of gender and feminism as well.

Changes to our race and gender policies and attitudes are part of the re-balancing and reinvention act that we must address pragmatically and fearlessly as it's about securing a collective future.

Nelson Mandela University is on the runway, Nelson Mandela University is very well positioned to lead the development of new knowledge and reduce dependencies on received doctrine.

We have a bold and distinctive footprint, nationally and globally, in trans-disciplinary endeavours including the ocean sciences, where our work is regarded as pioneering. By contributing as we are to radically deepening understanding of sustainability, across the broad spectrum of natural sciences, we advance democracy and social justice.

As Professor Derrick Swartz, our former Vice-Chancellor succinctly put it: "The research we do is an important tool to help governments, industries and communities to make decisions in an informed, socially and environmentally sustainable manner."

Flying the flag for Nelson Mandela, in our values and principles, comes with massive natural advantages, too. By embracing diverse knowledge and traditions, and humanising pedagogical approaches, we stimulate a vibrant intellectual culture deeply embedded in our roots and culture.

We are reconnecting to Africa, following a similar path to that of our namesake across the continent in 1962, and then on to England and across the globe.

I think we can pat ourselves on the back for both an exceptional body of students and an exceptional enrolment value chain enhancing student access and nurturing success. Through curricula and co-curricular interventions we become the citizen-makers we aspire to be, developing graduates as responsible and democratic human beings who contribute to addressing global challenges in innovative and trans-disciplinary ways ... citizens who contribute to our country and our changing world.

"The power of education," Nelson Mandela said, "extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation building and reconciliation.

Our previous system emphasized the physical and other differences of South Africans with devastating effects. We are steadily but surely introducing education that enables our children to exploit their similarities and common goals, while appreciating the strength in their diversity."

Inauguration of new leadership

Chair of Council Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill (below) introduced the new leadership to the congregation.

Leaders emerge from and are moulded by the circumstances in which they find themselves.

Today (17 April) is a very significant day for Mandela University, as we inaugurate our new leadership, Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Sibongile Muthwa, with their investiture as Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor.

We thank all present for joining us and witnessing this historic and auspicious occasion which is their ceremonial induction into office. Your presence is important because Nelson Mandela University sees itself in relation to our surrounding communities and the communities from which our students and staff come. Thus, today's public act, in your presence, of establishing in office the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor is an expression of our mutual and reciprocal public accountability as a university embedded in community.

Dr Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Muthwa will be formally introduced to the congregation during the proceedings, so suffice it for me to say that the university is privileged and extremely proud to have two women of such stature at the helm of the university.

Each is a distinctive leader in her own right, with shining track records reflecting their respective contributions to the country and the continent straddling a range of areas of expertise. Putting this collective experience together to lead the university will surely see Mandela University catapult to new heights and take on new opportunities with innovation, perseverance, foresight and enthusiastic courage – and I dare say with humility and a deep concern for the students and staff of this university.

This inauguration takes place within the Autumn graduation ceremonies, which this year see 6788 students receive their certificates, diplomas and degrees, including 78 doctoral degrees. We proudly celebrate this



pinnacle achievement for students and their families. As it does indeed take a village to raise a child, so too does it take community and family support for students to stay the path during the course of their studies and graduate successfully.

We are also extremely pleased to be conferring three honorary doctorates at our graduation ceremonies and our warmest congratulations go to:

- Justice Maya (Law);
- Prof Xaba-Mokoena (Health Sciences)
- Ms Gcina Mhlope (Applied Languages).

Thank you for accepting these awards, which we regard as symbolising the beginning of a lasting interactive relationship as we welcome you into the Nelson Mandela University family.

We have much to celebrate today. We need to do so with gratitude and appreciation. Because although the doors of learning and culture

have been opened to enable vastly increased numbers of students to access higher education, there remain much larger numbers for whom a university education remains but a dream.

We need to harness all which constitutes the university – skills, expertise, research, innovation, infra-structure - and place this at the disposal of serving communities, working in unison to make an indelible contribution to change the world for the better.

We look forward to the vision of Dr Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Muthwa in leading us on this quest. I offer the full support of Council to you as you boldly mould the future.

I thank you, enkosi.



INFLUENCERS ... Special advisor to the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Lindiwe Msengang-Ndlela, former first lady Zanele Mbeki, Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa and Chair of Council Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill



ACADEMIC TORCHBEARERS ... Joining the new Vice-Chancellor Prof Sibongile Muthwa are (from left) the Executive Deans of Education Dr Muki Moeng, Law Prof Avinash Govindjee, Science Prof Azwinndini Muronga, Health Sciences Prof Lungile Pepeta, Engineering, the Built Environment and IT Dalenca Pottas (Acting), Business and Economic Sciences Prof Hendrik Lloyd (Acting) and Arts, Prof Rose Boswell at the inauguration.



NEW LEADERSHIP ... Prof Sibongile Muthwa is joined by Deputy Chair of Council Siya Mhlaluka, Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Chair of Council Ambassador Nozopho January-Bardill.



SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ... Honorary doctoral recipients Justice Mandisa Maya (left) and Prof Marina Xaba-Mokoena join the new leaders of Nelson Mandela University - (second from left) Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Prof Sibongile Muthwa and Ambassador Nozopho January-Bardill.



RIGHT NOTE ... Nelson Mandela University's award-winning choir sang Asimbonanga as a fitting tribute to the University's namesake during the three-hour event.



STUDENT WISHES ... Poet Lelethu Camagu Rayi shares a message of hope for the future Nelson Mandela University.



DYNAMIC INTRODUCTION ... Praise singer Zamuxolo Mgoduka takes to the stage, before the inaugural speech by Prof Sibongile Muthwa (right).



FUTURE FOOTSTEPS ... A tribute dance was performed by Mandela University students (from left) Courtney Mattheus, Sange Mtukushe, Kudakwashe Majonga, Tamia Coutries and Kyle Adams during the inauguration.

Responsibility of determining people's lives

"The most challenging aspect of being a judge is the enormous responsibility you carry in resolving society's disputes and determining people's lives, including whether a person must go to prison for life," says Justice Maya.

The far-reaching consequences of the judiciary weigh heavily on all 25 judges in the Supreme Court of Appeal to make the right judgments and to maintain their excellent reputation and record of delivery.

She says that with time and experience judges get used to the gravity of their decisions, but it requires of them to apply themselves to the maximum in each and every case, and to do a huge amount of research and deliberation, given the diversity of appeals.

In addition to being President of the Supreme Court of Appeal, and managing her fellow judges, Justice Maya's core function is to preside over cases in the Supreme Court of Appeal, in Bloemfontein. This is a seasonal court, which sits for five months a year, with the other seven months devoted to critical preparation, reading and research.

In May this year, for example, Justice Maya is judging two extremely diverse appeals: one is the matter of the Democratic Alliance (DA) against former President Zuma, where the DA had demanded and been denied the full record of documents pertaining to Zuma's dismissal in



LET JUSTICE PREVAIL ... Faculty Dean of Law Prof Avinash Govindjee joins honorary doctorate recipient Justice Mandisa Maya.

Justice Mandisa Maya is the first woman President of South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal, which dates back to 1910 and received an Honorary Doctorate for her significant contribution to the development of law, constitutional democracy and human rights.

March 2017 of the then Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and Deputy Finance Minister Mcebisi Jonas, which caused the rand to plummet.

The DA took this to the High Court of Johannesburg, which said that the DA was indeed entitled to those documents. The Supreme Court of Appeal must now decide whether to uphold the High Court's decision. The case is complicated by the fact that there is a new President who does not want to pursue this matter.

The second case is a constitutional law issue relating to the Marine Living Resources Act where a group of fishermen convicted of fishing illegally in the proclaimed Dwesa-Cwebe Marine Protected Area on the Eastern Cape's Wild Coast are opposing the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and others, based on their challenge that it is their customary right to fish here.

Justice Maya knows the Wild Coast well as she was born in the Transkei and during the court's recess period she spends most of the time at her home on a small farm outside of Mthatha. Here she sets aside her judicial mantle and encourages her neighbours, by example, to

grow vegetables and keep livestock in order to be self-sufficient.

"My husband and I are very focused on healthy, sustainable living and we are able to eat organic vegetables and meat because of the vegetables, pigs, chickens, goats and crops that we produce."

Justice Maya's husband, businessman and entrepreneur, Dabulamanzi Mlokoti, is from Johannesburg but he discovered how much he enjoys farming and the rural life. "I think it is my influence that rubbed off on him!" says Justice Maya who was very involved in the Women's Zenzele ('Do It Yourself') Association when she worked as a judge in the Transkei from 2000 to 2004.

Zenzele, as it is called, is all about promoting women's self-sufficiency, including growing their own vegetables, and doing sewing and beadwork that they can sell. "My mother introduced me to Zenzele and I continue to live this ethos in my community where far too many people do nothing but wait for their social grants. A while back I said to the ladies in my community 'I see you there following the trajectory of the sun all day, when you could

be feeding yourselves by growing vegetables'.

Justice Maya helped them to fence off vegetable patches as they complained that free-roaming livestock destroyed their produce, and her effort is taking root: "On my last visit home, one of the ladies showed me the beautiful potatoes she had grown, and another lady showed me her cabbages. It is a growing movement!"

A mentor to women in many different ways, Justice Maya is a champion of gender transformation in the judiciary. In 2004, she founded the South African chapter of the International Association of Women Judges and remains an active member. "There are still only six women judges out of 25 in the Supreme Court of Appeal and I am strongly recommending the appointment of more women judges, especially as several of our judges are coming up for retirement."

She explains that to achieve gender equity throughout the judiciary, it needs to be addressed from the graduate level: "There is no shortage of women law students and they are often the brightest in their classes. But when they graduate they too often don't get

the same opportunities as their male peers because the profession is still very male-dominated at the senior levels. We face the same situation in corporate and government sectors."

Justice Maya says that only when many accomplished women in this country are appointed as senior judges, CEOs and chairs of boards will this start to change, as women in the senior positions will then become the norm.

In her own career, since 1999 Justice Maya has served as a member of the judiciary in various capacities and in May 2006, she was appointed as a member of the Bench in the Supreme Court of Appeal. She has served as an acting judge of the Constitutional Court and in 2015 was appointed as Deputy President of the Supreme Court of Appeal, and served as Acting President in 2016. In May 2017, Justice Maya became the first woman President of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

At her level of seniority, Justice Maya adds that her authority is not questioned as she has worked with her fellow judges for many years, and that everyone at this level, male and female, has proven their ability to an advanced level.

"The issue is there aren't nearly enough younger women judges being appointed and it is not for a lack of ability. Legislating gender equity in the judiciary and elsewhere might be a solution because to this day it hasn't been done."

Another issue that Justice Maya is committed to changing is the lack of access to the law for the majority of people. "Litigation is very expensive and so it remains inaccessible to most, and therefore people's rights are not universally exercised. This needs to change," says Justice Maya who has served as a member and as Chairperson of the South African Law Reform Commission since 2013 and as a board member of the South African Journal on Human rights.

"The issue is there aren't nearly enough younger women judges being appointed and it is not for a lack of ability".

Her deep sense of justice and equality stems from her parents, Oxley and Mavis Maya, who were teachers committed to ensuring that learners in the deepest rural areas of Transkei got the best education. "My father was a maths teacher and my mother an English teacher. She loved literature, including Shakespeare, and she would put on Julius Caesar with children from her school in Tsolo and they would win national competitions.

"She loved African literature too, and this was very much part of the diverse syllabus she taught, which is what learners need. In this world grown so small with technological advancement, it makes absolute sense for children to experience brilliant writers from everywhere. I find it patronising to limit our children to one or other type of literature," says Justice Maya, adding that she is "deeply concerned about the atrocious standard of school education in our country today. What future are we offering our children? My parents didn't have money but they were brilliant teachers who nurtured brilliant scholars."

In 1966 her father moved into broadcasting to extend his educative reach on what was then Radio Bantu in King Williams Town. "Apart from being a maths teacher, my father had an agricultural degree from what is now the University of Fort Hare, and so one of his programmes was on agriculture, covering everything from farming to water conservation.

He was ahead of his time, I well remember an award-winning radio documentary he produced on water conservation, what needed to be done and why it had to happen in earnest in South Africa. It was called *Amanzi Umthombo Obomi* (Water is the Source of Life) and I am currently negotiating with the SABC

to give it to me.

"Justice Maya attended school in King Williams Town until 1977 when she moved to Mthatha. "As a result of the 1976 Soweto uprising there was hardly any teaching happening in most of South Africa's townships, and many black parents sent their children to the Transkei to complete their schooling."

Justice Maya matriculated from St Johns College in Mthatha, which she describes as "a very good missionary school" and subsequently graduated from the former University of the Transkei with a BProc degree in 1986. She went on to complete her LLB from the University of Natal in 1988 and in 1990, received her LLM from Duke University in the USA on a Fulbright scholar.

"Coming from South Africa, which was so closed at the time, it was mind-blowing to find myself at Duke in my mid-20s. It was a magnificent experience and character-building being so far away from home on my own. I emerged from Duke feeling super confident in my ability to have gone there from rural Transkei and succeed."

That she would return home to Transkei was never in question: "It is a place that keeps tugging at my heart and drawing me back. It has its own special charm and beauty and I am yet to see any place in the world with the raw beauty of the Wild Coast. And then there are people – beautiful warm people with such a sense of themselves."

The Transkei is certainly not without considerable problems, including deep poverty and educational issues, but in the relationships between most of the people here there is a greater sense of unity. Whether you are a judge or a fisherman or black or white, people in the Transkei speak to each other as equals. And while I do also have a very good life in Bloemfontein for five months of the year, I feel a deep sense of coming home every time I return to the Transkei.



FAMILY SUPPORT ... Justice Mandisa Maya with her family (from left) Zizi, Wela, Jama and husband, Dabulamanzi.

The people's pulmonologist

"As a black person it was extremely difficult to become a doctor in South Africa a century ago when Nelson Mandela was born as there were no facilities to study here. This meant finding a way to study abroad," says Prof Xaba-Mokoena, who turns 80 this year.

She speaks with personal knowledge, as her father, the late Dr Rotoli Xaba, who qualified as a doctor in 1936, was the 23rd "non-white" person to become a doctor in South Africa, each one of them qualifying abroad.

"He was from Willowvale in the Eastern Cape, where I was born, and he managed to get his medical degree in Scotland through a bursary from the United Transkeian Territories General Council (UTTGC) known as the 'Bunga'," she explains.

Prof Xaba-Mokoena followed in his footsteps, graduating as a doctor in 1973 from Stockholm University in Sweden, and going on to specialise in lung disease, becoming a pulmonologist. She, too, achieved this on bursaries, initially training to be a nurse. After passing her final exams in nursing with Honours, she received the South African Nursing Council gold medal for achieving the highest marks in the country.

This led to her being funded by the Bantu Welfare Trust of the Institute of Race Relations to receive orthopaedic nursing training in London, where she obtained the highest marks in the whole of England and Wales. Thereafter, she received a scholarship to study medicine in Sweden and after six months of intensive training in the Swedish language, she began her medical studies.

"It wasn't easy but we had to find a way as it was not unusual for people in our community to have these aspirations," she explains. "There were a lot of educated, politically conscious people in Willowvale, which had good primary and secondary schools, with excellent, politically conscious teachers and principals who produced top results.

"Many of us completed our schooling at Methodist boarding schools, of which there were several in the Transkei, including Healdtown near Fort Beaufort, which I attended for five years and completed my matric there. Nelson Mandela also completed his matric there, as did a number of other South African leaders, including Robert Sobukwe, Govan Mbeki,



CARING ... Dean of Health Sciences Prof Lungile Pepeta with his former lecturer Prof Marina Xaba-Mokoena, another honorary doctoral recipient.

Professor Marina Xaba-Mokoena, a pulmonologist and pioneering health sciences academic, has committed her career to helping people in the rural Eastern Cape.

Emeritus Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane and Reverend Seth Mokitimi who became the first black president of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

"The Methodist or missionary schools did a lot of good work as far as education is concerned, and though they are rightly criticised for their role in colonialism, we received a quality education, which many did not. Regrettably, these schools were destroyed by the entry of Bantu Education when many of the teachers and principals were expelled and several went into exile."

In her matric year, Prof Xaba-Mokoena's father died. He never saw his wish fulfilled of seeing one of his children taking after him and working as a doctor in rural Transkei. Financially, his death put huge strain on the family and Prof Xaba-Mokoena's maths teacher, a Miss Blunsom, paid for her fees to the end of her first year BSc at Fort Hare. Healdtown matriculants typically studied at what was then called Fort Hare University College. Mandela met Oliver Tambo there.

Hard work and determination launched Prof Xaba-Mokoena to the top of her classes.

"I wanted to prove to myself and everyone else that you can succeed at whatever you really want to do, and I was fortunate to have a great motivator in my mother, Mildred Xaba (nee Mvambo), She was a primary school teacher and a leader in the church, the girl guides and the Women's Zenzele ('Do It Yourself') Association, with its motto 'Lift as you rise'.

"Zenzele was all about motivating women to do things for themselves, to

make their own money and to live healthy lifestyles. Inter alia, they grew vegetables, sewed garments they could sell, such as wedding dresses and church uniforms, baked and made soap and candles. My mother was always busy and she would work until midnight if she needed to complete something. I have inherited this; if I have something to do, I will continue until it is done."

Something Prof Xaba-Mokoena knew she had to do was to specialise in lung disease and to open the first Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the then University of Transkei, now Walter Sisulu University.

Her specific pursuit of lung disease started when her husband, economist Elliott Mokoena, developed asthma and she wanted to thoroughly understand the cause of it. This led her to into the world of lung diseases, including asthma, asbestosis, pneumonia and TB - a major cause of death in South Africa, compounded by HIV.

"I knew I could help people with these diseases and in 1980 I started working as a pulmonologist in the Transkei at Mthatha General Hospital," says Prof Xaba-Mokoena. She was appointed as the hospital's Principal Specialist in 1982, and, in 1983, the International Union against Tuberculosis appointed her as a member of the Scientific Committee on Respiratory Diseases.

"I formed the Transkei National TB Association, the local counterpart of the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA). We organised international conferences and made sure that the most effective TB drugs were made available to treat in the Transkei.

"We also introduced effective patient management approaches such as

DOT – Directly Observed Therapy – where a family member, health worker or community volunteer is appointed to observe the patient taking their medicine every day. I saw such an encouraging decline in TB until the scourge of HIV hit and then it rose again. As we know, these diseases are compounded by socio-economic predicament, which many people in our country face.

“On the positive side, many diseases are preventable at relatively low cost, and people must be educated about this. Many diseases are also treatable. An infection like TB, if caught early, can be cured. Thus, when we founded the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Transkei in 1985, we chose to focus on primary health care and disease prevention rather than predominantly on curative medicine.

“The basic philosophy of this medical education is to raise the standards of health care for all people and for medical training to address the needs of the community it serves,” explains Prof Xaba-Mokoena who remained with the university until 1994.

Her subsequent posts included serving as the Medical Superintendent, Specialist Chest Physician and Chief Physician at the Duncan Village Day Hospital in East London, and as Chief Physician and consulting Principal Specialist at the East London Hospital Complex where she worked until 2013 when she retired at the age of 75.

“Throughout my career I have emphasised the need to promote disease prevention and health promotion in all our communities, and I am delighted that the Executive Dean of the Health Sciences Faculty at Nelson Mandela, paediatric cardiologist Professor Lungile Pepeta, is doing this.”

Prof Pepeta did his medical degree at the former University of Transkei, his Master of Medicine in Paediatrics at Wits University and his specialisation in Paediatrics at the former University of Natal (now

“I wanted to prove to myself and everyone else that you can succeed at whatever you really want to do, and I was fortunate to have a great motivator in my mother,”

the University of KwaZulu-Natal). He has experience of and has researched many different curricula and has chosen to place equal emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitative medicine in the development of the curriculum for the new

Medical School at Nelson Mandela University – the tenth in South Africa. “This approach is spot on,” says Prof Xaba-Mokoena. “So many diseases are non-communicable, lifestyle diseases, such as high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes, and we need to educate people about how to avoid or manage them and how to keep their immune system strong, which makes them more resistant to infection and helps them to live a longer, healthier life,” continues Prof Xaba-Mokoena.

“My parents died in their fifties and most of my seven siblings died before the age of 50, as high blood pressure and diabetes is very prevalent in my family. When I turned 38 I developed very high blood pressure and so when I made it to 50 I had a big celebration, and here I am at 80!”

Still highly active, Prof Xaba-Mokoena is the National President of the South African Medical Association, she continues to write articles for the SA Medical Journal, she is a lay preacher in the Methodist Church and she recently authored her memoir titled Dream Fulfilled.

Her secret for longevity is “determination and a healthy lifestyle”. She goes to gym and hydrotherapy several times a week, she stopped eating sugar years ago, and she is careful not to eat a lot of fatty or fast foods. “It has made a huge difference to my blood pressure and general health,” she says.

“This doesn’t mean I haven’t had health issues. I have, but I am still going strong. It is my greatest joy to be bestowed with the honour of this honorary doctorate during my lifetime, and to see so many Health Sciences students graduating from this wonderful university named after Nelson Mandela.”



Friends and family came from throughout the country to celebrate with honorary doctoral recipient Prof Marina Xaba-Mokoena.

Custodian of our oral heritage

Everyone has a story to tell, and Dr Gcina Mhlophe wants to hear it. Her calling is to bring out the storyteller in each one of us, to talk about who we are and where we come from in a contemporary evocation of Africa's ancient oral storytelling tradition.

For Dr Mhlophe the stories of the living and those who have passed, whether recently or thousands of years ago, are all part of the great circle of knowledge that needs to be honoured. And so she came up with the Gcina Mhlophe Memory House, which will be based in Durban and will be South Africa's first public home of storytelling and oral history museum.

"It will be a space where people from all walks of life can listen to the stories and histories of ordinary people, record their own stories, and view heritage films and documentaries in an inspiring environment that is home to all," explains Mhlophe who was born in Hammarsdale, KwaZulu-Natal, and who has been writing for children and adults, and performing on the stage and screen for over 30 years.

The memory house is currently in development, with funds being raised for a building, but in the meantime Mhlophe is getting it going from her home on the Bluff in Durban. "I am compelled to do this," she says. "My people named me Gcinamasiko, which means the keeper of heritage. I wear this name like a blanket and I honour it with my being."

Words and thoughts, she explains, whether spoken or written or performed or painted or made into beadwork, are magical things that create who we are. She learnt this through her paternal great grandmother, Nozincwadi MaMchunu, whom her father told her collected "a suitcase full of words".

"She is said to have collected anything with words – books, articles, old Bibles, newspapers – and she kept them all in a suitcase. She told my father that these words were magical things that would speak to her one day."

Dr Mhlophe never saw inside that suitcase, which was lost in time, but the power of the message spoke so strongly to her that she launched a



STORY TELLER ... Torchbearer of SA's past, present and future Dr Gcina Mhlophe joins Dean of Arts, Prof Rose Boswell.

Storyteller, poet, playwright, actor, director, author and activist Dr Gcina Mhlophe stands out as a torchbearer of South Africa and Africa's oral and storytelling tradition. She is received an Honorary Doctorate from Nelson Mandela University on the 18th of April at its graduation ceremony.

literacy campaign in 2001 and has continued with it ever since. Literacy is as much about reading and writing as it is about self-concept, imagination, originality and using your voice. And in this country we've got voices baby!"

She says the late MaMchunu is delivered from the grave through the literacy campaign, and since 2001 she has travelled throughout South Africa, visiting schools, doing performances, donating books and encouraging young South Africans to read. "We do extreme makeovers at the schools, painting and fixing up a room that is not being used and turning it into a library and reading room. We've been all over, and my goodness, we have a beautiful country!" says Dr Mhlophe who celebrates all languages and cultures.

"When we celebrate International Mother Language Day on the 21st of February each year, we celebrate all the languages in our country, continent and world, including sign language and braille. When we celebrate International Women's Day on the 8th of March each year, we celebrate all women, and all people who are doing amazing things."

Dr Mhlophe also conceived and hosts the annual Spirit of Light Festival to honour people from all walks of life and how they are shining a light in their community. "This year the Spirit of Light Festival is taking place in Durban on the 6th, 7th, 8th of September and storytellers from all over - from Jamaica, Reunion, Zimbabwe, Botswana, West Africa will be attending, alongside our South African storytellers. The theme is

the Bones of Memory and we are going to be sharing a lot of history telling."

Dr Mhlophe says there are so many bright lights in our country "but we don't hear about them because they don't steal or commit atrocities and therefore they don't make the front pages of our newspapers. Hence we honour them at this festival and we also honour all 'women in the making', which was my daughter Nomakhwezi's idea.

Twenty-one-year old Nomakhwezi recently graduated from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Drama and Marketing and is currently pursuing her Honours there. Her father is Dr Mhlophe's husband, artist Karl Becker, whom she met while she was ontour in Germany in 1988.

One of Dr Mhlophe's favourite bright lights is Mama Cwengi Myeni from the Valley of a Thousand Hills who founded the Gogo Olympics for people over 60 who want to keep fit and complete in their Olympics. This has led to international events, including South Africa playing Canada in Hillcrest, KwaZulu-Natal. Mhlophe says: "Mama Myeni is in her 70s and she is so alive, not to mention her gorgeous skin, which she keeps that way with tried and tested Vaseline Blue Seal!"

Spend time with Dr Mhlophe and you will be smiling in no time; she has a brightness and ebullience that shines a light on you. Her charm has evolved from wonderful times and very difficult times: "Like all of us, I've had my fair share of crying and hardship, including being fetched out of

the blue at age ten by my mother whom I never knew until then and being sent to boarding school in the Eastern Cape. Displaced from everything that was familiar to me, I was treated like a foreigner in the Xhosa-speaking Eastern Cape.

"But, as I tell people, when the river is flooding and you are being sucked by the current, and a branch comes along, you hold onto that branch for dear life. For me books were the branch and I held onto them for dear life."

In time, she learnt to know and appreciate her mother who also instilled in her the invaluable habit of hard work. "She couldn't tolerate it when people dragged their feet." In time, Dr Mhlophe also mustered sufficient courage to ask her mother why she had abandoned her as a baby. "In those days it was taboo to ask these questions. I learnt that she had run away from a very difficult marriage in the Eastern Cape to KwaZulu-Natal where she had met my father and given birth to me. I realised that sometimes no matter how hard it is, you have to return and sort out what you left behind, which she did. When her abusive husband passed away, she came to fetch me."

"With hindsight I can appreciate that the hard times I have experienced made me stronger and gave me a sense of self-love and self-reliance. Where I was so lucky is that as a young child I received a strong foundation of love from my father's oldest sister, Gogo Mthwalo Mhlophe who raised me until I was ten. It's the all-important foundation

"With hindsight I can appreciate that the hard times I have experienced made me stronger and gave me a sense of self-love and self-reliance".

– like when you are going to build a high-rise building.

"She gave me all the love and adventure a little girl could desire. She would spontaneously say 'let's go visit our relatives in Nongoma' or 'let's go to Port Shepstone' and we would hop on

a bus and explore the length and breadth of KwaZulu-Natal," says Dr Mhlophe. Gogo Mthwalo also told her that there is a far bigger world out there for her to discover.

Her words were prophetic and Dr Mhlophe has been traveling for the past 35 years, journeying from Japan to Kenya, from South America to Sweden, sharing and performing stories and gathering material for more stories, books and plays.

She has significantly contributed to the revival of the African storytelling tradition, and performed in theatres from Soweto to London. She has over 30 books to her name, including children's books, adult poetry, short stories and plays, published all over the world and translated into German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Swahili and Japanese.

Dr Mhlophe is now writing a book and a play called My Travelling Bag about her 33 years of international travel. She walks onto stage with a suitcase, just like MaMchunu's suitcase full of words. MaMchunu's spirit is alive and thriving in her great granddaughter who captivates audiences everywhere with her stories, poetry and song.



LEADERS ... Joining honorary doctoral recipient Dr Gcina Mhlope (centre) were (from left) Council member Maureen Manyama, Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa, Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Council members Charmaine Williams, Chair of Council Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill and Council member Reverend Madika Sibeko.

Messages of support for our new leadership

Rhodes University

Izilokotho ezinhle

On behalf of Rhodes University, I wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Sibongile Muthwa on their ascending to the highest offices at Nelson Mandela University. Nelson Mandela University is truly fortunate to have two exceptional women at its helm. They both bring formidable experience and visionary leadership to our higher education system.

To both, Mazel tov! – Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Vice-Chancellor, Rhodes University

Walter Sisulu University

Walter Sisulu University has the pleasure of congratulating Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Sibongile Muthwa as Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor respectively of Nelson Mandela University. Their inauguration on 17 April 2018 - the year of celebration of the centenary of Tata Nelson Mandela's life and legacy - marks a new chapter for Nelson Mandela University. It is a demonstration of the opening of the new dawn, a call and inspiration to the rise of new leadership, a celebration of the power and wisdom of women. Their inauguration is also a moment of hope. Their inauguration in the month of the departure of the Mother of the Nation, Mam' uWinnie Madikizela-Mandela further illustrates the resilience and tenacity of women. On their shoulders will rest the hopes, aspirations and dreams of the young people who will see higher education as the avenue for change and development.

On behalf of the students, staff, management and Council of Walter Sisulu University, I extend hearty congratulations and best wishes to Dr Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Muthwa on their appointment as the new leadership and face of Nelson Mandela University. The contribution and role played by the outgoing Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor is recognised with great appreciation. - Professor J R Midgley, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Walter Sisulu University

University of Fort Hare

On behalf of the University of Fort Hare, its management, staff, students and partners, I would like to congratulate Nelson Mandela University on the appointment and imminent inauguration of Professor Sibongile Muthwa as Vice-Chancellor, and Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as Chancellor. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to these colleagues whose tenure at our neighbour university begins as the country honours the 100th birthday of our esteemed late leader and your university's namesake – Nelson Mandela. It is also significant that these two women leaders are following in the footsteps of another great leader and heroine of our struggle, the late Mrs Albertina Sisulu, who also celebrates her 100th birthday this year.

These two phenomenal women and leaders, have also entered the space when free higher education is no longer a pipe dream, but a reality that every public HE institution must not only embrace, but champion.

We note the role being played by Mandela University in advancing the Oceans Economy strategy of our country. Being located in one of the largest, yet poorest provinces is a challenge. However, choosing to play an active role in ensuring knowledge and skills transfer to locals for whom such doors were previously closed, is no mean feat.

As the University of Fort Hare, we have every confidence that with the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor at the helm, Nelson Mandela University will continue to innovate and play a leading role in turning around the prospects of poverty, lack of skill and dependency on government grants by the youth of our province. As a fellow Vice-Chancellor, I look forward to working with Prof Muthwa as a comrade in the struggle for emancipation of the young adult's mind, through higher education. - Professor S Buhlungu, Vice-Chancellor, Fort Hare University

Universities South Africa (USAf)

The appointment by Nelson Mandela University of Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as Chancellor and Professor Sibongile Muthwa as Vice-Chancellor bodes well for taking this university to even greater heights.

On behalf of Universities South Africa and of South Africa's 26 public universities, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate these two outstanding leaders on their appointments.

Chancellor Fraser-Moleketi is the very embodiment of the idea of a servant-leader, of integrity, of commitment to the project of nation-building and social justice. A stalwart of the struggle against apartheid, she has a deep understanding of the role of universities in the project of national renewal and growth. She is an outstanding appointment and will act as a beacon for the University, its students and staff, and for the whole higher education sector.

Professor Sibongile Muthwa is well known in the South African higher education sector. She is highly respected as a leader and as an outstanding social scientist. She brings vast international and national experience to this new adventure. Her studies towards a Masters at the London School of Economics and a PhD at the School of Oriental and Africa Studies provide her with study experiences from two very substantial global institutions.

The appointment of these two outstanding leaders together with the Chair of the University Council, Ms Nozipho January-Bardill, signals an important moment of history-making in the South African higher education system. It will be the first time that the three most senior leadership and governance positions at any of our universities will be occupied by women. Professor Muthwa's expertise in public leadership and her experience as a mentor to young women will be heavily drawn upon as the system continues to act on the deep gender imbalances that characterise it.

Universities SA looks forward to working closely with Professor Muthwa and to drawing her into leadership roles in the national system. Her recent appointment by the Board of Universities SA to Chair the Funding Strategy Group will allow the organisation to benefit from her expertise, experience and passion. - Prof Ahmed C Bawa, Chief Executive Officer, USAf



INSTITUTIONAL LEADERS ... Former Nelson Mandela University staff members who are now Vice-Chancellors or former Vice-Chancellors (from left) Prof Irene Moutlana (Vaal University of Technology), Prof Henk de Jager (Central University of Technology), Prof Sibongile Muthwa (Nelson Mandela University) and Prof Thoko Mayekiso (University of Mpumalanga)



STAFF ... Psychology's Alida Sandison (left) is one of the 61 new doctoral recipients from the Autumn sessions. She is seen here with Prof Andrea Hurst.



LIGHTER MOMENT ... The Inaugural cocktail celebrations gave new Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi the opportunity to engage with former Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz.



Alumni-Executive Committee members (from left) Thomas Terblanche, Elmarie van de Merwe, Paul Geswindt and Welcome Kupangwa.

Messages of support for our new leadership

Senate

On behalf of Senate, which is accountable to Council for all the academic functions of the university, it is a great honour and privilege to congratulate both our new Chancellor, Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, and our new Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Sibongile Muthwa.

Inaugurations, by definition, mark the start of something. This is indeed the start of a new era for our institution. With the commitment, loyalty and tenacity for which you are both well known, you will lead us in not just holding but also up-holding the name Nelson Mandela University. Much is expected of us, with the responsibility that goes with holding this name. Huge are the transformation imperatives in the academic project, to prepare both our students and staff for a rapidly changing world. We commit to supporting you and Nelson Mandela University in working towards our vision.

Chancellor, although we will mainly see and engage with you at graduation times, we look forward to the special wisdom and inspiration you will share with us when we celebrate our achievements, and help us set our sights even higher for the future.

Vice-Chancellor, we have already travelled part of this road with you. We know you to be the kind of leader who will bend with us to pick up the stones that obstruct our path towards a better, more socially just, future for our students and the generations that follow. More than this, we know that with patience and sensitivity, you will also provide 'blessings on the stones' – recognising that each one represents a lesson of struggle in our collective history-in-the-making.

We look forward to the leadership and direction you will provide in your different roles, with the particular insights each of you has garnered from your own histories, and your own visions for the future for Nelson Mandela University.

A place of possibility

By Malike Lueen Ndlovu

We are not sitting in the darkness

We are in the dark

From which the light comes

Peeling in from the periphery

Can you see this is a place of great

Possibility not probability

But a place of possibility

Possibility

- Prof Denise Zinn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning on behalf of Senate

Chair of Council

"Those who are ready to join hands can overcome the greatest challenges."

I believe this quote by Nelson Mandela aptly captures the ethos of our university. We have in our new leadership, people of integrity, commitment and care – leaders who are driven by the same desires of our namesake.

Like Nelson Mandela, both Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as Chancellor, and Professor Sibongile Muthwa as Vice-Chancellor recognise the value of working together towards a better future for all. For it is only through social cohesion that we can overcome challenges and seek solutions that transform, redress and make our world a better place.

It is fitting that their inauguration takes place during the 100-year anniversary of the birth of Nelson Mandela and less than a year since taking on the mantle of responsibilities of bearing the iconic statesman's name.

We are expected to live the legacy of Nelson Mandela – to show, by our choices and by our actions, that we are embracing all that he stood for and all that he fought for. Our institution must instantly be associated with the Mandela ethos. Much is expected of us, and particularly the leadership. But we are buoyed by what has been achieved to date and wish the new leadership well in the journey ahead. – Nelson Mandela University Chair of Council Ambassador, Nozipho January-Bardill

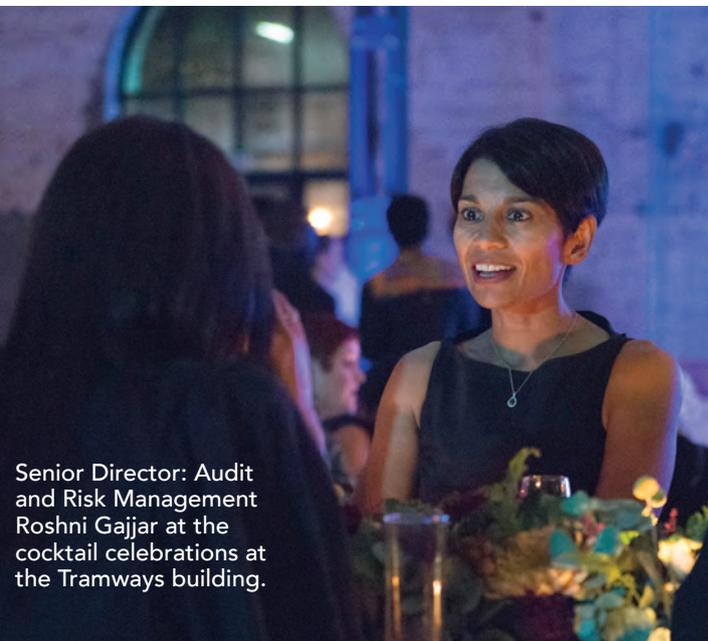
Alumni Association

The Nelson Mandela University Alumni Association warmly welcomes and congratulates our Chancellor Dr Fraser-Moleketi and Vice-Chancellor Professor Muthwa on their inauguration. As we enter a new exciting era under their leadership, we pledge our support to ensure that our alma mater increases its positive impact on society through its various academic disciplines.

We are reminded that our institutional footprint is extended globally through our alumni who continue to live the institutional values and contribute to "change the world". Alumni have a very personal interest in the developments at their alma mater because the value of their qualifications is linked to the stature and development of the institution. We are confident that our Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor will ensure that the institution exceeds expectations in fulfilling its public mandate and we wish them well in their respective roles. - Paul GG Geswindt, Director: Alumni Relations



Entertaining those who attended the Autumn Graduation Doctoral dinners were acapella group, Legato SA, comprising of (from left) past and present Mandela University students Milani Sixakwe, Lwando Lukhuko, Ntlantla Seanu, Luyulo Stungu and Phiwo Ryatya.



Senior Director: Audit and Risk Management Roshni Gajjar at the cocktail celebrations at the Tramways building.



Dr Lia Kritiostis (centre) was joined by her co-supervisors Prof Shirley-Ann Boschmans and Dr Sue Burton at the Autumn Graduation Doctoral Dinner.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS ... Mandela staff couple Prof Andre Calitz and Prof Margie Cullen supervised the MBA of Hildegard Boshoff, and the PhD of Ryno Boshoff.



INTIMATE MOMENT ... Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi spends time with her mother, Cynthia Fraser, at the cocktail function.

Messages of support for our new leadership

National Tertiary Education Union

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) has pleasure in taking this opportunity to congratulate Professor Sibongile Muthwa on her appointment as Vice-Chancellor and Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as Chancellor.

Both are very capable women and we welcome their appointments, particularly the appointment of Nelson Mandela University's first female Vice-Chancellor. This is a historical moment for the University and we look forward to the leadership of Dr Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Muthwa. We are confident that they will bring a relationship building style of leadership in which unions and management engage in meaningful interactions to achieve win-win outcomes.

We pledge our full support to both and look forward to a good, cooperative working relationship epitomised by sound two-way communication, mutual understanding and give-and-take resulting in issues being resolved speedily and amicably.

We believe in working together with, as opposed to working against, other stakeholders in making Mandela University an outstanding university that we can all be proud of. This means that the new leadership can rely on our full support and cooperation.

To conclude, we wish both women the greatest success in their new endeavours and are sure that they will further the transformation of the University and bring about stability. – NTEU Branch Executive Committee

Norwegian Embassy

On behalf of Norway, I would like to offer my most sincere congratulations to Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Sibongile Muthwa on the occasion of their inauguration to the posts of Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University respectively.

In Nelson Mandela University, we have always found a visionary and bold partner, and as Professor Derrick Swartz has now passed the baton, I am convinced that under the leadership of two dynamic women, the University will continue to manifest itself as a leading university in South Africa and well beyond.

The Norwegian Embassy, along with colleagues in Norway, have had the pleasure to partner with the University for the past several years, especially with regard to the Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy. The "Fish Force Academy" is an exciting and timely initiative in the fight against fisheries crime, including human and drug trafficking, and offers the only training and educational programmes available in all of Sub-Saharan Africa aimed specifically at fisheries law enforcement officers.

Furthermore, the new Nelson Mandela University Ocean Sciences Campus has enormous potential in building the knowledge and skills base, which we need in order to put our oceans on track. I am impressed with the pioneering role that Mandela University has taken, not least in terms of working towards the sustainable management and protection of our oceans, and I look forward to a continued close partnership with Mandela University under its new leadership. - Trine Skymoen, Ambassador of Norway to South Africa

French Embassy

At the time of a change of leadership at Nelson Mandela University, I would like to express my appreciation to the team who is leaving, for promoting the links between our two countries in the field of science cooperation. I would like also to assure the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sibongile Muthwa, as well as Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, that France highly values its partnership with all institutions of higher learning in South Africa, and that we seek further involvement with Nelson Mandela University.

In order to promote our scientific partnership, France and South Africa fund together the PHC PROTEA programme for projects, a programme whose twentieth anniversary was celebrated last December during the Science Forum South Africa, with the National Research Foundation. The French Embassy is also funding a bursary programme that allows South Africans students to gain international experience in France. My team and I are ready to work closely with you to increase cooperation with Nelson Mandela University.

One exemplary cooperation is the Sustainability Research Unit, on Nelson Mandela University's George Campus, where French and South African scientists are currently working together. The aim of this unit is conservation in social-ecological systems linked to the rapidly growing challenges of climate change. Moreover, in the field of global ecology, the cooperation will be strengthened by the collaboration framework between the French National Council for Science Research (CNRS) and Nelson Mandela University.

Another promising cooperation with Nelson Mandela University is the one on marine sciences, to design a proposal for a South African School on Ocean Sciences and Technology with a French-South-African co-badged Master's programme developed by universities from both our countries.

All these fields are converging to our cooperative efforts to create a better future, and make our planet great again! - Christophe Farnaud, Ambassador of France to South Africa

University of Southampton

On the 100th year anniversary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the University of Southampton, to pass on sincere congratulations to both Professor Sibongile Muthwa on her appointment as Vice-Chancellor and Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi on her appointment as Chancellor.

This is an exciting time as you enter into this re-launched institution headed by two dynamic women. We are very proud to have Nelson Mandela University as one of our most important global partners. We are pleased to have mobility of postgraduate students and academics with you.

Your significant investment in the development of your Ocean Sciences Campus and your ongoing developments in Health Sciences and Medicine are important areas of collaboration and we look forward to deepening our relationship into other areas as well.

We have been delighted to welcome NMU colleagues to Southampton on a number of occasions and you have always been such warm hosts when we have had opportunity to visit you in Port Elizabeth. Once again congratulations and may our collaboration continue to grow in the coming years.



Head of the Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy Allan Zinn and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Teaching and Learning, Prof Denise Zinn (right) congratulate Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi on her appointment at Chancellor.



Executive Dean of Education Dr Muki Moeng relaxes in the company of Ryan Pillay of the University's Transformation, Monitoring and Evaluation Office.



INFORMAL SETTING ... The historic tramways building in Central played host to the celebratory cocktail event following the inauguration of the University's new vice-chancellor and chancellor.



Among those to attend the cocktail event were (from left) Sharon Webb, Prof Denver Webb, Prof Heather Nel and Dr Kwezi Mzilikazi.

Messages of support for our new leadership

Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber

I wish to congratulate Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Sibongile Muthwa on their significant appointments as Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University respectively.

It is no coincidence that the University is under the leadership of these two powerful, capable, experienced, visionary women on the occasion of the centenary of the iconic Nelson Mandela's birth - after whom it is named. Equality was one of the values which Mandela held dear. It is their pioneering spirit, guided by the courage of their convictions - as evidenced by their performance in their respective previous roles that has catapulted them to such heights.

As we congratulate them on their appointments, we pause to acknowledge yet another pioneering woman, Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill - who herself was appointed Chairperson of Council at Mandela University in 2017.

Congratulations to you all - as you continue to represent women worldwide with your can-do and will-do attitude. The women's revolution is truly upon us and it is time we embrace it and change the patriarchal narrative. The world is ready to be led in a nurturing manner to experience a new growth trajectory. You have stepped up and accepted the challenge. In the words of President Cyril Ramaphosa, you have said: "Send me".

The African sun is dancing at this dawn of a new era and it is smiling at the rise of the African woman. This moment is symbolic. This a proud moment.

Halala mantombazana!

Congratulations and well done. - Nomkhita Mona, Chief Executive Officer, Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber

National African Federation Chamber of Commerce (NAFCOC)

NAFCOC Eastern Cape is very delighted with the inauguration of Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa of Nelson Mandela University. Our heartiest congratulations. We wish you well in your new endeavour in steering Nelson Mandela University to greater heights, in line with the aspiration of the nation of South Africa. We are proud of you and your selfless service to the Eastern Cape and hope that you will justify the expectations of all our enthusiastic students. Wishing you great success and all the best for your noble future endeavours. - Mercy Mini, Provincial Secretary, NAFCOC

National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU)

The Nelson Mandela University NEHAWU Union Branch would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the University's new Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. NEHAWU acknowledges Professor Sibongile Muthwa as both a historical and first-of-its kind appointment of a black female Vice-Chancellor in our newly named Nelson Mandela University. Our warm welcome is also extended to Comrade Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, her excellent political and government credentials both in NEHAWU/COSATU alliance partners in the form of the SACP and the governing party speak for themselves. With this in mind, we believe that our students, members of staff, the surrounding communities, including parents of our students from rural areas, recognize them as new symbols of hope and with highest of expectations in their new roles as both Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor of our university respectively.

From this backdrop, NEHAWU would like to encourage our new Vice-Chancellor's listening campaign and trust that she will listen to the unheard voices of our people and seek to collectively confront the challenges facing our institution, both in the sector and those that are university-specific. With that said, NEHAWU would like to affirm its unwavering support of our new Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor. We commit to always stand by Prof Muthwa in the best interests of Nelson Mandela University at all times.

Sithi malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi. Wathinta abafazi, wathinta imbokodo.
Sinethamba lokuba leNelson Mandela University izakubalikhaya lethu sonke ekugqibeleni.
Ntinga ntaka ndini, ubhabehele emafini. Thina sivuyisana nawe.

– NEHAWU Branch Executive Committee

Student Representative Council (SRC)

The South African higher education sector is to benefit from the breezes of fresh, percolated scent of tried and tested women in Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Professor Sibongile Muthwa. Individually and collectively, you bring with you vast experience in governance, directorships on various boards and academic acumen. You are well respected and highly rated by your peers. Your experience and expertise is particularly tailored to lead an institution which is the only one to bear the name of the doyen, world icon Tata Mandela.

The SRC warmly welcomes your appointment, to be the phenomenal giants who will be the chief architects of the vision that will drive Mandela University towards vision 2030. We are optimistic that you will be engineers of a new institutional culture which will resemble the values and ethos of Madiba, to be pioneered by staff and students alike. We also implore you to transform the curriculum content, both in shape and form, which must respond to the socio-economic challenges of South Africa. More importantly, it must endeavour to bring solutions to the problems that engulf our continent by producing responsive and relevant skills in order to increase our economy base, world class infrastructure and technological advancement.

Power has always expressed itself as a body of ideas. Ideas must become programmes. Programmes must bring about change. Change must be developmental. Development must be sustainable. You have our full support to transform our university, instilling a new institutional culture, building a new intellectual identity and redefining higher education broadly. Lastly, in celebrating the 100 years of Tata Nelson Mandela you are charged with a greater responsibility of changing not only the campus, country or continent but to CHANGE THE WORLD!

Bamanye Matiwane – SRC President

Qhamani Sinefu – SRC Deputy President



About 220 guests attended the Autumn Graduation Doctoral Dinner at the Tramways Building on 18 April. 61 doctorates were awarded during the 13 ceremonies, including nine doctorates from the Botany Department and six from Textile Science. Eight Mandela staff members also obtained their doctorates.



The new leadership of Nelson Mandela University (from left) Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill, Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Siya Mhlaluka and Prof Sibongile Muthwa prepare to raise a toast to the exciting future of the institution.



STUDENT SUPPORT ... Joining SRC Deputy President Qhamani Sinefu (from left) at the cocktail function were Mpho Petla, the Black Lawyer's Association Chairperson, and Tswarello Sonti, the SASCO Branch Chairperson.



EXCELLENCE CELEBRATED ... Joining the Law Faculty's Prof Elmarie Knoetze at the Autumn Graduation Doctoral Dinner was Dewald Strydom.

Messages of support for our new leadership

Council on Higher Education

On behalf of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as the New Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University. It is a great benefit for Nelson Mandela University to be afforded leadership of your calibre.

Your intelligence, leadership experience and stature will undoubtedly add the desired value to Nelson Mandela University. You have contributed and played a fundamental role in various state institutions in our new democracy, notably when you served as the Minister for Public Service and Administration. Above all, as a political leader you have played a pivotal role in the struggle to liberate South Africa within and outside its borders. We take great pleasure and have great confidence that your well established reputation as a leader of integrity will take the university to greater heights.

We are equally encouraged to see women leaders being recognized in such critical leadership roles and rising to the occasion, taking the lead to actively contribute to the upliftment of our economy and our society through education. We believe that you will be a sterling role model for our young women on principle-centred leadership.

As the Council on Higher Education we wish you and the Nelson Mandela University success in all its future endeavors.

Professor Themba Mosia, Chairperson, CHE

Makerere University, Uganda

On behalf of the Makerere University Management, Staff and the Student Community, I wish to extend a warm congratulatory message to the Leadership, Staff and Students of Nelson Mandela University upon The Inauguration of Professor Sibongile Muthwa and Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor respectively. Makerere University as one of the forerunners of Gender Mainstreaming in Africa, in a special way, congratulates Professor Muthwa and Dr. Fraser-Moleketi; both distinguished career women in their own right, upon their successful selection.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate Nelson Mandela University upon the distinct milestone of being re-launched as the only University in the world named after an Honourable Statesman, unrelenting freedom fighter, and loving Father of the Rainbow Nation, His Excellency Nelson Mandela. This, although an enviable transformation, also comes with great responsibility. Nevertheless, we remain confident that under Professor Muthwa and Dr Fraser-Moleketi, Nelson Mandela University will not only live up to the great legacy that precedes its name but also shine brighter especially in the face of the rapidly changing dynamics of Africa's Higher Education sector.

I once again congratulate Nelson Mandela University upon this unique milestone and look forward to our continued, mutually beneficial working relationship as We Build for the Future.

Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University

Namibia University of Science and Technology

Vice-Chancellor Dr Tjama Tjivikua, on behalf of the NUST Community, joins South Africans and the world at large in congratulating Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as the new Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University, in this unheralded and historic achievement for higher education in South Africa. She is the third top-ranking female appointment at the University in the past few months. The other two are the new Chair of Council, Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill, and the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sibongile Muthwa.

It is the first time that any South African university has appointed three women at the helm, and all three assumed their posts this year (2018). This is highly significant in the centenary year of the birth of Nelson Mandela, after whom the University was named in 2017.

This historic milestone is a sterling testimony of genuine transformation and an impressive milestone on the march towards equality for all in Africa and the world.

We convey our hearty congratulations to all three personalities, whose achievements resonate with everyone that has a genuine interest in education and the advancement of women on our continent.

We conclude with the timeless phrase from the famous resistance-song that has come to symbolise the courage and strength expressed at the Women's March of 1956 as South African women refused to give into increasing oppression without protest: "When you strike the woman, you strike a rock".

Best wishes!!!

Vice-Chancellor, Namibia University of Science and Technology

Nelson Mandela University Institutional Forum

Madams Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, the Institutional Forum wishes to welcome you as the newly appointed leaders of Nelson Mandela University. Our institution bears the name of an iconic national and international leader, who reflects the values of diversity, excellence, ubuntu, social justice and equality, integrity and environmental stewardship.

We hope that as our leaders, you will assist our institution in realizing the outcomes of Vision 2020, and in so doing, embed these values within the praxis of our core functions of teaching, learning, research and engagement, and thereby enhance the responsiveness of the institution, to regional, national and global challenges.

Dr Phakama Ntshongwana, Institutional Forum

Messages of support for our new leadership

ANC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) applauds Nelson Mandela University for their progressive decision of putting women in the high strategic decision making positions of the institution. The University has three women in its top leadership as Chairperson of the Council, Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor respectively.

These capable qualified women have earned their stripes and also contributed enormously in the development South Africa and her people. Former South Africa's Ambassador to Switzerland Nozipho January- Bardill is the Chairperson of Council of the university. She served on the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance. She also served as South Africa's Ambassador to Switzerland. She is a former Deputy Director General in the Department of Foreign Affairs and has vast experience in Corporate sector on Corporate Communications, Stakeholder Relations, High Level Government Relations and Sustainability Management.

Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi- the Chancellor of the university is a trained soldier of Umkhonto Wesizwe - the military wing of our beloved African National Congress. A very passionate and committed cadre on issues of gender equality.

She served the post apartheid government with distinction as Minister for Public Service and Administration (1999 to 2008) and as Minister for Welfare and Population Development (1996-1999). She served as a Special Envoy on Gender of the African Development Bank. She also occupied the position of the Director of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Democratic Governance Group, overseeing the organization's related strategic and policy work in 197 countries and territories around the globe. She also served as a board member of the UN Institute for Training and Research.

Vice-Chancellor of the university Professor Muthwa served as Director General of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government between 2004 and 2010. Between 2010 and 2017 she was the Deputy Vice- Chancellor for Institutional Support, at Nelson Mandela University. In 2014 she was appointed as a Commissioner of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, and in July 2017 she was appointed as its Deputy Chairperson.

The ANCWL demands that the appointed leadership of NMU must prioritize the safety and security of female students at the university. Gender based violence has been a problem within the education sector in the country and there are some reported cases at NMU. The ANCWL leadership collective, members and supporters of the organization will continue working with the leadership of various institutions to fight all forms of gender based violence and oppression. Society in general must also actively play part in inculcating the culture of respect to gender diversity in all sectors of the society including higher education sector.

Appointment of women into leadership roles is not an act of charity. Women are capable and have capacity to lead in any sector at any level. The ANCWL congratulates NMU on its progressive decision of having women at the top leadership of the institution and calls for other institutions to emulate the decision of NMU. Other sectors (private and public) must also ensure adequate representative women in all levels of their structures.

Redressing the legacy of patriarchy and male chauvinism requires decisive unapologetic radical actions.

Well done NMU!! Meokgo Matuba, ANCWL Secretary General

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

My heartiest congratulations on the inauguration of the dynamic duo of Professor Sibongile Muthwa as Vice-Chancellor and Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University on 17 April 2018.

I feel extremely proud as the KU Vice-Chancellor of both Prof Muthwa and Dr Fraser-Moleketi on your ascension. You have demonstrated that the ceiling for African women is being broken every day. It is a milestone development taking place on the 100th anniversary of the birth of the freedom icon Nelson Mandela and shortly after we all said farewell to another freedom icon - Winnie Mandela.

You are both an inspiration to hundreds of women across the continent who can wake up every day and say, in the words of Kenya actress and Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o, "Our dreams are valid." On behalf the University Council, staff and students of Kenyatta University accept our congratulations and our best wishes in your new duties.

I end with the words of freedom icon Mandela that I find so apt. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Professor Paul K Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor

Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

From Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, it is my privilege and pleasure to congratulate Nelson Mandela University with such an excellent choice for the positions of chancellor and vice-chancellor! I wish Professor Sibongile Muthwa as Vice-Chancellor and Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as Chancellor the wisdom and the courage to lead your university. I am confident that the obligations that come with carrying the name of one of the most inspirational leaders of all times in your university's name, will be more than met by this outstanding new leadership.

Marjolein Jansen, Vice voorzitter, college van Bestuur, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam