

**Durban University of Technology (DUT) RESEARCH AWARDS CEREMONY,
November 15, 2013 at the DURBAN COUNTRY CLUB**

Opening Remarks by:

The Deputy Vice Chancellor: Technology, Innovation and Partnerships:

Prof Fred Otieno

Salutations

- ❖ Chairperson: DUT Council – Dr Jairam Reddy
- ❖ Chancellor: DUT– Judge Vuka Tshabalala
- ❖ Vice Chancellor : DUT – Prof Ahmed Bawa
- ❖ Our Keynote Speakers –
 - Dr Kathleen Pithouse Morgan: School of Education (UKZN) &
 - Mr Mahlubi Mabizela – Chief Director: Higher Education Policy & Dev Support (DHET)
- ❖ Distinguished and other Guests
- ❖ All Executive and Senior Staff of DUT
- ❖ DUT Staff and Researchers
- ❖ Guests
- ❖ Students
- ❖ Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening! Sanibonani

It gives me great pleasure to extend a special and warm welcome to all of you and especially the awardees whom we will be conferring the *2012 DUT Research Awards* to this evening.

The purpose of this occasion is to acknowledge excellence in research at DUT, to celebrate and honor DUT researchers' contribution to research in the year 2012. This event is also an expression of the Technology, Innovation & Partnerships Ambit's aspirations to entrench a research culture and advance DUT's research agenda in general.

We do this in the honest belief that when each academic staff member at DUT publishes at least 0.6 units per year, and with a compliment of 1000 staff, we will get 600 units and at the current R120k per unit, we would bridge the operating gap by injecting a further R48 m into DUT. In simple terms, this would stabilise the operations at DUT. It is our desire to achieve this in the next five to seven years.

This evening we will be recognising winners of the eight different categories and others who excelled, for example: those who obtained an NRF rating or were re-rated in 2012.

Ladies and gentlemen, the researchers that will be gracing our stage tonight are those that have been nominated and won an award in 2012 and this in no way is an indication of the entire number of researchers we have at DUT. There is much more research being undertaken and there are many more other researchers who may not be on stage this evening but those researchers continue to do us proud in various research activities. We are extremely grateful for their contributions. We are grateful to all those who engage in research as they assist in enhancing DUT's image in the higher education community and are contributing to new knowledge and advancement of society at large. We salute them and wish them continued success.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, for this evening though, we are honoring the winners of the *2012 DUT Research Awards* who met Senate approved criteria and qualified for these awards. I say this with much delight and confidence that the awards will be given to deserving researchers. We would like to appeal to as many of our staff and students to participate in this important exercise each year as through this, we slowly but surely showcase our efforts to not only at DUT, but the entire nation.

In conclusion, to all the researchers at DUT, we sincerely appreciate the exemplary roles you play amongst your peers and students in the institution and wish that you would keep up the great work always. We remain committed to supporting your work in all ways humanly possible.

To the awardees tonight, as we honor your research excellence and accomplishments, we understand that such success comes with a lot of hard work. We wish to also appreciate those who supported you to ensure that you achieved these. We wish you all the best for the future. Congratulations!

God bless you all, God bless DUT and God bless our country.

Thank you!