



**DEPUTY MINISTER OF
HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X893 PRETORIA, 0001, South Africa. 123 Schoeman Street, PRETORIA.

Tel: +27 12 312 6339. Fax: +27 12

Private Bag X9192, CAPE TOWN, 8000, South Africa. 120 Plein Street. Tel: +27 21 465 5513. Fax: +27 21 465 2943, +27 21 465 7956

**ADDRESS AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE VICE-
CHANCELLOR OF THE DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY PROF. A.C. BAWA**

BY

**PROF. HLENGIWE MKHIZE, MP DEPUTY MINISTER OF
HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

VENUE: DUT, STEVE BIKO CAMPUS

DATE: 26 MARCH 2011

TIME: 11H00

Chancellor, Ms. E. Gandhi

Chairperson of Council, Mr. J. Reddy

Vice-Chair of Council, Ms. M, Mogodi-Dikgetsi,

Council members present

Vice Chancellor and principal, Prof. A.C. Bawa

Members of the Bawa Family

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Prof. N. Gwele

**Other Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice Chancellors
present**

Chairperson of HESA, Prof. I. Rensburg

Staff, students and members of the DUT Community

Members of the general community

Members of the Media

Ladies & Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

Programme Director,

I am greatly honoured and privileged to share this happiest hour, with you. I thank and congratulate the leadership of this institution for achieving outstanding success, in their selection process. We all know that, these processes could be emotionally draining and divisive. It is, therefore, appropriate and fitting to congratulate the University community for reaching consensus, around a distinguished scientist of this calibre.

Ultimately, Prof Bawa's success will to a large extent depend on the cooperation of the university community as a whole, not only a faction of the institution.

We have come in large numbers, as friends and colleagues, to congratulate you, Prof. Bawa, a distinguished scientist, a socially conscious academic and a man of integrity. I agree with the statement released to the media on your appointment by the institution, that acknowledged you, as, "a world class academic". We are all proud to be associated with you, and to be in your social network.

Sir, your track record speaks volumes about your success. Your contribution, as a member of the Doctoral faculty, at the graduate Centre, City University of New York, as well as your appointment as Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Westville campus, and as programme officer for higher education, in Africa, under the auspices of the Ford Foundation, talks to a rich experience, which you bring to your current position.

To you professor and your family, also accept a message of congratulation, from the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, who could not honour this invitation due to other pressing Government responsibilities.

THE MERGERS

Mr Vice Chancellor Sir, you are taking over the leadership of the institution at the time when as Government, we are consolidating our Monitoring and Evaluation systems. Our Motto is - 1:5:12, meaning, One Goal, Five Priorities and Twelve Outcomes.

When this institution and many others, were merged, between 2002 and 2005, Government had a vision to provide quality education, resolve problems of duplication, fragmentation, lack of access and to ensure that the higher education sector, produces the country's needed wealth of knowledge and critical skills.

The merger of the then, Natal Technikon and ML Sultan Technikon was one such merger, which was meant to create a powerful mechanism for innovation, research in the areas of Science and Technology. The long term vision was to accumulate a hub of knowledge and critical skills, required to design an economic growth path, based on the pillars of Science and Engineering.

The Department is aware of the enormous growth of students enrolment, which increased from 19 101 in year 2000 to 25 237 in 2010. This is in line with the envisaged target, of 22 050 students enrolment. Your current student number talks to the institution's success and dedication to questions of access and inclusion.

Mr Vice- Chancellor, we believe that during your tenure, you will closely monitor not only the growth aspects, but also elements of quality and excellence.

In congratulating and welcoming you, I would like to acknowledge, the strides made by the Durban University of Technology, following its entering into an agreement, with Umgungundlovu Further Education and Training College (FET). By offering top up courses for, students who have completed their NCV, but need to elevate their maths and science in order to meet entrance requirements, the college's contribution, certainly, facilitates access to DUT.

Universities of Technology need to continuously explore strategic partnerships with FET colleges. The bottom line is to widen a pipeline for students.

Our Institutions of Technology have an important role to play in strengthening the FET colleges, through training new FET lecturers and providing continuing professional development. It is also absolutely, essential for the university sector, to collaborate with FET colleges so as to be certain that, the curriculum of these colleges is aligned.

I need to reiterate that, we should all, never lose sight of the bigger picture, which is to ensure that, out of school youth, are exposed to centres of learning and acquire skills, in line with our industrial strategy.

We have also noted with great satisfaction, the strides made in achieving the key national benchmark of 50% enrolment in Science, Engineering and Technology, which according to our records, currently stands at 49.32%, a few percentages below the target of 50%.

Mr Vice-Chancellor, Sir, what might need your urgent attention, is the fact that, this institution has not been able to achieve, the set research targets, for Universities of

Technology. We appreciate the challenges brought by mergers, and are fully cognisant of the difficulties that arose from the restructuring of institutions.

It is encouraging to note that, some Universities of Technology are working extremely hard to develop capacity to meet their targets. We, as the Department, do not expect your Institution, Sir, to compete with traditional Universities, but expect you to deliver results in line with your counterparts, such as the Tshwane University of Technology and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Above everything, you have the challenge to enhance your research and innovation capabilities, in co-operation with relevant industries.

The research development grant which was implemented to address pressing needs such as infrastructure development, educator training, and research material, is still under review, and we hope to have a new policy in place so as to address request timeously. Under your leadership, we expect close co-operation between the Durban University of Technology and the Department.

DHET MANDATE

There are no better words, I can use, in congratulating you, than to remind you of the mandate of our Department. Students need to be skilled, and employable, as the country can no longer afford to produce unemployable graduates. We have a clear Mandate to create decent jobs and for that outcome to be realised our centres of learning have to produce skilled people. Research is central to our mandate.

We, as Government, are improving the skills production pipeline, in intermediate and high level skills. Our strategy is to improve access, and, articulation, through staggered

systems of learning and skills development, ranging from Community Skills Development Centres, Further Education and Training Colleges, Workplace Skills Development opportunities, Universities, including research and development centres. We have created an education system, which gives out of school youth, and adults, options for skills development and personal growth.

To achieve the desired outputs, the Department of Higher Education and Training, got a financial boost from Treasury, during the 2011 budget allocation, as follows.

- Over R20 billion has been allocated to Sector Education & Training Authorities (SETA's)
- R5 billion to the National Skills Fund (NSFAS)
- And Further Education & Training Colleges have been allocated R14 billion

Universities of Technology, which have positioned themselves appropriately, by establishing relationships with relevant industries, offer a work integrated learning experience. As such, their graduates tend to be better prepared for the markets.

Our mission is better captured in the Kagisano No, 7 document produced last year by the South African Council on Higher Education, titled, Universities of Technology, Deepening the Debate, it was said,

“Work intergrated learning will become more important in University of Technology programmes because of the growing demand and need in industry and commerce for graduates who already have work experience before they are offered employment. Furthermore, it should be highlighted that graduates who are job ready are in high demand with small and medium enterprises, since the latter do not always have the capacity nor the money to invest in experiential training or on the job training of graduates.”

In short, to facilitate and meet the demands of the economic growth path, higher education institutions have a challenge, to be innovative in their research and training programmes, in order to produce graduates who are able to secure employment or become entrepreneurs.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Mr Vice-Chancellor, we believe that under your leadership, the Durban University of Technology is, and will be, a valuable partner, in ensuring the provision of skills to support the Government's new economic growth path.

The challenge, we place on you, Prof Bawa, Sir, is to ensure that, the graduates produced, from this Institution, are educated ,and, not just, schooled as indicated by the words of Thomas Moore, in the book titled, **Education of the Heart**, released in 1997, when he said:

“Education is not the piling on of learning, information, data, facts, skills, or abilities...but is rather a making visible what is hidden as a seed...To be educated, a person doesn't have to know much or be informed, but he or she does have to have been exposed 'adequately' to the transformative events of an engaged human life...One of the greatest problems of our time is that many are schooled but few are educated”.

I Thank You

Contact: Nonkumbulo Sithole (MLO)

082 301 1441/071 113 5570

e-mail: sithole.ns@dhet.gov.za/ sitholen01@gmail.com