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**UNIVERSITY OF
MPUMALANGA**

STAND OUT

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Until now, Mpumalanga has been one of only two provinces without a university on its territory. While the Tshwane University of Technology Campus at Mbombela, the Lowveld Agricultural College at Mbombela, the hospitality school at KaNyamazane and the Teacher Education Campus at Siyabuswa have provided some of the framework for higher learning in the region, there was still a need to establish a fully-fledged university in the province. Such an institution will satisfy the long-term academic and economic ambitions of its people, including the poor and disadvantaged, and enable them to participate in the national higher learning network.

The new University of Mpumalanga aims to satisfy this ambition. It will incorporate the infrastructure of the Lowveld College of Agriculture and the Siyabuswa Teacher Education Campus and will admit its first students at the beginning of the 2014 academic year.

With the primary economic basis of the province founded in the fields of agriculture and tourism, and given the universal need to bolster our education capacity, it makes sense that in its first year, the new university will offer a diploma in Hospitality Studies, a Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase Teaching and a Bachelor of Agriculture in Agricultural Extension and Rural Resource Management. With its first intake a modest 140 students, the university will nonetheless grow rapidly to accommodate approximately 18 000 students across its campuses by 2024, and will increase its capacity and programme and qualification offerings year-on-year to encompass degrees in a range of areas including the Life Sciences, Engineering, Business Economics and Management Studies, Communication and Health and related sciences.

I am particularly pleased with the university's focus on foundation phase teacher education as a niche area which, responds to one of the greatest needs of the country, providing a programme at the basic qualification level and positioning it to lead through research and innovation. The teacher education campus at Siyabuswa will develop foundation phase teachers able to teach in the indigenous languages of the province. It is in the process of developing a teaching school with the help of the Mpumalanga

Department of Education and the University of Johannesburg, which gives it the advantage of ensuring that learning in, and from, practice is integrated into the curriculum from the beginning. The campus will also develop a Centre of African Languages teaching and will engage in extensive research that will support the basic education system far into the future.

The seat of the University of Mpumalanga is at Mbombela campus, but with its vision of developing as an African university serving both our country and the continent, the university has the potential to become a centre for knowledge, progress and academic achievement far beyond its region.

Education has a fundamental role in ensuring that our developing nation, on its long journey of thorough transformation, will truly express the human potential of all our people. In doing so it will not only open up opportunity for everyone, regardless of their circumstances, to be able to increase their chances in life, but to contribute, through their own economic emancipation, meaningfully and productively to the growth of our economy as a whole.

In pursuing this goal, we are also pursuing excellence – excellence in leadership, excellence in capacity, excellence in personal achievement and excellence in the academic benchmarks we set ourselves. And every province has its own legacy, its own pool of human resources and its own economic and geographical realities to help realise this overarching national objective.

We are confident that all our hopes and expectations will be met for the University of Mpumalanga, because we are confident that those who will be part of its growth as another key place of South African learning and knowledge, will bring all their talent and belief to bear on our collective future.

To paraphrase the Freedom Charter: Let the doors of higher learning and culture now be opened in Mbombela and Mpumalanga.

Dr BE Nzimande

LET THE DOORS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND CULTURE NOW BE OPENED IN MBOMBELA AND MPUMALANGA

CHAIR: INTERIM COUNCIL

The Higher Education platform in South Africa has, in the last 20 years, been a sector that has seen remarkable renewal, redirection and growth. The 1997 White Paper on the transformation of higher education clearly established the fundamental principles of widening access to previously politically and geographically disadvantaged communities, achieving greater equity, efficiency and effectiveness within higher education institutions and deepening and entrenching collaboration within the sector.

This principle was rigorously followed in developing the foundation for facilitating the provision of higher education programmes in geographic areas that had previously not had the privilege of regional access to these institutions. The concept of National Institutions for Higher Education in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape was established in 2003 and entrenched in 2006.

Thus began the development of a fundamental logic, which ultimately had to result in allowing for the establishment of an institution of higher education in the Mpumalanga province, a recognised and accredited seat of learning for the province and ultimately, for the country.

And so the University of Mpumalanga is proudly born – a university committed to the provision of a suite of focused programmes aimed solely at contributing, in a massive sense, to the enhancement of skills and learning to local, regional, provincial and national excellence in areas that add significant value to our people and our society.

A university that will encompass and capture our singular uniqueness in the creation of sustainable environments that make sense to us all.

This is our vision and our reality.



Dr MD Mabunda

OUR GUIDING VISION

In 2010, in response to the growing enrolment pressure on South African institutions of higher learning, the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, appointed two task teams to investigate the feasibility of establishing new universities to accommodate the growing school-leaving demand for placement. Beyond that, however, was the need to widen access to higher learning, and to increase the intellectual capacity of our country.

With this in mind, and with the country's existing 23 universities operating close to their capacity, there was an urgent need to develop places of study in the only two provinces that were not yet home to universities – Northern Cape and Mpumalanga.

Through face-to-face interviews, written submissions and workshops, the Mpumalanga Task Team, led by Dr Madoda David Mabunda, consulted with representatives of Provincial and Local Government, members of industry, academic institutions, commercial, labour and political interests and community groups, revealing wide-ranging support for the project. Their report was submitted to the Minister and to the Council on Higher Education in September 2011.

In November of the same year, with the appointment of a project management team by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the work of establishing the university began in earnest. The team, including an architect, civil and geotechnical

engineers and an urban planner, visited 12 sites proposed by a range of stakeholders in Mpumalanga. The team's recommendation, made in their June 2012 report, was accepted by the Minister.

Then, in July, President Jacob Zuma announced that the seat of the new university would be at the site of the Lowveld Agricultural College at Mbombela. In August, a detailed Feasibility Report was submitted to the Treasury and the DHET. The ministry subsequently published its Development Framework outlining Government's vision in the Government Gazette in December 2012, and the Minister called on the public to suggest names for the two new universities and to nominate candidates for the two interim councils.

In March 2013, with funds apportioned by Government for the initial development of the project, a Record of Intent was signed by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, Minister Nzimande and the Minister of Public Works to secure the land and facilitate the rapid establishment of the university.

Just four months later, in July 2013, President Zuma announced the name of the new university as the "University of Mpumalanga" as well as the names of the members of the Interim Council to oversee its formal establishment.

The University of Mpumalanga was formally and legally promulgated through the publication of Government Notice (No. 36772) on 22 August 2013.

WIDENING ACCESS TO HIGHER LEARNING TO INCREASE THE INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY OF OUR COUNTRY



DR MADODA DAVID MABUNDA

Dr Mabunda is the Chief Executive Officer of South African National Parks, and former Director of the Kruger National Park. He has published extensively in environmental education and educational psychology and has played a leading role in land reform and restitution in Mpumalanga. An active participant in global conservation agencies, he served as Chair of the World Protected Areas Leadership Forum from 2001 to 2012. He has served on various boards including Nedbank Green Trust, Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism, and University of Pretoria Alumni. Dr Mabunda has a PhD from the University of Pretoria.



MR VINCENT MLOMBO

Mr Mlombo is the Chairperson of the Corporate and Auxiliary Committee of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, and of the Emalahleni Housing Company. He serves as a member of the Provincial Steering Committee on HRDS. He has worked for Sappi Kraft Ngodwana for 11 years. After joining the unions in 1995, he represented workers in various forums and platforms in the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers Union, the South African Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.



PROF CONNIE MOKADI

Prof Mokadi is the CEO of the National Institute for Higher Education (NIHE) in Mpumalanga. She is responsible for the establishment of the institution, providing strategic support to the board of NIHE, as well as finance and governance functions and providing leadership and strategic management to the institute. Prof Mokadi serves on the Project Steering Committee of the new universities and on the Siyabuswa Steering Committee. Prior to that, she was an Interim Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg and Vice Chancellor and Principal of Technikon Witwatersrand.



PROF CHRIS DE BEER

Prof de Beer has held several management positions in higher education including Head of Department (Mercantile Law), Deputy Dean and Dean of the Law Faculty at the University of Potchefstroom, and Registrar, Vice-Principal and Senior Vice-Principal at the University of Pretoria. He was also appointed by the Minister of Higher Education and Training as Administrator for the University of Zululand. He has served on numerous committees and task groups of Higher Education South Africa (HESA) and its predecessors, among others the Legal and Human Resources Committees. Prof de Beer has led a number of projects in transformation of governance and management structures and rationalisation and repositioning of faculties and support services at the University of Pretoria. He is an *ex officio* member of various committees of the university's Council and Senate and is also a member of the Academy of Science for South Africa (ASSAF) formerly the SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns.

IN JULY 2013, PRESIDENT ZUMA ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF THE INTERIM COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR BOTH SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY AND MPUMALANGA UNIVERSITY



MS HELEN THRUSH

Ms Thrush is the Chief Executive Officer of HTS Business Support (Pty) Ltd, and is responsible for the firm's strategic and operational management. She is the Chairperson of the Audit Committee of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, a member of the Audit Committee and the Board of the Mpumalanga Gambling Board, the immediate past Chairperson of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Board, and is a member of the SAICA Advisory Council. Ms Thrush is a former President and current board member of the Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism. She has served in various business forums and has completed many audit tasks commissioned by the Auditor General in Mpumalanga. Ms Thrush is a Chartered Accountant registered with SAICA and an Auditor registered with the Independent Regulatory Board of Auditors (IRBA).



WHY WE'RE HERE

The University of Mpumalanga and Sol Plaatje University are the first public universities to be established in South Africa since 1994. As such, they stand as symbols of the ambitions of our new society – democracy, inclusiveness, growth and opportunity for all.

The University of Mpumalanga aspires to be an academic destination of choice for qualifying school leavers not only from the province, but from across South Africa and the continent. It will embrace its students, providing them with the opportunity to come together in common dignity regardless of their personal circumstances. And it will be a centre of excellence that will assume its rightful place among South Africa's institutions of higher learning, for the benefit not only of all who study here, but of our growing nation and advancing economy.

OUR INCLUSIVE VISION

We envision our university as one whose mission it is to provide its students and staff with the highest level of academic opportunity in an environment that reflects the respect, progressiveness and best practice of a 21st century institution.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MPUMALANGA WILL:

- be a site of learning and culture, giving expression to democracy and social justice and increasing participation in political, social, cultural and economic life
- take centre stage in addressing the challenges confronting society and play its role within our developing country
- be an African university, part of a broader continental network, rooted in the African experience, while generating ideas and insights with global relevance
- develop innovative modalities of teaching, research, civic engagement, governance and funding, responding to ever-changing social, cultural, political, environmental and economic demands
- be a relevant leader, actively engaging communities to help facilitate social development and delivering innovation-driven research for commercial and economic advancement
- assist with societal transformation by increasing participation and access to higher education institutions, and also by enhancing the calibre of the research population



AN ACADEMIC DESTINATION OF CHOICE FOR QUALIFYING SCHOOL LEAVERS NOT ONLY FROM THE PROVINCE, BUT FROM ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA AND THE CONTINENT

MAKING OURSELVES

As an integral part of the network of institutions of higher learning in South Africa, the University of Mpumalanga will embrace the needs of the province that nurtures it, and help provide the skills in agriculture, education and health as well as tourism and hospitality and related engineering disciplines that will grow the region's existing economy and expand its opportunity. It will be founded on the highest academic and administrative principles, drawing on the expertise and experience of institutional partners in developing its own identity and uniqueness.

Expressly conceived as an integral part of its region, the new university will ensure that the imbalances and injustices of the past are redressed. We are committed to equality of access to equal opportunities. This is an inherent part of what we are, just as our commitment to quality in what we do is fundamental to our makeup. We represent a force for social and economic integration, dedicated to demonstrating leadership in the sustainability of the development we will foster.

A DESIGN APPROACH THAT NOT ONLY INTEGRATES THE UNIVERSITY INTO THE CITY AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES, BUT WORKS WITH WATER, NATURAL LANDMARKS AND THE APPROPRIATE USE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION

INTEGRATED INTO AND STRENGTHENING THE SUBSTANTIAL GREEN AREAS AROUND THE SITE, THE UNIVERSITY WILL SEE THE CREATION OF SHARED MEETING SPACES FOR STUDENTS, STAFF AND RESIDENTS

MAKING OUR SPACE

With the seat of the university on the tract of land that already accommodates the Lowveld Agricultural College, its situation just 5km from the centre of Mbombela on the R40 artery from the city will provide good regional accessibility.

The landscape at the site that includes agricultural fields, undulating topography, waterways and vistas, demanded a design approach that not only integrates the university into the city and the surrounding communities, but works with water, natural landmarks and the appropriate use of indigenous vegetation. The gentle north-south slope of the land with its distinct outcrops and ridgeline allows for terracing to accommodate east-west movement. Adept use of this contoured construction will ensure that the superb long views are preserved, imbuing the campus with an enveloping sense of place.

SUSTAINING, SOCIAL, CENTRED

Integrated into, and strengthening the substantial green areas around the site, the university will see the creation of shared meeting spaces for students, staff and residents across three sub-campuses. The focal public space of the first campus, the Hill Campus, will be the Lawn and Park, the heart around which the university will develop over time.

In addition to the Hill Campus, there will be the Orchard Campus, intended for residential, sport and recreational use, centred on its focal square; and the Lower Campus, designed for a wide variety of functions. Though these sub-campuses will be developed in separate phases, each will ultimately be a microcosm of the fully integrated whole.

The incorporation of the Teacher Education Campus at Siyabuswa will facilitate the integration of the teacher education programmes, and while that facility is separated in space, its identity, character and ethos will reflect everything being developed at the main seat of the university.



LEARNING FOR LEADERSHIP

In a region thirsty for learning, we will assume a leadership role in providing our province and our country with academic avenues for advancement. With unique programmes designed to match the features and character of our province, our goal is to attract students and academics from across our country and continent. Specialised niche areas of study will provide an academic environment of the highest standard, that will inspire both students and staff and cement our place among the country's institutions of higher learning.

IN A REGION THIRSTY FOR LEARNING, WE WILL ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE

SPECIALISED NICHE AREAS OF STUDY WILL PROVIDE AN ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD



QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXCELLENCE

The University of Mpumalanga is a comprehensive university designed to initially offer a mix of agricultural and related natural science disciplines, teacher education, African languages teaching, and hospitality programmes with qualifications that range from diplomas and Bachelor degrees in the initial phases, to Honours, Masters and PhD degrees over time.

Our Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) will take cognisance of the needs of the region as well as the nation, and of the vision of building a prosperous and sustainable economy.

The first programmes on offer in 2014 will form the foundation on which our academic vision of excellence and relevance will be built as we roll out our first five-year PQM.

We have identified a number of academic and professional fields for initial development. These include teacher education, with a focus on the foundation phase and African languages teaching, Agriculture, with particular regard to our sub-tropical climate, food security and rural development conditions, and Management Studies with a focus on Hospitality Management.

Ultimately the spread of offerings will include programmes in the Natural and Life Sciences, Business Economics and Management Studies, Engineering, Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences, African Languages, Humanities, Social Sciences and Communication and Media Studies. Together, these disciplines will work to make the university an academic centre of excellence, strength and purpose, with an equally strong commitment to the region and its communities.

AN ACADEMIC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, REGIONAL STRENGTH AND PURPOSE, WITH AN EQUALLY STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE REGION AND ITS COMMUNITIES

THE FIRST PROGRAMMES ON OFFER IN 2014 WILL BE THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH OUR ACADEMIC VISION OF EXCELLENCE AND RELEVANCE WILL BE BUILT



THE SPREAD OF OFFERINGS WILL INCLUDE:

2014

• EDUCATION

• BUSINESS ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

• AGRICULTURE

• LIFE SCIENCES

• COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

• HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND RELATED CLINICAL SCIENCES

• AFRICAN LANGUAGES

• ENGINEERING

• SOCIAL SCIENCES

• COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES

2020

A PLACE OF PROMISE

Universal ideals inform what we do and African needs and aspirations drive our quest for excellence, achievement and growth. Together with all our stakeholders in Government, industry, and the communities that host us, we are committed to making the new University of Mpumalanga a 21st century institution to match the highest levels of expectation, accomplishment and output.

As the university establishes its place in the heart of Mpumalanga, it endows its beginnings with the promise and potential of our region to confirm its rightful place in the knowledge economy of our country and continent.

It marks a place where a vibrant academic spirit will infuse the economy, increasing capacity, maximising skills and creating opportunity and accomplishment – a place of new energy that will empower its students and staff to realise their own promise, to be different, to make a difference, and to stand out.

**A 21ST CENTURY INSTITUTION TO MATCH
THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF EXPECTATION,
ACCOMPLISHMENT AND OUTPUT**

**A PLACE OF NEW ENERGY
THAT WILL EMPOWER ITS
STUDENTS AND STAFF TO
REALISE THEIR OWN
PROMISE, TO BE DIFFERENT,
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
AND TO STAND OUT**