



13 December 2021

Newly installed UCT Chancellor believes in empowering youth through education

In a fitting ceremony on 10 December 2021, Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe was officially installed as the Chancellor of the University of Cape Town (UCT) surrounded by various university stakeholders, dignitaries from across the country and delightful musical performances at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

- [Download the Chancellor's inaugural speech.](#)
- [Download photos and the video of the Chancellor's inaugural speech.](#)

The crowd cheered with enthusiasm as Chair of Council Babalwa Ngonyama adorned her with her chancellors' robe and when, Ngonyama and Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng capped her before she officially signed the prestigious Golden Book – a book signed by dignitaries, presidents, honorary doctorate recipients and anyone of stature to visit the university.

At the start of the event once guests had settled, Professor Phakeng welcomed them to the important occasion while Ngonyama officially opened the celebration. "We are here today to witness a moment of immense pride, and promise. It is a moment of recognition of how far we have come and what promise and opportunity lie ahead."

She shared that the Chancellor serves as a role model, supports fund raising efforts, acts as a principal ally and defender on critical matters which a university must take a stand. She expressed how her heart was filled with gratitude and humility when she realised that this is the first time in the university's history that three Black African women will be at the helm.

At UCT, she continued, “we develop critical thinkers, leaders and individuals who will create ripples in their communities and on a global stage, who will provide a different set of solutions for the world’s challenges and in so doing make a better future for all.”

She challenged everyone in the room to set the pace for creating societal and human impact from the roots up. “We can do this – together - by building organisations that go beyond just the bottom line. We must seek to make a difference by propelling humanity forward, by building the consciousness of people, by being principled in everything we do. These are the values that our new Chancellor personifies. In Dr Moloi Motsepe, we have a leader that will take UCT to new heights.”

Others who expressed their pride and happiness at the installation of Dr Moloi-Motsepe as Chancellor of UCT were Hilde Schwab, the Chairperson and Co-Founder of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and the World Economic Forum; Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology Buti Manamela who shared: “Dr Moloi-Motsepe is without a doubt an excellent choice for chancellor. By appointing her, you’ve appointed a model South African and visionary leader.”

Previous chancellor Graça Machel also shared her experiences as the first woman and African to hold the position of Chancellor at UCT and congratulated Dr Moloi-Motsepe. “My hope is that your leadership at UCT will drive further the transformation of this highly prestigious institution.”

The event also served as the inaugural UCT Chancellor’s Address. Dr Moloi-Motsepe took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support and attending the event. “It is truly an honour to stand before you as the 6th Chancellor of this glorious institution.”

She continued by touching on topics close to her heart, a large part of the reason she was appointed as Chancellor.

“It is especially important for me that I can speak to you, and take up this position, on international Human Rights Day, when we commemorate the United Nations adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, remember and honour all those who have worked and suffered for the realisation of these rights, and reaffirm our individual and collective commitment to work for a world where everyone is truly free.”

In closing she reflected on the importance of compassion and shared: “If we keep this sense of what is truly important, if we truly do our best, tirelessly and selflessly, then we will maintain and nurture what is already excellent at this great institution and in our society. And we will further shape our universities and our communities into centres of excellence that are admired globally, all over the world. We will establish centres that are created for our future, for our children and their children.”

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