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UCT vice-chancellor full of optimism as he starts his term

- [Watch: Remarks by Professor Moshabela.](#)
- [Download: Professor Moshabela's images.](#)

The University of Cape Town (UCT)'s new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mosa Moshabela, aims to build a united community and create an enabling environment for students at staff at the university.

Professor Moshabela, who officially commenced his tenure on 1 August 2024, shared some of his goals on his first day in office.

"One of my intentions is to create a university environment where staff and students can grow and contribute to the world on any scale, large or small. UCT's strength lies in each member of the university community, students and staff members alike.

"In addition to creating an enabling environment for students and staff to thrive in, my other goal is to build a united community. Unity should be a common thread that binds us together as a campus community, even in our diversity," he said.

Professor Moshabela said he was immensely honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of leading UCT as the 11th vice-chancellor.

"I remain humbled by the overwhelming confidence shown in me by the university's Council and Senate during and post the recruitment process. It is such confidence, and the tangible support I have received even in the weeks leading up to me taking up the role formally, that will serve as the wind beneath my wings.

"I start this journey not only full of optimism and hope for UCT, but also mindful of the fact that I will draw from the collective strength of all members of the UCT community," said Professor Moshabela.

Drawing from one of the most common-known African proverbs, which states that “if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,” Professor Moshabela alluded to the collective strength of the UCT community.

“As I join during this period, following the challenges the university faced in recent years and appreciating the sterling job done by Emeritus Professor Daya Reddy over the past 16 months, I am mindful that we can only go far by going together. Emeritus Professor Reddy, in his role as vice-chancellor interim, stabilised the institution, and I thank him and members of Council, chaired by Mr Norman Arendse (SC), for their steadfast leadership.”

Professor Moshabela acknowledged some of the challenges as he takes up the role.

“There are, of course, many serious challenges ahead for all of us: improving the university’s financial position; rebuilding trust among all our stakeholders; attracting students and academics from across Africa and the globe; and working with other university leaders across South Africa to respond to the higher education funding challenges. Another important priority will be to work with Council to fill the vacancies on the executive team. These team members and I will serve you as you help to take UCT forward.

“I look forward to the journey ahead, as we collectively work towards ensuring that UCT remains the best university in and for Africa, and as we continue pursuing the university’s Vision 2030 anchored around the three pillars of excellence, sustainability and transformation.”

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Elijah Moholola

Spokesperson
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: 021 650 5674
Cell: 083 981 7770
Email: elijah.moholola@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za