

Thursday 2 August 2018

**Professor Bongani Mayosi Memorial Service**  
**Vote of thanks**  
**Presented by Professor Alison Lewis,**  
**Dean, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment**

A "dean" (or *Decanus* in Latin) means "Master of ten" and was originally the head of a group of ten soldiers or monks (as opposed to a centurion, who was in charge of 100 in the ancient Roman army).

Prof Bongani was more than a Master of ten, he was Master of many. Master of his vocation, Master of trail blazing, Master of training students and specialists; Master of building connections with colleagues.

He gave being a Dean a good name. He was a scholarly Dean in the best possible way: An A rated scientist, an eminent researcher and a socially responsive academic who astonished us with his intellect, his commitment and his humanism.

He was a hero. He was talented, courageous, successful, and kind. He worked hard. He made personal sacrifices for the benefit of others.

And, like any hero, he carried a heavy burden of responsibility. He carried the burden of **our** ambitions, goals, hopes and dreams. We could project our loftiest ideals of character onto him.

But we can also forget that whether it is Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela or Bongani Mayosi, we are always just human beings. All of us, here, today, VC, Ministers, academics, students, family, friends - all just human beings – both flawed and divine.

The most poignant thing we can learn from any hero is that they are human.

Thank you to all of you for being here. Thank you to the speakers and the musicians. Thank you especially to the family, for allowing us to have Bongani as our colleague. The extent of the turn out today reflects how he has touched and influenced so many lives.

Dear Bongani, Fellow Dean, Hero, Master of many.

Uhambe kakuhle. Ulale ngoxolo.

Professor Alison Lewis  
Dean, EBE