



The Vaal University of Technology

International Africa Research Day

The Vaal University of Technology will virtually host the VUT International Africa Research Day on 29 May 2023. The event will start from 11h00 till 13h40. The event is open to all VUT staff members, students and the general public.

This event will be celebrating and showcasing the role played by VUT, through its international scientists and postdoctoral candidates, in achieving Agenda 2063 through their research and scholarship. This event will also highlight the importance of how internationalized the VUT is, as expressed by its international blend of its staff and students. The event will also celebrate the unity and diversity of the Vaal University of Technology.

The theme of this event is ***“Africa is the Future”***. This theme resonates well with the Vaal University’s positioning as the African university of choice. The VUT is an institution firmly and deeply rooted in the African identity and aspirations. The VUT is actively contributing to this strategic continental objective as outlined in its vision and mission statement *“to be a university that leads in innovative knowledge and quality, cutting edge technology education that produces employable graduates, creating scholarly environment conducive for knowledge development and transfer in Africa and beyond”*. The African Union’s strategic objectives, as outlined in the Agenda 2063, echo well with the Vaal University of Technology’s vision, mission and core values. These values are: Excellence; Creativity; Mutual Respect; Honesty and Integrity; Collegiality; Tolerance; and Diversity.

The Vaal University of Technology has, for this event and celebration, invited scientists from its four Faculties to present on their research and scholarly work that is of impact to Africa’s development and innovative capabilities.

Thus, the objectives of this event are:

- To create an intellectual reflective space to dialogue about the challenges confronting the *“Mother Continent”* and the role that African leaders from all walks of life can play in shaping *“A New Africa”*
- To proffer key insights for positioning the African continent as a force to be reckoned with in the 21st century
- To explore how inter and intra African university collaboration can play a meaningful role to foster teaching, learning, research and community engagement for the benefit of African development.
- To explore how to influence young Africans at micro, macro and meso levels to champion African Renaissance

It is further expected that this event will reinvigorate and encourage the VUT community and stakeholders to appreciate and foster unity, social cohesion, cultural understanding, and tolerance to ensure that we achieve the Africa we want as we move forward.

For further enquiries please contact VUT organising Departments:

- Social Justice & Transformation, Mr George Mvalo at georgem1@vut.ac.za or X9223
- Stakeholder Engagement, Ms Nondumiso Lufele at ndumil@vut.ac.za or X7760
- Internationalisation, Mr Vido Kungune at vidok@vut.ac.za or X6990
- Research Directorate, Dr Susanna Burger at susannab@vut.ac.za or x9531