



**2 May 2023**

## **Universities South Africa Statement on the Passing of Professor Dan Kgwadi, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Vaal University of Technology**

It was with heavy hearts and a deep sense of loss that we, the Board of Directors of Universities South Africa (USAf), received news of the untimely passing of our colleague, Professor Dan Kgwadi, on 30 April 2023. At the time of his passing, Professor Kgwadi was the Vice-Chancellor of Vaal University of Technology (VUT). We are deeply shocked by the loss of a colleague and a dedicated servant of higher education. We send our condolences to his family, the VUT community, North-West University (NWU), all the organisations in which he served, and South Africa's broader higher education community.

Professor Kgwadi was the first Campus Rector of Mahikeng Campus at NWU from 1 January 2005 until March 2014. In this role, he displayed sound stewardship in the unchartered time of university mergers where much patience, teamwork and collaboration would have been essential.

An accomplished scholar, Professor Kgwadi became the first Black Rector of NWU from 1 April 2014. He occupied this position for more than seven years until 31 January 2022. It was under his leadership that NWU expanded its research portfolio as he sought to attract the best talent to grow the institution's academic footprint and standing in South Africa and beyond.

In February 2022, Professor Kgwadi took up the vice-chancellorship of VUT, where he was serving at the time of his passing.

Professor Kgwadi will be remembered as one of the significant players in the on-going and arduous journey of transforming our higher education system in South Africa. He has served our university sector with honour and integrity.

As the Board of Directors of USAf, we salute this compatriot for his immense contribution to the sector, and for his excellent service to the South African nation and beyond.

Robala ka kgotso Morena.

**Sibongile Muthwa**

**Chairperson: Universities South Africa**

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