



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

Welcoming function for Prof Francis Petersen: Qwaqwa Campus
11 May 2017, 10:00
Rolihlahla Mandela Hall, Qwaqwa Campus

Programme Director: Welcome, everybody. Welcome to all of our esteemed guests, which includes the audience. I am very happy to welcome you to this joyful occasion. My name is Professor Le Roux, and I will be the programme director for today. Just to give you a few programming notes, please remember to switch off your cell phones or switch them to silent. If you would like to make noise or express your appreciation, feel free to wave your flags. Today is perhaps one of the most important events that our institution will host, but it is also a very joyful event. So, I would like to ask you to respect both the dignity and the joy of this illustrious event. Welcome once again, and thank you to the choir for entertaining the audience before the procession came in and for welcoming the procession. Our first speaker for today will be Professor Prakesh Naidoo, who is our Qwaqwa Campus Principal, and he will do the official welcoming and introductions. Thank you.

Professor Prakesh Naidoo: Dumelang, sanibonane, goeiemore, molwene, good morning. I trust all of you are well. It is an absolute privilege to welcome you to the joyous welcoming ceremony for our brand-new Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Professor Petersen. Now, it is not often – maybe we will just allow those people to come in quickly. Thank you very much. It is not often that we appoint a new rector. You know, generally in universities, a new rector is appointed every seven to ten years. So therefore, this occasion is a very special event and I really want to welcome you all equally, but firstly – in terms of our protocol – I want to recognise His Majesty, the King, Thokoana Mopeli of the Bakoena Royal House. King – he is seated right down here, and a great welcome to you. I think you need to give him a round of applause, the King of our area. But, very importantly, I want to welcome Paramount Queen Mofomohadi Mopeli of the Bakoena Royal House. My Queen, welcome, and thank you that you are always at our functions – she is a great supporter of this campus. You will see her at all our important functions – and all the advice that she gives us – so thank you very much for that. I am also privileged to welcome the royal entourage who are sitting right here – if you want to raise your flags – the royal entourage right in front next to his Majesty the King, and in particular our friend Morena Indantsi Mopeli, who is always here to advise us.

Today I want to send this very, very special Qwaqwa welcome to Professor Francis Petersen, our newly appointed Vice-Chancellor and Rector. He will talk to you later. Wave your flags to Professor Petersen, please. Sitting next to him is his lovely wife, Mrs Cheslyn Petersen – show her the welcome that we give to the partner of our Vice-Chancellor. And of course, a special welcome – I just want to wait a couple of

seconds for our students who have arrived from the lectures to join us, because at this campus we are serious about academic work. We did not call off lectures for the function, because we also want our students to make sure they get some academic work into a busy day like today. And in doing so, I want to welcome the Chairperson of the University Council, Mr Willem Louw. It is important that you give him a royal welcome, because he is in charge of the institution. He is the biggest boss of this institution at this point in time. Mr Willem Louw. And of course, the rest of the wave you can save for later, not because they are less important, but because of time. One of the people that you would know, especially if you come from schools in the area, is Ms Lindiwe Mabaso, who is the Acting Director of the Department of Education. She is seated right here, the lovely lady who is seated next to me on this side. And of course, the evergreen Vice-Rector: Operations, Professor Morgan, he is the young man seated there in the centre – welcome to you, Professor Morgan. Professor Corli Witthuhn, the Vice-Rector: Research, with us today – like you and me – I hope I am not blocking you. The Registrar, Dr Vinger, in the centre, and of course the rest of us you know, our Campus Vice-Principal, Mr Teboho Manchu and Dr Krause, faculty deans from Bloemfontein, Professor Millie Rivera who is here today, she is the Dean of Humanities, and Professor Loyiso Jita, both of them acting deans. Of course, Professor Loyiso Jita in Education. I also want to welcome assistant deans, Dr Anofi Ashafa, Dr Cias Tsotetsi, Mr Albert Schoeman, Mr Johan Nel. It is also a privilege to welcome from Bloemfontein the Dean of Students, Mr Pura Mgolombane. Ah, you recognise him.

Very important, the President of the SRC on the Qwaqwa Campus, I don't need to mention the name – Njabulo Mwali – and seated at the bottom in those lovely blazers of the University of the Free State, the rest of our SRC – a special welcome to them as well. I will be in trouble if I do not welcome the student parliament. I must welcome the student parliament that is present here today. I also welcome all student organisations, clubs, and societies, and on my right – you will see them later – is this award-winning choir from Beacon Secondary School. Give them a special welcome.

A special welcome to our UFS Qwaqwa Choir – you heard them sing just now. I also want to welcome all UFS academic staff. You've seen them in their regalia seated in the front, and they are important people because they are going to make sure that they get you through the years of academic delivery this year. So, I want to welcome the academic staff, the support staff, and a special welcome to our work staff who worked so hard to get this place shipshape. I also want to welcome all our students. I want to welcome the Executive Committee of the employee unions, I want to welcome UVPERSU and NEHAWU in particular, the Chairperson, Ms Khethiwe Biyo from UVPERSU, and Mr Teboho Pitso from NEHAWU. They will speak today as well.

I want to welcome all business and community members, and a special welcome to our Programme Director, Professor Aliza le Roux. We have received some apologies and messages of support from the following people: Councillor Malefu Vilakazi, Executive Mayor, Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality; Councillor Tlokotsi Motaung, Executive Mayor of the Phumelela Local Municipality. We received apologies from the Principal of the Ficksburg High School, Mr Van Zyl, and the Principal of Retief High School in Kestell, Mr Beukes. We have also received an

apology from the Executive Mayor of Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality. He is currently abroad, but today he has sent his two MMCs, MMC Thato Mopeli and MMC Rachel Makhoana – we are also privileged to welcome them this morning.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are truly blessed to receive a person of Professor Peterson's calibre. Of course, I am not going to tell you anything more about him, as he will be introduced later. We are very optimistic that Professor Petersen is one of the best things that could happen to the UFS recently. You know that we had a lot of strikes recently, a lot of protests – so, it is good to have a new person come in – and given what he has been telling us in the last couple of weeks, he seems to have the answers to all the questions we pose. I am sure you are going to join him as students, staff, and community members, working jointly in eradicating poverty, unemployment, and hunger, among other imperatives. We know that you and I have a lot to learn from Professor Petersen, and Professor Petersen, we definitely look forward to this. I thought as I part – I might share this with you. Yesterday afternoon when we were doing a dry round in this very hall – we had the choirs and the school choirs as well as the a cappella group – and when Mr Manchu and Dr Krause were just completing the final loose ends, I declared that this place is now ready to receive Professor Petersen – and Professor Petersen has declared that we have pitter-patter on the roof. We had a beautiful downpour on a very, very clear day. Now, when you have rain – given that Qwaqwa hasn't had rain for the last two years, let alone water – that is a sign that we are blessed, and that your coming here is a blessing for us. So, hopefully we will have lots of rain and you will bring that rain both literally and figuratively. I trust you will enjoy today's function and that, except for Prof Petersen's speech, all the others will be short and that our choir, the award-winning choir from Beacon High, will most certainly entertain you. I am sure you have listened carefully to the programme director. You have your cell phones switched off, I am sure. If you have it on silent, you are welcome to tweet or send a WhatsApp on the beautiful event, but please keep them on silent and let's not disturb the function. I am also sure you will be glued to your seats until the procession leaves the hall and that you will only find need to leave your seats for an absolute call of nature. We don't envisage going beyond 12 o'clock today. I hope you enjoy the rest of the event. Ke leboha, siabonga, dankie, and thank you.

Programme Director: Thank you, Professor Naidoo, for that warm welcome. Now, I am quite excited to announce some of the entertainment on our programme. First up, we have Mr Maruping Mokalake, who is a South African born and bred tenor, and we are very proud and honoured to have him performing here – he has won several competitions and accolades. He is currently a member of the opera company, the Voice Lab, and this comes after about ten years of intensive voice training, including among others, at the UFS as well as in Thaba 'Nchu. Most recently, he won an award for solo singing at the national singing competition last year in 2016. So, I would like you all to welcome him very warmly. Mr Mokalake will be performing for us now with Petro Engelbrecht. Thank you.

Well, thank you very much. That was – that gave me goose bumps. That was very beautiful – you have quite an amazing talent. So, next up, we have several messages from stakeholders, and I will call them up one by one. First, I would like Mr Teboho Pitso, who is the Chairperson of NEHAWU, to come and say a word, please.

Teboho Pitso: Thank you, Programme Director. Let me start by sending revolutionary greetings to our esteemed guests, all our invited guests, especially the royalties that have blessed us with their presence today. Let me also take this opportunity to extend a welcoming hand from all NEHAWU members and say, Prof Petersen, you are welcome to our beautiful campus. Prof, us workers, employees of the University of the Free State, we appreciate the fact that you are taking the leadership of this university in trying and challenging times, both nationally and within the institution itself. At present we don't envy you, coming to deal with the Shimla report as one of your first tasks leading this campus at this university. But, we hope and pray that under your stewardship, the UFS will continue to rise and become a place where all of us, both staff and students, feel proud to be associated with. Prof, there is a plea from the workers that at least not one of them will be retrenched under your leadership, at least for the next five years we won't have to fear retrenchments. Prof, we have mentioned the challenges that you are faced with, and unfortunately as workers, we are going to add a couple more that we believe you have to prioritise as the CEO of the university. The first frustration, Prof, especially of employees on this campus, is the kind of relationship that exists between the three campuses, especially the relationship between the Qwaqwa Campus and the Bloemfontein Campus. We believe that under your leadership, things will be sorted out and that we will have a smooth ride at the university where we know who can make which decisions. Also as employees, we would like to employ your leadership team to try and change the way they interact with students. Students are first our children and then they are our clients on this campus, so we need to take good care of them, and the way we treat them is going to reflect on the UFS. There are challenges from the students who are raising issues, and the way we interact with those issues is important because it leads to some sort of a reaction, but then the kind of reaction will depend on how we engage with the students. We employ you to treat our students as our clients and not as hooligans, where every time they go and sing outside, the brutal security forces are called in to deal with our students. Lastly Prof, let me offer the hand of support from the union. As NEHAWU, we are going to support you in your endeavours to take the University of the Free State to greater heights. But we will not be doing justice if we don't engage you on the issues where there are differences, and I hope your door will always be open for us to come and engage with you on the differences that might arise. Let me say once again Prof, on behalf of all the NEHAWU members, welcome to the University of the Free State. Thank you.

Programme Director: Thank you, Mr Pitso. Next, I would like to call the representative, the Chairperson of UVPERSU, Ms Khethiwe Biyo, to come and say a word.

Ms Khethiwe Biyo: Thank you, Programme Director. With due respect, I would like to introduce myself to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Francis Petersen, all members of royalty, members of staff, honourable guests representing all invited departments and categories, students, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Khethiwe Biyo and I am the acting Chairperson of the UVPERSU union. First of all, humanity or human dignity can be obtained by being intellectually equipped through education. Universities were established to enable people to work and study hard in order to attain that intellectual equipment. To facilitate our path toward this goal, we,

students and staff members of this university, have to respect time, obedience as a principle of life, our school work, and our mentors on and off campus. These principles apply throughout, from Grade R up to tertiary level, and can be seen as the foundations of building the nation. Professor Petersen, you are a distinguished academic leader and we see you as role model for us, as staff of the UFS, and as members of the UVPERSU union. We know that for you to be where you are today, you have applied this fundamental principle. We also know that you bring a lot of knowledge and experience from the University of Cape Town, from Mintek, and other places. You have already contributed this knowledge to developing the UFS Integrated Transformation Plan, and we thank you for that. We are also happy that you believe in teamwork and that you are committed to working with us as a team. We especially look forward to learning from you about institutional innovation. We hope that you will share your knowledge and experience on institutional innovation so that we can work together to make the UFS innovative in all it does, and that it becomes a centre of academic excellence. We want to be innovators and leaders in tertiary education just like you, Prof Petersen. UVPERSU commits to operate by principle, irrespective of age, race, religion, and culture, like you again, Prof. We are committed to creating a respectful, diverse, and welcoming learning environment. As far as possible, we, the members of this union, would like to abide by the rules and principles agreed to at this institution. Where unhappiness or disagreements arise – as they often will – we believe in settling differences through debates and negotiations, not by demolishing campus infrastructure, because future generations will use these. We can solve any problem by coming together with our leaders on this campus. UVPERSU is committed to peaceful negotiations, and we are looking forward to working constructively with you to improve teaching and learning at the University of the Free State Qwaqwa Campus. May God bless all our leaders who have made an effort to take care of this rainbow nation, and have given us light and prosperity through the maintenance of a sustainable education process. We look forward to learning from you, Prof, and to work under your leadership. Thank you.

Programme Director: Thank you very much. I would like to call the President of the Qwaqwa Campus – the President of the SRC, Mr Njabulo Mwali, to the podium.

Mr Njabulo Mwali: I have never spoken at an event or ceremony of this nature, and one would understand that as I am standing here, I am nervous and I am shivering, and in a state that I have never been in my life. So, before I start with my speech, I would like to sing Prof Peterson a song. Just to calm my nerves. Now, with the calming of my nerves out of the way, I would like to greet firstly members of the royal house, dignitaries from the Department of Education, dignitaries from our local municipality, the rectorate and its presence, members of local management, the deans and the assistant deans, the students, chairperson of council, and then lastly, I would like to greet our new father, Prof Francis Petersen, and our mother, Mrs Petersen. This morning and last night, I was stressing as to what I would say, and what I found out was what the core functions of a VC are. Now, our VC must be an intellectual person, he must have a good academic background, and yet again, he must have a very good business and management background. But I, since I am a student of the University of the Free State, would like to redefine this and say from the above two mentioned, our VC should also have good leadership skills. When speaking of good leadership skills, I was blessed to be at a conference this weekend where I heard a little story. The story goes this way: in the early 2000s or late 2000s,

the Minister of Health in Gauteng decided that each hospital, public hospital, has to have a new management, and therefore managers of each hospital had to re-apply for their positions. So, managers were appointed, most of these hospitals had new managers. But the gentleman who was telling me the story, he was part of the council of the hospital, and he said that when his new manager walked in, he asked if he could please report back to council after six months so that he could do his research about the hospital that he was going to manage. Now, this gentleman did his research and the six months went by and he came back to the council and he presented his findings. His findings were that the hospital, especially the kitchen, had some disturbing sights, it was very dirty in some instances. Now, bear in mind that this is a hospital, this is a place of health, you cannot afford for a hospital to be dirty. But this hospital was obviously operating very well, it was saving people's lives and it was doing all the necessary things that it had to do. The reason why I am telling you this, Prof Petersen, why I am sharing the story with you, is because no matter how good an institution may be, there is still a bit of dirtiness that needs to be cleansed, and the reason why you have been appointed as the VC of this particular institution, is because the institution believes that you will bring change. You will bring something new to our university, something that no other person was able to bring. I remember in Council, when we looked at your resume, it showed your academic excellence, that is why you have the title of Professor. It showed also your business excellence. If I am not mistaken, you were one of the co-founders in the BBE, and that is what we need from a VC at this point in time, because our core business as an institution is leading academic excellence, which is one of your pillars in managing. We also need to raise funds so that we can cater for those students who are academically excelling, but do not have the money to pay for their tuition fees. And with that we really do believe that you will lead us well in your term in office as our Rector, and we do believe that you will bring about the change and the transformation that our institution needs. One of your other pillars I spoke about – I remember in your welcoming of, the re-opening of the university at the beginning of the year, you spoke about the multi-campus institution and how to lead it, and one of your pillars actually deals precisely with that. We thank you for understanding that this is a multi-campus institution and that the Qwaqwa Campus is also part of the UFS. Obviously, with this welcome we really do feel part of the UFS. We do feel as part of the family and not as a stepsister of the university. Lastly, I would like to welcome our mother. You know, I would be so happy if you would move to Qwaqwa, because that way I know that Prof Petersen will be here each and every week. And Mrs Petersen, I think the university should also thank you and also welcome you with open arms, because you are giving a lot to the university. You are going to support your spouse – who is going to be very busy – because this university needs transformation, and in the household that I come from, I have been taught that no man can lead without a powerful woman by his side. So, with those short words, I would like to welcome not only Prof Francis Petersen, but also his wife. In short, I am welcoming the family Petersen as our VC. Thank you.

Programme Director: Thank you, Mr President, for those very warm and welcoming words. I would now like to call on Ms Lindiwe Mabaso, who is the acting District Director of the Department of Education, to come to the podium.

Ms Lindiwe Mabaso: Thank you, Programme Director, for providing me this opportunity. Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Campus Principal, I would like to bring

special greetings from Thabo Mofutsanyana Education District. All protocol is observed. Professor Petersen, you are most welcome in this university. As the education district, especially Thabo Mofutsanyana district where the Qwaqwa Campus is located, we want to say to the Professor, Professor we are so grateful to be associated with this campus. The district has been performing well in Mathematics and Science. You ask yourself why? It is because of the product of this campus. Professor Petersen, I think I won't be telling a lie if I say that the district where this campus is, is where it is today because of the students from this campus. On 7 April, Professor Petersen, the Minister of Education was giving awards to all districts in the country that has performed well. The performance is not only judged by the number of learners that passed, but it is judged by the inclusive basket of criteria where you talk about Mathematics passes, you talk about Physical Sciences passes, Maths participation, throughput, all these criteria. This district became position one in the country out of 81 districts. You ask the question why, because this district has so many schools in the village. It is because of the support of this campus. Professor Petersen, we are so grateful to have this mutual relationship with the campus. You talk of IBP. IBP is part of the programme that is assisting our learners to improve their performance. It has been broadcasted from the South Campus of the University of the Free State. The university has been so important in this district, because we have been producing good learners who are well prepared for life. Professor Petersen and all the stakeholders here, in education, basic education or higher education, our challenges is to find ways in which we can encourage our students to understand that the point of the university is not to prepare them only to be financially successful, though their education may well do that, but to find a bigger purpose for their lives. We have seen this campus, this university doing that, and the person speaking here today, is also from this campus. Professor Petersen, once again we welcome you as a leader of this university. Under your leadership, we want to continue to have good teachers in our schools that will change our schools to be centres of excellence. We want students, teachers coming from these schools, to be part of our schools so that when parents bring their learners to all the schools, the parents must know that their learners will become better people. Professor Petersen, we look forward to working with you over many years to come. You have been appointed to be Vice-Chancellor and Rector of this university because of your qualities, good qualities. And also, the Godheads has pointed at you that you must lead this university. And we are so grateful that you will be leading the university, and as a district we are recommitting ourselves to ensure that we lay good foundations in all our learners in all the schools in this district. Thank you very much.

Programme Director: Thank you very much, Ms Mabaso – a proud KOVSIE – thank you for those words. I now have the great honour of calling the Paramount Queen Mopeli from the Bokoena Royal House to come to the podium.

Queen Mopeli: Thank you, Programme Director. Before I even proceed, may I be allowed to make a very slight correction? In my programme, it is written that I represent the House of Traditional Leaders – it is a mistake that, if not corrected, would really go a long way and confuse the masses. Within the institution of traditional leadership, there are various structures. The House of Traditional Leaders is one of those structures. I am a retired traditional leader. I don't belong to the House of Traditional Leaders, but it is part of the structures within the institution

which I represent today. Having made that correction, Programme Director, allow me to greet the Chairperson of the Council, Mr Willem Louw, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Francis Petersen and Mrs Petersen, the Campus Principal, heads of faculties and departments, MMCs from local municipalities present here today, and the Chairperson of the Free State House of Traditional Leaders, Morena Moloï, staff members of this university, students, and all guests whose eminence in protocol I submit to. I am delighted to visit the University of the Free State Qwaqwa Campus again. For me, being here is always like coming home. Homecoming – because this campus was the brainchild of two of my late uncles, education activists and visionaries. The great-grandchildren of Mopeli Paulus Mokhachane, an education visionary himself – that is Dr TK Mopeli and Morena Rantsane Mopeli – may their souls rest in peace. They conspired to bring university education to the people of Qwaqwa and the Eastern Free State, and this progressive conspiracy was validated by Professor Mokgokong and the Council of the then University of the North, popularly known as Turfloop. With the creation of the first satellite campus of the university – entrusted Programme Director – the satellite was 700 km away from the main campus. Before this arrangement, people from Qwaqwa, especially civil servants, had to platoon between home and the University of Zululand for 6 to 12 months of tuition. This involved some 600 to 800 km of travel, and I am reliably told that a better part of them learned Zulu during that process. I think that is basically why we are one big family, because I know for a fact that this campus caters for lots and lots of Zulu students. So, the creation of the then Uniqwa, and now integral component of the University of the Free State, swelled the ranks of intellectuals, as more of the Eastern Free State and indeed Goldfields, incrementally graduated here. Programme Director, a study would show that over the entire Free State, there are more black university graduates and diplomats in Qwaqwa and the Eastern Free State than any other place within the province. This campus, therefore, carved for itself a special place in the national education of the black nation, and modestly so. As the new Vice-Chancellor, whom we warmly welcome and embrace today, strive to uphold the best that your predecessor achieved. You must search for what he could have done, but did not. And if that would be good for the university, then you must do it with more energy and force if needs be. If you pick up a mistake from him, you must not replicate it. We learn in two ways from others. Their mistakes direct us away from wrong deeds. Their good deeds invite us to embrace them and expand their effects on others. Any leader who destroys the good works taught by his predecessor is an abomination to his institution, but the leader who benchmarks his incumbency with the good works he inherits, endears himself to the institution. The institution, in turn, elevates him to a child among men and an angel among saints without asking for that reverence. The University of the Free State Qwaqwa Campus, I believe, works with the CSIR, among other research institutes, on several tests for industrial innovations that are worth our praise. Vice-Chancellor, we are here to see more of such progressive developments under your able leadership. Wise words uttered by your namesake, St Francis of Assisi, says “start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible”. No doubt, as a Francis yourself, you will add your name in marble as a level-headed, moral, caring, and hardworking leader of this university. As you look for a support corner, rest assured that our campus will be most palpable. The institution of traditional leadership is a friend and partner to this university and we will always be. From our heart of hearts, welcome Professor Francis and Mrs Petersen, and all Godspeed in your tenure. Move to Qwaqwa as he indicated, and enjoy our hospitality. Thank you. In our culture, Ntate

Petersen, when we welcome a person – by the way, I was at some point welcomed when I got married – this is a symbol of their welcome. I am giving you this today on behalf of the university and the entire community as a symbol of our welcome. It is a Basotho blanket. This will shield you from all types of weather. When it is cold, this will shield you from the cold weather. When it rains, it does the same. When we are happy, when you want to pray, this is what you should wear, especially when you have to come and address students under those circumstances – you know them.

Programme Director: Thank you so much for that, and Professor Petersen, I hope this becomes one of your most well-worn outfits and that we will see you in that quite frequently in Qwaqwa. Thank you very much. And finally, I know it is not on the programme, but I would love for us to honour and thank one of the most important people here – which is Mrs Petersen – and I would like to call Ms Sibongile Mlotya onto the stage please, and thank you, and also Mrs Petersen, to receive this wonderful bouquet of flowers. Thank you so much. It is great to see such a scene of powerful women on stage, as our SRC President calls them. Our next item will not be a speech, but we will have another award-winning performance from the Beacon Secondary School Choir – who is already on stage – and again they are proudly local from Qwaqwa, so welcome and thank you. Thank you very much for that. It is wonderful to see such home-grown talent, and it got the audience on their feet; it is beautiful. I think – many members of the choir looks like they are quite excited. They look like maybe they also come from those origins. Thank you very much for that performance. I would like to call on Professor Nicky Morgan, who is our Vice-Rector of Operations, to do the final welcoming of our new Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Professor Petersen.

Professor Nicky Morgan: Good morning. I wish I could dance like these youngsters. They do it so well, I am sure that the Rector will come back to this place to hear it again. So, I must just say all protocol observed, but I would like to reserve the privilege once again to greet the Royal House represented by the Queen, and all the other representatives. It is always good to see them here at the campus, and I am sure Dr Choice would have loved to see you again. Today is an unforgettable day, not only for the Qwaqwa Campus, but also for the entire university community, as it is the start of an inauguration programme that spreads across three campuses, both in Bloemfontein and here in Qwaqwa. The programme will culminate in the final inauguration ceremony on the Bloemfontein Campus on Friday 19 May. It is a privilege for me to attend this historic and joyous occasion. It is also a privilege for me to have the honour of introducing our newly appointed Vice-Chancellor and Rector to the community of our Qwaqwa Campus. Professor Francis William Petersen was born in Oudtshoorn and grew up in Malmesbury in the Western Cape, where he matriculated. He graduated from Stellenbosch University with a BEng in Chemical Engineering, a master's in Engineering, and a PhD in Engineering. He completed a short course in Financial Skills for Executive Management. He brings to this position of Vice-Chancellor and Rector his extensive experience of management in both the industry and academic sectors. Before joining the University of the Free State on 1 April 2017 as Vice-Chancellor and Rector, he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town. Other positions include Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment at the University of Cape Town, Executive Head: Strategy at Anglo American Platinum, Executive Vice-President: Research and Development at Mintek, and Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering

at Cape Technikon, now Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Among others, he is a former Chairman of the Board of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); a former non-executive director of the Board of Royal Bafokeng Platinum, and former member of the South African Minister of Science and Technology's National Advisory Committee on Innovation (NACI). He is also a former member of the Council of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), and a Board member of the National Research Foundation (NRF). Prof Petersen is a registered professional engineer with the Engineering Council of South Africa. He has been a member of the International Panel on Sustainability for AngloGold Ashanti, a former adviser to the Anglo American Platinum Beneficiation Fund, and a Fellow of both the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the South African Academy of Engineers. We are proud to have you on board, Professor Petersen. You have heard all the members of different structures at this university stating their expectations, as well as making their commitments to support you. As we said when we gave you your first opportunity to speak at the university in Bloemfontein, we said you will never walk alone, and the promise has been made. But what is more frightening for us now, is that we heard them sing, 'Vat jou goed en trek', and the Queen herself said you must trek to Qwaqwa. We are a bit worried about that! I give you our new Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Professor Petersen.

Professor Petersen: Thank you very much. Good morning. Thank you very much, Prof Nicky. I am personally humbled this morning to have in our midst His Majesty the King. Good morning to you, Your Majesty – King Mopeli – and also the Paramount Queen Mopeli, good morning to you. Chairperson of Council, Mr Willem Louw, members of Council present here this morning, members of the Rectorate, including the Vice-Rectors present here this morning, as well as the Registrar, and also the Qwaqwa Campus Principal, Prof Prakash Naidoo. Members of the senior leadership group, staff, and students. Good morning. What a wonderful welcome. And it is indeed an enormous honour for me to address you this morning. As the new Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the University of the Free State, I know that my role is to build on what students and staff have worked so hard to establish over the past hundred and thirteen years. I am excited about stepping into the shoes of the great leaders who came before me and to continue their inspirational work of making this institution even greater. Therefore, I would like to share my vision for the University of the Free State in general, and the Qwaqwa Campus in particular, with you this morning.

The University of the Free State is an institution that continuously strives to achieve ever greater academic excellence on all three its campuses – the Bloemfontein Campus, the South Campus, and obviously our campus here in Qwaqwa. There can be no compromise, and I am sure that I am not alone in expecting that the quality of what we offer should be the same high quality on all three our campuses. Not only do we have to ensure consistent academic quality, we also have to ensure that other important values – inclusivity and also innovation, are promoted on all our campuses. Staff and students at the three sites of learning must do all that they can to ensure that the University of the Free State realises its goal of being an inclusive institution – one that provides equal access and opportunities to everyone, one that makes a conscious effort to prevent discrimination, and that ensures fairness. Being committed to inclusivity means that we at the University of the Free State are actively, intentionally, and continuously engaged in promoting diversity. This

diversity is expressed through our people and also through our curriculum, as well as in the way we work with our communities to promote awareness, empathy, and understanding of the complex ways individuals interact. As you know, our ultimate goal as a university is not only to educate young people up to the point where they graduate. During the years of our involvement with our students, we have to motivate them to acquire more than just normal book learning. What they learn during their time with us, should help shape them into people who can think differently, can think innovatively, and could have an enquiring mind in order to address the challenges that face us in the 21st century. Graduation – and in fact, graduation ceremonies will happen tomorrow – should not mean the end of learning. It merely marks the moment when a student takes over the responsibility for ensuring lifelong learning, continuous personal and professional enrichment, and never-ending enquiry. The campus is merely a springboard, and the time spent here should stimulate our graduates to continue contributing to the development of the country and also the continent, whether economically or socially, long after their involvement with the university is over. It is also to stimulate our graduates to keep exploring and generating new knowledge, and also to ensure that this knowledge makes an impact and brings meaningful change to industry, commerce, society – and of critical importance – our communities.

Striving to be inclusive, and ensuring academic excellence throughout the University of the Free State's family of campuses, does however not mean that we should try to duplicate our educational offerings at all three sites. Instead, we have to be responsive to the unique needs of the particular region where a campus is located. Our engaged scholarship, our research, and our community involvement at this campus must be geared to achieve a particular impact – one that will benefit the community of Qwaqwa. The mountains, the wetlands, and the diverse cultural heritage surrounding our campus here in Qwaqwa, makes this for instance the perfect spot to locate our Afro-Montane Research Unit, but in my particular view, this is also a perfect laboratory for what I would call 'sustainability sciences'. By exploring these natural and cultural treasures through our research, and using it as a foundation for excellent course modules, we can produce world-class research in the areas of rural and development challenges, such as food security and water management. This is an example of the ways I would like us to expand our academic offerings and our research foci at the Qwaqwa Campus, not by duplicating necessarily what is offered elsewhere, but by exploring specific niches that are relevant to this area. I would like to see that we attract scholars and researchers, postgraduate students, and postdoctoral students from across the globe to come to Qwaqwa and the Qwaqwa Campus, to study specific things that we are proud of and that we have to develop excellence in through their expertise and through our beautiful settings as a comparative advantage to do exactly that. In doing so, we should think innovatively and consider creative ways of being a university that can engage with its community. Our scholarship, while adhering to international standards, should reference the local in striving to establish a unique niche for the University of the Free State.

I challenge you, the staff and the students of this campus, to aim higher, to be more innovative, to be more inclusive, and to find out what makes this campus different from any other one. You are in a unique position here in Qwaqwa – I should actually say we are in a unique position here in Qwaqwa. What makes this campus great is

not necessarily the same as what would make the South Campus great, or what would make the Bloemfontein Campus great. We are all part of one university and that would make the University of the Free State great, and this is what we should be working towards. Know what your strengths and opportunities are, and use this to attract the brightest and the best, the most dedicated and ambitious among students, among academics, and among support staff to your campus and to our campus. Find out what your community's environmental needs are and set out to build a network of associates or partners with whom you and we can work to address the local problems or challenges. Never forget the intellectual, social, and material resources you have access to. Always remember that you are part of the University of the Free State family and are part of two other campuses as well. I would commit myself to ensure that we work hard so that real integration of the three campuses is felt by the individuals sitting at those individual campuses.

I am also sure that we can rely on one another. Working together with our colleagues on the different campuses can only strengthen what we are doing on our individual campuses. So, Your Majesty the King, Mam Queen, the Chair of Council, in conclusion, within my vision for the University of the Free State – that of academic excellence, inclusivity, and diversity, and for ever imbedded in a framework of innovation – my main focus from the perspective of the Qwaqwa Campus, will be to strengthen integration and cooperation across all our campuses, to encourage active community interaction through engaged scholarship and also through the accommodation of diversity, and to apply innovative thinking in order to create world-class multi- and interdisciplinary research, and strengthen our teaching modules for the University of the Free State.

I am committed and ready to lead the University of the Free State to the next level of academic excellence, to treasure and nurture the relationship between staff and students. I want to add when I talk about students – I see the University of the Free State as a student-centred university, a university where we will listen to the students, we will engage with the students, we will make sure that our doors are always open, and we will ensure that this engagement will always happen in a respectful manner. Then the goals and the challenges of the students will also be the goals and the challenges of the university. I think the level of urgency among the student group are sometimes much higher and greater than the level of urgency among the management, because management has to balance different stakeholders to get to what needs to be implemented. I am also looking forward to working very closely with the SRC here, the Student Representative Council at Qwaqwa, to see how we could ensure that this relationship and this channel remains open between the campus and my office. There is an African proverb that says: "If you want to travel fast, you travel alone. If you want to go far, you travel together." I am looking forward to working with all of you as I start the journey at the University of the Free State. I thank you.

Programme Director: Thank you again to Professor Morgan, and thank you to our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Petersen. Thank you for sketching your vision to us. It is a very inspiring vision and I hope that you will be here often to see and appreciate the strengths that Qwaqwa is already working on and is already displaying. I am looking forward to seeing you here much more often. And finally, a

final call to Mr Willem Louw, who is the Chairperson of the UFS Council, to deliver the last message, the congratulatory message as well as the closure.

Mr Willem Louw: Programme Director, thank you very much for the opportunity to participate. The programme item reads Congratulatory Message and Closure. Before I get there – it would be a very insensitive person who does not or who has not experienced the symbolism in the proceedings of this morning. If you slowly roll through it, it is clearly indicative of the variety and the potential that this country possesses, both from those who have participated in the proceedings and those that have made contributions. But before I continue, please allow me to extend my great appreciation on behalf of Professor Petersen and his wife for the presence of royalty in this house, in particular His Majesty Thokoana Mopeli and Paramount Queen Mopeli. Thank you very much for being with us, as well as other members of the Bakoena Royal House. I would also like to extend appreciation to the Chairman of the Free State House of Traditional leaders, Morena Moloji. I would like to extend my appreciation to Ms Mabaso from the Department of Education. And then in particular, I would like to extend my appreciation to Professor Naidoo, the Campus Principal, and his staff for the arrangements and for the proceedings of this morning. When I say symbolism, and I take this in no specific order, but I do want to recognise once again the diversity in terms of what has been brought to us. A voice, and then a number of voices, and more voices singing to us in Italian, singing to us in Afrikaans, and singing to us in a multitude of other languages, and then Sesotho in particular. It is with great appreciation that this is recognised as part of this morning's proceedings.

We started off with an indication that there was rain last night. The symbolism that goes along with rain is there for all to see. It is a new start, it is a fresh start, it is a new individual who has come into our midst – whom we have great expectations of. This individual, I am sure, recognises the symbolism in terms of protection that is offered to him and that has been granted to him in terms of the blanket. Saying this – it doesn't take a very scientific brain to understand the common expectations from the messages of the respective stakeholders that were given this morning. But, with great expectations comes the understanding that an individual has been invited to take up the position of Rector of this university. We know that you are up to it. We understand the severity of the expectations, but we also understand that – and I digress slightly from the reflection that was passed by the Qwaqwa SRC President – behind a successful man is an even more successful woman. And thank you for that, Mrs Petersen. It is clear to us that this goes along with it. And then I want to conclude – I want to conclude by also ensuring that the message gets across. The inclusivity that was spoken of by Professor Petersen is an absolute necessity. The inclusivity as demonstrated over a very short period of time since the first of April – it is clear to us that it will bring the fruits we expect from it. However, it is no warning, it is no distinct or last message – it is just that I want to leave a collective understanding – that as inclusive as he may be, don't be too surprised if there is a subtle, yet very strong pushback on issues upon which there are disagreement. The intention of Professor Petersen in terms of utilising the pragmatic and the inclusive approach to take this university forward over the next five years is of tremendous importance to us. With that, other than the final item that will be delivered, I believe I have the privilege of bringing these specific proceedings to a close. Thank you very much.

Programme Director: Thank you very much, Mr Louw, for that closure. Yes, this was the final address of the day. Thank you to everybody present and also absent, who helped to make this joyful and important event such a success. Next, we will all rise to sing the National Anthem, which will be led by our wonderful Campus Choir. If possible, I would love for all of us to also sing along with the National Anthem. Then I'd like to ask the congregation to remain standing as the procession leaves, led by our newly welcomed Vice-Chancellor, and once they have all left the building, everybody else can also file out. I believe there will be refreshments for most, if not all of us. So, thank you very much. I hand over to the Choir, and please rise.