



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Department University Relations

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**21 November 2018**

**UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA APPOINTS NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL**

The University of Pretoria (UP) is pleased to announce that, at its meeting held on 21 November 2018, the University Council appointed Professor Tawana Kupe as the new Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University. This follows the resignation of Professor Cheryl de la Rey, who will take up the position of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canterbury in New Zealand.

The appointment was made in terms of the procedure set out in the University's Regulation and Procedure for the Appointment of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal. The process included, among other steps, presentations by the shortlisted candidates to a joint meeting of the Council, Senate and Institutional Forum, voting by the Senate and Institutional Forum on the suitability for appointment of the shortlisted candidates, and interviews with the six shortlisted candidates by the Joint Committee of Council.

Professor Kupe is currently the Vice-Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, responsible for the daily running of the University and the coordination of operations across all executive portfolios. Prior to this appointment, he held the rotating Vice-Principal post for one year and also served as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Advancement, Human Resources and Transformation from January 2013.

Professor Kupe served as the Executive Dean of the Wits Faculty of Humanities for six years, between January 2007 and December 2012, after serving as the Head of the then Wits School of Literature and Language Studies, and the founding Head of the Media Studies Department.

Prior to joining Wits, Professor Kupe lectured at Rhodes University between 1999 and 2001, and briefly acted as the Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies. He joined Rhodes from the University of Zimbabwe, where he worked in various academic capacities from 1988, including as Chairperson of the Department of English, Media and Communication Studies.

Professor Kupe holds a BA Honours degree and Masters in English from the University of Zimbabwe, as well as a DPhil in Media Studies from the University of Oslo in Norway.

In his statement of intent, Professor Kupe said, "Universities have a responsibility to develop educated, well-informed and professionally skilled people who can address local and global challenges and contribute

towards creating successful and thriving societies. To be able to play these critically important roles, universities must enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, allow for freedom of inquiry and be transparent, accountable and ethical in their practices in all respects.”

Ms Futhi Mtoba, Chairperson of the UP Council, congratulated Professor Kupe on his appointment and wished him well in his new position. “We believe that Professor Kupe comes to the position with considerable experience at executive level and is the best candidate to lead the University into the future.”

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**For any media queries regarding Professor Kupe's appointment, please contact Rikus Delport at (012) 420 4888 or 082 995 1554.**