



**VAAL UNIVERSITY  
OF TECHNOLOGY**  
*Inspiring thought. Shaping talent.*



# From the Chairperson's Desk

**Dear Council members, Management,  
Staff and Students**

As 2022 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Council and thank every member of the VUT community for their effort in holding our beloved institution together. Amid numerous challenges that confronted us, the sector and the entire country, you showed up and put your shoulders to the wheel in ensuring that we move towards attaining our objectives.

Upfront, I must commend Council for its resilience and intentionality in weathering storms such as the persistent negative media sentiment during the month of October. I give you the assurance that all Council members have opted to place VUT ahead of narrow, individual interests. As reported during our recent meeting with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Innovation, I can say with confidence that we are a united Council. Thank you, fellow Council members for the constructive effort to find one another, ensuring that all are valued and leveraging off the best that each of us brings to the table.

I also take this moment to extend deep appreciation to staff (both academic and support), ably led by ManCom. Thank you for holding VUT together amid trying times. A lot has been accomplished this past year. Among the highlights is the approval of the revised institutional strategy, which has been designed to refocus us as a university of technology. We thank you individually and collectively for your contributions to our successes.

To VUT students, Council cannot thank you enough for choosing VUT as your study destination. We value your patience as we strive every day to improve your experience at our campuses. We admit that there is room for improvement and aim to accelerate plugging the gaps from 2023 onwards. Please encourage fellow students to enroll with VUT. We are grateful for the leadership provided by the SRC

that led to a relatively peaceful 2022 academic year.

It would be remiss of me not to highlight the consistent excellence shown by VUT students across the sporting codes. Throughout the year, our students have been collecting accolades left, right and centre. As I write, our Basketball Teams (female and male) are the reigning national champions. Thank you MaVuti brand ambassadors. Your prowess on the sports field continues to make us proud.

To the leaders of organised labour (Nehawu and Nteu), your efforts towards holding the institution accountable to its human capital are noted with appreciation. We look forward to moving closer to finding one another from 2023 henceforth.

Altogether, what has carried us until this point is the collective commitment that the internal community has shown since the beginning of the year, the love for the institution and our actions as Team VUT. It is evident that members of the university community remained constructive and positive in how they approached solutions to the challenges encountered. We do not take this for granted.

For our part as Council, we pledge our continued commitment to support management and all stakeholders in their collective quest to build and strengthen VUT.

I wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe festive season. Till we meet again in 2023.

Sincerely

**Prof Mandla J. Radebe**  
Chairperson