

Speech to be delivered by the MEC for Education, Mr. Bonakele Majuba at the celebration of the University of Mpumalanga's ten years Anniversary on Friday, 03 November 2023

Programme Director and the Dean of Students, **Dr Paul Maminza**

Hon. Premier, Mrs **Refilwe Mtshweni- Tsipane**

His Majesty, King Makhosoke 11

Deputy Chief Justice and Chancellor, **Justice Mandisa Maya**

Vice Chancellor, **Prof Thoko Mayekiso**

Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, **Hon Buti Manamela**

Archbishop of Cape Town, **Archbishop Thabo Makgoba**

Distinguished Guest

Sanibonani

We bring with us warm and revolutionary salutations to the University of Mpumalanga for the patriotic journey navigated so impressively over the past ten years.

We do so fulfilled and impressed of the ground breaking milestones recorded by the University to date.

Indeed, we have all the reasons to celebrate and to congratulate the University on your ten-year anniversary!

As we reflect on the years gone by, we are filled with a profound sense of pride and joy. We are certainly looking forward to the years ahead with anticipation and enthusiasm.

The University remains our shining example of the commitment resilience and determination of the South African people.

Established in the early years of democracy, the University has grown in leaps and bounds to become a true beacon of hope, reservoir of academic excellence and a leading institution of higher learning.

This was not going to be possible if it was not for the visionary leadership of **Professor Thoko Mayekiso** and the dedication of the faculties staff and students.

We are equally grateful to the leadership of the Province – the Place of the Rising Sun for creating an enabling environment for this University to develop and grow to what it is today.

Malcolm X once said *“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”*

We are therefore confident that the current cohort of the **68 681** full time Grade 12 Candidates will have all the reasons to choose the University of Mpumalanga as their home to further their studies.

We are also confident that the next ten years will be productive and beneficiary to the masses of our country and province in particular.

We are grateful that the University is envisioned to create a vibrant and inclusive student community from all walks of life who will progress and thrive through academic excellence.

May the University continue to grow and flourish, and may you continue to make a positive impact on the world.

Indeed, No one must be left behind in the Spirit of Ubuntu.

Long Live the University of Mpumalanga, Long Live!