



DECEMBER 2019



Another successful MBA research day

The experts talk the talk

Dr Anna Mokgokong third chancellor



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NWU Business School **director** **resigns**

The director of the North-West University Business School, Prof Fulu Netswera, has announced his resignation and will be leaving the employment of the NWU mid-December.

In 2017, Prof Netswera took over the reins from Prof Tommy du Plessis as the director of the NWU Business School.

“It has been a very exciting two years, but it feels as if it commenced only yesterday. The NWU is a highly organized, reputable institution that is on an upward trajectory and for these reasons, I am very proud to be associated with it. I specifically enjoyed the accessibility of university leadership. I take this opportunity to thank all members of the NWU Business School for making me feel at home and for being highly supportive,” he said.

Prof Netswera will join the Durban University of Technology where he will take up the position of Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management

Sciences.

Prof Jan van Romburgh, who is a forensic accountant by trade and has previously served as the acting Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and Director of the School of Accounting Sciences at Potchefstroom, will take up the role as the acting director of the NWU Business School.

“Exciting times lie ahead as we will place huge strategic focus on the autonomy of the NWU’s Business School. We will differentiate ourselves through our unique product offerings and involvement with strategic activities addressing real-time challenges of South Africa. We have a crucial and fulfilling role to play in the ongoing establishment of our school as one of the best that Africa has to offer – as there can be no substitute for quality,” Prof van Romburgh said.



Prof Jan van Romburgh, our new acting director

Another successful **MBA Research** day

Our acting director, Prof Jan van Romburgh, welcomed some 60 MBA students during the recent MBA Research day in Potchefstroom.

NWU Business School's Prof Ronnie Lotriet gave valuable advice to MBA students during the research day. He also discussed the day's MBA assignment.

"For me, it was an easy decision to do my MBA with the NWU Business School because of the school's location and the expertise of lecturers" - Thabo Seale, National Health Laboratory Service.

"It remains a privilege for me to be able to do my MBA in my mother tongue." - Wessel Badenhorst, a first year MBA student.

"I chose to do my MBA at the NWU Business School because of the affordability of the course" - Mononotshi Mongwaketsi, Dept of Public Works & Roads.





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The **experts** talk the talk...

The North-West University Business School's **Theo Venter** had a discussion with **Prof Danie Meyer** about where South Africa currently finds itself with regard to international imports and exports. See the full interview [here](#):



Theo Venter and **Dr Gabila Nubong** recently had a discussion about where South Africa currently finds itself with regard to global competitiveness and what needs to be done to improve it. Click [here](#) for the full video:



Prof Raymond Parsons, Theo Venter and **Dr Piet Croucamp** had a discussion about the economic and political highlights of 2019, and dared a few forecasts for 2020.

Click below to view the videos:



and



NWU academic advocates strategies on greener and sustainable cremation

“In the coming years it’s imperative that religious leaders must rethink alternative strategies for laying the dead to rest, and greener and sustainable cremations should rather be considered than burials.”

This is according to Prof Ravinder Rena who was one of the speakers during the recent 2nd Pan African Cemeteries and Crematoria Conference in Durban.

This conference was organised by the South African Cemeteries Association and attended by researchers, academics and policy makers from across the world.

The event aimed to shine the spotlight on the shortage of burial places and included themes such as Africa’s trends and paradigm shifts on burial alternatives and land scarcity; Traditional, Cultural and religious dynamics of the industry and Sustainable cemetery development – Africa’s perspective and status quo.

During his address Prof Rena, a professor of economics at the North-West University (NWU)

Business School, unpacked some figures regarding global population growth and a need for cremation practices.

He noted that the world’s population currently stands at 7,7 billion – more than double than the 3 billion in 1960.

“In the face of this exponential population growth and given the amount of land used for burials, we are running out of space,” he said.

“If we don’t take precautionary measures, our great-grandchildren will have to build their houses on graveyards.”

Prof Rena agreed that religions and belief systems have to be respected, but noted that in Japan, regardless of religion, 99% of the population was cremated.

Elsewhere in the world this trend is also gaining traction. For example, cremation rates in the United States have increased from 3% in 1960 to about 60% today.



Photo: Prof Ravinder Rena with Pepe Dass, the president of the South African Cemetery Association.



Standard & Poor's review of SA

by Prof Raymond Parsons

The widely expected decision by Standard & Poor's revising its outlook on South Africa from stable to negative reinforces the message of the recent medium term budget policy statement urging speedier fiscal and structural reforms, says NWU Business School economist, Prof Raymond Parsons

The decision by rating agency S&P to reduce its outlook on SA from stable to negative was widely expected and to a large extent the markets have earlier priced in this outcome. S&P already has SA at junk status and its assessment also resonates with a similar decision on the outlook for SA by Moody's on November 1.

The S&P review has cited rapidly deteriorating debt ratios, weak growth and a lack of strong reform measures as among their major on-going concerns about the SA economy. The S&P's latest assessment reinforces the urgent message of the recent medium term budget policy statement about the dire state of SA's public finances and the remedies needed to stabilize them, especially of state-owned enterprises like Eskom. S&P has emphasized that, unless the government takes steps to effectively manage the fiscal deficit as well as demonstrate sustained reform momentum, it is unlikely the debt will stabilize even within three years. The S&P narrative should therefore

encourage speedier fiscal and structural reforms.

Nonetheless, despite the S&P's warnings, it is will be Moody's decision next year on SA's investment rating that now stands between SA and the prospect of universal junk status, and which must be of immediate concern. Moody's have already put SA on notice that, unless SA turns the economy around soon, it will also have to put the country into junk status. This again highlights the importance of a credible fiscal strategy in the next Budget in February 2020 to improve economic perceptions of SA.

NWU installs **Dr Anna Mokgokong** as its third chancellor



The North-West University (NWU) installed Dr Anna Mokgokong, renowned business leader and entrepreneur, as its third chancellor during a prestigious event at the Feather Hill venue in Potchefstroom on 20 November. As chancellor she will serve as titular head of the NWU. All qualifications awarded by the university are formally conferred by the chancellor.

Dr Mokgokong, who is at the helm of Community Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd, of which she is also founding chairperson, is a true social activist and has made an immense contribution to the transformation of the companies on whose boards she serves. She is a senior director of five companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and chairperson of three of those.

In addition to her extensive business knowledge and acclaim for her entrepreneurial ability, she has served as president of the South African Women Entrepreneurs Network (SA WEN) and in the International Women's Forum of South Africa (IWFSA). Dr Mokgokong was inducted into the Women Entrepreneurs of the World, an independent, international network of the world's powerful and successful entrepreneurs in 1998. Her other accolades include receiving the prestigious

SA Businesswoman of the Year Award in 1999. In 2015, the Department of Trade and Industry, in partnership with Proudly South African and Brand South Africa, honoured Dr Mokgokong with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the South African Premier Business Award ceremony.

"I couldn't think of a more appropriate institution to be associated with and whose geographical footprint resembles the journey of my career. The university spans two provinces, encapsulating both semi-rural and urban environments, and it also represents a microcosm of our diverse society and culture."

Dr Mokgokong says the NWU therefore represents the very core of who South Africans are, and as such, can take a leading role in addressing societal ills while nurturing the spirit of ubuntu.

"I am thrilled about the next chapter in the history of the university. I believe that service to the higher-education sector of our country is a mammoth, noble task, and it is also a service of hope. I accepted this nomination being fully aware of the challenges faced not only by this institution, but also in higher-education institutions both nationally and internationally."

She says she feels serving as chancellor is a calling. "My mantra is: 'Raise your hand, be seen and be counted.' For me it is a calling for community service, to which I dedicate my life."

"It is my express wish that, as an institution, the NWU will be regarded as proactive in setting an agenda for social cause, rather than being reactionary to the agenda set by social ills." She believes social justice is about providing access to quality education as embedded in the Constitution.

Dr Bismark Tyobeka, NWU Council chairperson, says the installation of Dr Mokgokong as the first-ever female

chancellor of the university solidifies their pledge to proactive transformation. "It further vests us as a bastion of equality." He says out of her impressive resumé and proven track-record it is clear that her accomplishments speak of an unyielding commitment towards excellence. "This resonates with the very core driving force of our institution."

Prof Dan Kgwadi, vice-chancellor, says Dr Mokgokong is a woman of firsts. "She is a frontrunner; an enabler

of progress, and now a valued member of the NWU family."

He says the university is honoured to welcome her. "Together with Dr Mokgokong we will continue to grow even stronger and more impactful in future."

Dr Mokgokong follows in the illustrious footsteps of Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, King of the Royal Bafokeng nation, and Dr Popo Molefe, former Premier of North-West.



[CLICK TO VIEW A VIDEO OF THE PRESTIGIOUS EVENT](#)

Congrats!

A huge congrats to Prof Christo Bisschoff for attaining his C3 rating from the National Research Foundation. This rating confirms that Prof Bisschoff is an established researcher with a sustained recent record of productivity in his field, who are recognised by his peers.

He joins Prof Stephan van der Merwe and Prof Yvonne du Plessis as NRF-rated researchers of the NWU Business School.

We are very proud of you!



Bringing international knowledge home

Even our academic staff are continuously sharpening their skills to offer our student the best there is to offer and to keep them up to date with the newest trends in business education.

Prof Christo Bisschoff recently visited the Singapore Management University's Business School, who is rated among the top 15 Business Schools in Europe and Asia.



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Getting down to business

The NWU Business School recently had a very positive meeting with stakeholders from Government's Department of Small Business Development, the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) about the training of business owners in the Northwest Province.



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Prof Parsons to be awarded in his community

The Breede Valley community will celebrate the 200-year existence of the town of Worcester in a week-long festival taking place from 24 February 2020 until 1 March.

Each day of the festival will depict a theme, illustrating the journey of the town and its people. The themes include: Care Capital, Children and Youth, Heritage, Arts & Culture, Nature & Outdoor, Sport & Community Upliftment, Public Spectacle and Religion & Faith

The Breede Valley Municipality will also bestow the prestigious “Freedom of the Town” award to prominent individuals from Worcester, recognising their performance excellence of regional and national impact. This award is the highest honour that a municipality may confer upon an individual.

Our very own Prof Raymond Parsons will be one of the recipients of this prestigious award. This accolade aims to be a source of inspiration for the community as it will not only celebrate the

town, but is representative of the growth, diversity and advancement towards a South Africa that is unified in strength and cohesion. The award will be conferred at an official ceremony to be held on 24 February 2020 in Worcester.

Other recipients of this award includes David Kramer, Dumile Feni, Diana Ferrus, Cecyl Esau, Justice Thembile Skweyiya, Ayesha “Bibi” Dawood, - Dr Danny Titus and Professor John Maxwell Coetzee.



Alumnus awarded

An alumnus who completed her MBA in 2018, Rene Botha, is part of the team from African Bank who has recently been awarded by the Banking Ombudsman.

African Bank's Ombuds and Regulatory Disputes Division won the award for the best Dispute Resolution Bank, for the second consecutive year. Rene is the daughter of Theo Venter.



Photo: African Bank's Nadette Rappard and Rene Botha received a prestigious award from the Banking Ombudsman.

An exciting Summer School lies ahead!

The North-West University's Business School will once again host a Summer Study School in Potchefstroom for first and second year MBA-students over the course of five days.

An exciting and insightful programme will be presented from 27 - 31 January to students, in their quest for progressive management and leadership enrichment.

The study school will consist of academic building blocks which included a number of academic lectures, guest lectures, research and meetings with study leaders. Prof Ronnie Lotriet, the organizer of the Summer School, says he looks forward to hosting

the next Summer Study School in order to leverage students' way to career success.

Note: Attendance is compulsory for all MBA students.

The Study School will take place at the Elgro Convention Centre in Potchefstroom.

For more information, please contact Antonett Visagie at 018 285 2759 or Antonett.visagie@nwu.ac.za

