Dr Mabizela’s Inauguration ceremony (27th Feb, 2015)

On behalf of the academic community by Prof Tebello Nyokong

Distinguished guests, and distinguished fellow academic staff of Rhodes University

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Dr Mabizela as the Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University.

Right from the start, I need to clearly state that Dr Mabizela is not a BLACK Vice Chancellor, he is the best Vice Chancellor for Rhodes University, who happens to be of African origin. On announcing Dr Mabizela as the new Vice Chancellor, Rhodes University's council chairman Mr Vuyo Kahla said Dr Mabizela was unanimously recommended for the post by a committee which was representative of all sectors of Rhodes University ( Council, academics, Unions, etc.). I am sure I talk on behalf of all academic staff when I say Dr Mabizela you have our support and we have full confidence in your leadership. Thank you for availing yourself to lead Rhodes University.

Dr Mabizela is a very humble person and does everything with a human touch. He is a listener and makes informed decisions. We look forward to your humble leadership.

South Africa has some of the finest Universities in the World. We (in South Africa) are leading in many areas of research. And Rhodes is one of the top universities in South Africa. Having a leader of your caliber will take this University to new heights.

At Rhodes University, we are small enough to have open policy – so that we have direct interaction with the management like the Vice Chancellor as academic staff. I am sure this will continue under Dr Mabizela’s leadership.

With declining funding for higher education, you have often said we have to go into “business unusual”. This means that you are already making sure that Rhodes is financially viable. We will support you as academics on your “business unusual” mission

We have infrastructure that works, and as academics we appreciate our technical and support staff for all they do to maintain Rhodes

At Rhodes University, every one counts from the cleaners, students to professors. And Dr Mabizela, you have already shown your commitment to all sectors of the University

We welcome you to Rhodes University.

Distinguished Prof Tebello Nyokong