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*A Profile of Mr Thivhilaeli Eric Makatu*

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Mr Thivhilaeli Eric Makatu is a lawyer by training, a seasoned Diplomat and a nascent Documentary Film Producer, with the requisite imagination to cultivate and execute concrete plans.

Thivhilaeli is a highly motivated and diligent team player with credentials to match the Convocation's Mandate and ready to help the University implement its new strategic philosophy, particularly these strategic thrusts, i.e. Student Centredness, Engaged Scholarship, Entrepreneurial University, Good Governance and Internationalisation. He has past engagements in advocacy work to promote South Africa's national interests at home and abroad.

Makatu's first registration at the University of Venda was in 1987, where he later obtained a B. Juris degree. He left UNIVEN for the University of the Western Cape (UWC) for a short diplomatic training programme. In 1994, he proceeded to Howard University and Georgetown University in Washington DC, United States of America, as a continuation of the same training programme.

In 1995, he returned to serve the Republic of South Africa, from junior to senior management levels, working in the areas of economic diplomacy, bilateral and multilateral relations to advance South Africa's foreign policy; a diplomatic career spanning 24 years. In between work at Head Office, Eric represented South Africa as a South African Diplomat in Nigeria (1997-99), Norway (1999-01), Hong Kong (2002-06), Belgium & Luxembourg (2008-11) and France (2012-17) at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 2018, he completed a short Leadership & Economic Diplomacy Programme at the Civil Service College in Singapore.

Eric was a strategic team player in the DIRCO lobby team that secured South Africa's non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for 2019/20; a skill that he brings to the Convocation to advocate for investment opportunities.

He is no stranger to University Governance as he served as SRC member; Vice-President (External) in 1993 & Secretary-General in 1991 and as Treasurer of the Law Students Faculty Council and member of the Legal Aid Clinic, 1988/9.

Makatu is a serving member of Progressive International, a global initiative with a mission to unite, organize, and mobilize progressive forces around the world.

Recently, he raised funds from the National Film and Video Foundation, South Africa and the Government of the Region of Flanders, Belgium for *Mutoli wa Mbila na Vhavenda Vho-JK Mathoho* documentary film, which is under production and to premiere soon in South Africa and at the Afrika Film Festival in the university city of Leuven, Belgium.

**Imagine☆Cultivate☆Execute!**

**Eric Makatu for Vice President or Additional Member**

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