

Abridged CV: Hayman Russel Botman

Professor H Russel Botman is the Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University (SU). He was first appointed in 2007, and reappointed for a second term in 2011.

At national level, he is a Director and Executive Committee Member of Higher Education South Africa (Hesa), and served as Chair of the Higher Education Quality Committee's audit of the University of the Witwatersrand. At continental level, he is Vice-President of the Association for African Universities (AAU), as well as a member of the international board of trustees of the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (Aims).

Professor Botman was born in Bloemfontein and received his secondary education in Kliptown, Johannesburg. He obtained a BA, MTh (cum laude) as well as a doctorate in Theology from the University of the Western Cape. This was also where he honed his leadership skills – as a member of the Students' Representative Council in 1976. As minister of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in Wynberg, Cape Town, he made his mark as church leader and as champion for socio-economic rights.

He believes that science should drive Africa's development. His leadership led to the establishment of SU's innovative First-year Academy, which has improved the pass rate of new students. And he has been the prime mover in the visionary HOPE Project as vehicle for the University's transformation and positioning in the 21st century. Thanks to the latter, more than R800 million was invested in SU's academic initiatives between 2007 and 2010.

Professor Botman received an award for excellence in academic leadership from the Turkish Turquoise Harmony Institute. He also received honorary membership from Golden Key International, the world's largest academic honour society, thereby joining the global community of academic achievers. In addition, he serves as honorary member of the United Nations Association of South Africa in recognition of his commitment to the Millennium Development Goals.

As theologian, he was the founding director of the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology in SU's Theology Faculty, and served as president of both the South African Council of Churches and the Southern Africa Alliance of Reformed Churches. Several of his articles have been published in international journals and he has been recognised as research fellow and scholar by the well-known Centre of Theological Inquiry in Princeton and by the Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. He was awarded the international Abraham Kuyper Award for Excellence in Theology and

the Public Life, and the American Bethel University's prize for "remarkable accomplishments in education, theology, social justice and reconciliation".

Professor Botman remains active in the areas of culture and business as well. He serves on the board of Media24, Africa's largest media company, is a patron of SU's *Woordfees* (Word Fest), and is a former chairperson of the Klein Karoo National Festival of the Arts (*KKNK*). For his contribution to the development of South African arts, he received Eden District Municipality's George Lily award in 2007.

He is a recognised community leader. He serves as chairperson of the Church Development and Dialogue Community Trust, which is driving a large-scale project in the poorest communities of South Africa on behalf of the Global Fund. In 2009, he led a delegation of Constitutional Court judges, church leaders, academics and other civil society leaders to a first consultation with peers from China, the Netherlands and Turkey on the issue of global peace and security. In 1989, his contribution to justice and human dignity was recognised by a special prize from the city council of Milwaukee, America. He received an honorary certificate from the Western Cape Provincial Council of Churches in 1994 for his commitment to ecumenicity and the poor.