

LONDON LAUNCH
of Stellenbosch University's HOPE Project
to Alumni & Friends of the University in the UK

28 October 2010

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www.sun.ac.za/university/Management/rektor/toesprake.html

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Goeie naand, dames en here. Baie welkom hier.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for coming. Your support means a lot to us.

We are here to talk about Stellenbosch University's HOPE Project. The video we have just seen, would have given you some background. Allow me to highlight a few issues by doing three things:

- I will briefly put the HOPE Project in context;
- I will mention some practical examples of what this initiative entails; and lastly
- I want us to explore how we can work together to help make the world a better place.

ORIGINS OF HOPE

Let me take as my starting point the fact that this meeting is taking place in London. Many people here feel deeply connected to South Africa, and have consistently stood by us and shared some of our pivotal moments, such as the struggle against apartheid, the release of Nelson Mandela from prison in 1990 and our first non-racial, democratic elections in 1994.

Party mense het gedink dis nou dit – Suid-Afrika is nou nie meer nuus nie. Maar dit sou gou blyk hef aan lê nog voor. Die eintlike harde werk om die land weer op te bou en te verenig moes nog gedoen word.

The intense post-apartheid debates in South Africa also impacted on Stellenbosch University. By 1999, this had culminated in an important policy document: The University's "Strategic Framework for the Turn of the Century and Beyond".

Let me quote just one sentence from it, the first part of which reads: **“The University acknowledges its contribution to the injustices of the past ...”**

It doesn't sound like much. But remember, there was a time when Stellenbosch was constantly associated with having been the “cradle of apartheid”. Yet, here we were taking responsibility for the past and also – in the second part of the sentence – **committing ourselves “to appropriate redress and development initiatives”**.

Hoe stel 'n mens onreg reg? Hoe vergoed jy byvoorbeeld vir die feit dat jy sekere mense in die verlede uitgesluit het? Jy laat hulle toe. Dit is hoekom die “Strategiese Raamwerk” gelykberegting as 'n belangrike doelwit gestel het. Soos ek al in die verlede gesê het, ons sou slegs van billike toegang kon praat as ons weet die dogter van die plaaswerker het dieselfde geleenthede as die seun van die plaasboer.

Our “Strategic Framework” also linked “redress” to **“the need for development and service in communities and areas previously and currently disadvantaged in the provision of services and infrastructure.”**

So, there you have it. The HOPE Project is essentially the practical realisation of the University's moral decision to break with the past and help build a better future.

We looked around us, and saw that the political liberation that came with the vote in 1994 did not bring freedom from hunger, disease, homelessness, exploitation, corruption, violence, pollution or unemployment. The same goes for the rest of Africa, where the “wind of change” – as Harold Macmillan put it in his historical address to the South African parliament in 1960 – had been blowing for some time, but most people are still trapped in poverty.

We realised that as one of Africa's leading universities, it was our duty to use our key strengths – our academic excellence and cutting-edge research – to be of service to society. So, we analysed the UN's Millennium Development Goals and our government's strategic development priorities, and distilled the five themes of the HOPE Project.

HOOPSKEPPENDE WETENSKAP

We are convinced that if we work to (1) eradicate poverty and related conditions, and promote (2) human dignity and health, (3) democracy and human rights, (4) peace and security; as well as (5) a sustainable environment and a competitive industry, then we will change the world.

Across our faculties and management structures, our leaders and researchers and academics and students have developed 22 academic initiatives designed to make a tangible difference where it matters most.

For instance, as part of the HOPE Project, we have a Food Security Initiative, a Centre for HIV/Aids Management, a Rural Clinical School aimed at producing more doctors for underserved parts of the country, a Unit for Corporate Governance, a Centre for Dispute Settlement and a Centre for Agribusiness Leadership Development, a Water Institute, as well as various initiatives looking at environmental sustainability.

It is important for Stellenbosch University to share its knowledge with others. As you know, Africa faces many challenges, which is made worse by the fact that Africa's output of graduates and quality research is very low.

To remedy this problem, our Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has established a Graduate School to grow and sustain world-class postgraduate programmes, and to coordinate relevant research in Africa.

The Graduate School started functioning in January 2010 with a first cohort of 31 fulltime doctoral students on scholarships, 22 of whom are from outside the borders of South Africa.

This initiative is linked to the Partnership for Africa's Next Generation of Academics (PANGeA), a collaborative network that we established with the universities of Botswana, Malawi, Dar es Salaam, Makerere and Nairobi. PANGeA will be formally launched in a fortnight, and in time we aim to expand it to other partners across Africa.

Die Universiteit Stellenbosch is goed geplaas om op dié gebied leiding te gee. In 'n onlangse studie oor watter Suid-Afrikaanse universiteite die meeste doktorsgrade oplewer, het ons tweede gekom – met 12% van die land se PhD's in 2007.

Weet julle wie was eerste? Nee, nie UCT nie. Ons het nooit gedink ons sal hulle wen nie, maar toe het ons! UCT was derde, en die Universiteit van Pretoria eerste. Maar as mens in ag neem dat Tukkies omtrent dubbel so groot is as ons, dan is ons tweede plek eintlik 'n eerste plek.

TAAL AS DRAER VAN HOOP

Terwyl ek nou my moedertaal praat, kom ons kyk na die stand van Afrikaans op Maties. Die US is verbind tot die gebruik en volgehoue ontwikkeling van Afrikaans as akademiese taal in 'n meertalige konteks. Al ons landstale is bates wat menslike potensiaal kan help ontsluit.

Dit is hoekom die Universiteitsraad verlede jaar besluit het om 'n vaste plek vir Afrikaans te waarborg. Ten minste 60% van ons voorgraadse onderrig aanbod die afsienbare toekoms sal in Afrikaans wees.

Laat ek dit duidelik stel: Stellenbosch bly 'n universiteit waar Afrikaans die hoofonderrigtaal is.

Hoekom gebruik ons hoegenaamd Engels as onderrigtaal? Eerstens, om niemand uit te sluit nie, want Stellenbosch is 'n nasionale bate, nie groepsbesit nie. En tweedens, omdat niemand en niks behalwe 'n volstruis met sy kop in die sand kan leef nie. Soos julle weet, help 'n mate van vaardigheid in Engels jou om internasionaal jou merk te maak.

BENEFACTORS OF HOPE

If we want to be the best university we can possibly be, and be of service to society, then we must ensure that our activities are sustainable. This we cannot do without the help of our partners, networks and supporters. So tonight is not just an information session, but also an invitation to each of you to join the HOPE Project.

Universities worldwide are under tremendous financial pressure as state subsidies decrease and the demands of access, relevance and excellence increase. As part of the HOPE Project, we have therefore launched the largest fundraising campaign ever by an African university. Our goal is to raise gifts of at least R1,75 billion (£157 million) by 2015.

Londen het onlangs 'n voorbeeld opgelewer van 'n inisiatief wat alumni wêreldwyd kan inspireer. Sestien oud-maties het vroeër vanjaar oor aandete met my oor die HOOP Projek gesels. Ons het toevallig in die Segrave-kamer van die Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall ontmoet, en sedertdien staan dié inisiatief as die Segrave-groep bekend.

Die resultaat van hierdie enkele ontmoeting was R3 miljoen (£270 000) se skenkings vir verskeie inisiatiewe van die HOOP Projek. 'n Vername deel is bestem vir die Fakulteit

Regsgeleerdheid sodat beurse beskikbaar gestel kan word vir behoeftige studente om tot die regsberoep toe te tree.

We need your support to fully realise our vision of turning Maties into a centre of hope for Southern Africa, Africa and the world. Speak to Bev Witten or Annamia van den Heever here tonight to make your pledge, and visit the HOPE Project website (www.thehopeproject.co.za) for more information on how to get involved and make a difference.

Ons wil – soos ons leuse sê – jou kennisvennoot wees. Kyk 'n bietjie na die Suid-Afrikaanse wyn op ons tafels vanaand. Stellenbosch is die enigste universiteit in Suid-Afrika waar jy nagraads wingerd- en wynekunde kan studeer. Wees kreatief en dink bietjie hoe ons in jou sektor jou maatskappy se kennisvennoot kan wees, waar jy ook al is.

SLOT

Our vision for South Africa and the rest of the African continent is a future free from poverty, where the human dignity of all people is protected, where our social and ecological systems are healthy, and where peace, security and democracy are safeguarded. We want to be seen to have played a role in realising this vision.

Die HOOP Projek vergestalt die Universiteit se verbintenis om 'n rol te speel in so 'n land, so 'n vasteland, so 'n wêreld. Ons dink is die regte ding om te doen. Nou is die regte tyd vir hoop. Toekomstige geslagte verdien niks minder nie.

Thank you. *Baie dankie.*