

## **Toespraak van die Rektor, Prof H Russel Botman, by geleentheid van die installing van die 14de Kanselier van die US, Dr Johann Rupert, op Donderdag 18 Februarie 2010.**

(Word of welcome according to protocol)

1. **Minister Blade Nzimande**, Minister of Higher Education and Training
2. **Mrs Helen Zille**, Premier of the Western Cape Provincial Government
3. **Minister Trevor Manuel**, Minister in the Presidency and Chancellor of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology
4. **Justice Thembile Skweyiya**, Chancellor of Fort Hare University
5. **Professor Jakes Gerwel**, Chancellor of Rhodes University
6. **Dr Theuns Eloff**, Vice-Chancellor of the North-West University
7. **Professor Cheryl de la Rey**, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, the University of Pretoria
8. **Professor Lineo Mazwi-Tanga**, Vice-Chancellor of Cape Peninsula University of Technology
9. **Professor Sir Duncan Rice**, Principal of the University of Aberdeen
10. **Professor Mandla Makhanya**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of South Africa
11. **Professor Gordon Zide**, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Vaal University of Technology
12. **Ambassador Dieter Haller** of the Republic of Germany; High Commissioners and Consul-Generals
13. **Minister Sakkie Jenner** and other Members of the Provincial legislative authorities
14. **Alderman Cyril Jooste**, Mayor of Stellenbosch and
15. **Alderman Buddy Chabaan**, Mayor of the Cape Winelands District.
16. **Dr Johann Rupert, Chancellor-elect, Mrs Gaynor Rupert**, Caroline, Anton and Hannelie Rupert
17. Distinguished guests

This is a proud moment in the history of this University. I am sure that over the years the words “proud moment” had been aptly used in various contexts of this University. But I am tonight particularly proud and honoured to have a visionary leader like Dr Johann Rupert installed as Chancellor of this great institution of higher learning.

I am very cognizant and sensitive of the fact that Dr Rupert is not one for praises and lofty speeches to acknowledge his global achievements. The very nature of this occasion, however, calls for a focus on the calibre and stature of our Chancellor. With his indulgence and based on our intermittent contact since the announcement of his Chancellorship, I would like to venture a few thoughts that, to my mind, says something of a convergence of thinking on the role and place of an institution such as ours, before I focus on his abridged profile.

Over the last few months I have come to know some of his views and his vision for higher education in South Africa, and of Stellenbosch University in particular, that has inspired me anew for the challenges that we face as a university. I am sure that he will share some of those views here with you tonight.

I think I can distil our short but deeply thought provoking discussions to a few short phrases: relevance, life-enhancing changes at grassroots level, and unlocking opportunities to those who aspire and are fully endowed, but are stifled in actualizing their full human potential.

I am proud to say that this University has positioned itself as a builder of hope for all our people, putting its proven strengths and expertise at the service of human need in a way that will facilitate a future filled with promise, aspiration and belief for all South Africans.

We call it a Pedagogy of Hope. Put simply, it is hope grounded in action, or as our academics and researchers at the coal face of these life-changing programs fondly refer to it: science for society.

Outside our borders in the developed world, one often hear the expression that in Africa, you need courage to hope. It is a deep seated perception of our Continent that needs to be challenged.

At Stellenbosch hope is seminal to everything we do – from our programs focused on combating pandemic poverty, through our initiatives to promote human dignity, physical and psychological security (including food security), promoting democracy and human rights as well as the provision of a sustainable environment for competitive industry. In the final analysis our initiatives are focused on enhancing the quality of life for people at grassroots level, delivering new knowledge and new opportunities and extending the boundaries of human potential.

To this end Stellenbosch is hard at work with dedicated ways to craft new tomorrows through our cutting edge research projects on HIV and Aids, tuberculosis, invasion biology, renewable energy, water studies and an array of other projects where we quite literally turned the town of Stellenbosch and the surrounding areas into a living laboratory to pioneer new knowledge and to create tangible hope for the less fortunate.

Our academics and students are the knowledge partners of the Municipality on issues such as land reform, spatial development and planning, water purification, refuse management and a scientific approach to the landfill problem, as well as issues pertaining to infrastructural planning for the future and ensuring a sustainable environment and responsible resource usage in the country's leading wine and deciduous fruit region. And the golden thread running through all these projects of social reconstruction is tangible hope for all our people.

But our focus is not only out there, in a manner of speaking. In all our thinking and planning for the future the spotlight also illuminated our internal strategic needs. Critical issues such as access for all to our university, promoting justice and equality across all levels of our institution, addressing the inequalities of the past and transforming our institutional culture to reflect the heart, soul and spirit of our hard earned democracy, are all matters that have not escaped our attention. We have set significant targets for ourselves as we move into the future.

These are all elements of a new vision to purposefully propel our institution from success to significance, bolstered by a bold and sustained investment in the research- and academic excellence of the institution to ensure its success as a 21<sup>st</sup> century university. This overarching future-focused strategy is already far advanced

and we will announce our exciting plans publicly in the not too distant future. For the moment I can only say: watch this space!

I am mentioning all of this as a means of reassuring Dr Rupert that the key facets of his vision for Stellenbosch University, are already in place and rolling forth under the guidance and world class expertise of a committed Stellenbosch team who are driven by new and critical thinking, innovation and an inborn scepticism that is the foundation of all great thinking.

We are indeed honoured to have you as Chancellor, sir, and this institution and its dedicated staff and students will do you proud in all your activities in the international arena. We welcome you on board at a time when we set sail into a future that beckons true hope, belief, and aspiration.

Dr Rupert, jy is 'n seun van hierdie stukkie aarde genaamd Stellenbosch. As visionêre entrepreneur en een van die mees invloedryke mense in die wêreld, maar op grondvlak betrokke by uiteenlopende projekte van maatskaplike hervorming dwarsoor ons land, verteenwoordig jy alles waarvoor hierdie Universiteit staan: ons visie, ons waardes en ons onwrikbare geloof in akademiese uitnemendheid. Ons deel jou passie en droom om die armoede spiraal te pak en saam kan ons daardie droom bereik dat die greep van armoede op ons land en sy mense in een generasie verbreek kan word deur geleenthede te skep en die grense van mense-potensiaal te verskuif. Dit is in die hart en wese van alles wat ons doen. Dankie dat jy jou gewig by hierdie droom van ons ingooi.

Let me now say a few words about the man, Johann Rupert, and some of his salient achievements:

Dr Johann Rupert can justly be regarded as a leader in numerous fields and an achiever of innumerable successes. This internationally renowned entrepreneur is known as, *inter alia*, critical thinker, conservation enthusiast, sports lover and champion of the less-privileged.

After matriculating, this oldest son of the well-known Stellenbosch business leader Dr Anton Rupert enrolled for a course in Company Law and Economics at SU but interrupted his studies to hone his business acumen in New York. He returned to South Africa in 1979 and started out on his remarkable journey as a business pioneer and leader.

It was not long before Dr Rupert made his unique mark on both the local and the international business world. In 1979, he established the Rand Merchant Bank (RMB), serving as managing director and chief executive officer of the Bank. Under his watchful eye, the RMB and Rand Consolidated Investments amalgamated five years later. He then joined the Rembrandt Group, later taking over the reins of the Group as chairperson. With his intuitive feeling for market trends, he restructured Rembrandt's European interests in 1988 and established the Swiss luxury-goods company *Compagnie Financière Richemont AG* (Richemont). Shortly thereafter, he was appointed executive chairperson of Richemont SA Luxemburg and managing

director of Richemont. In 2000, Rembrandt Group Limited was restructured and the risk-capital company VenFin was established under Dr Rupert's able leadership.

Dr Rupert's exceptional management skills have earned him a position on many a board, ranging from the Board of the South African Academy for Science and Art to the Daimler Chrysler International Advisory Board. He has also served as non-executive chairperson of Gold Fields South Africa and as council member of the South Africa Foundation (the current Business Leadership South Africa).

Through the establishment of the Small Business Development Corporation (now known as Business Partners), for example, he has helped to create approximately 500 000 employment opportunities in South Africa. He also serves as management trustee on the investment committee of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. Dr Rupert has always been an advocate of the meaningful creation and distribution of prosperity in South Africa. His open-mindedness in this respect is reflected in particular in his conviction that the country's future prosperity does not lie in the export of raw materials but in the export of knowledge and ideas.

Dr Rupert's entrepreneurial spirit also extends to the wine industry. As a wine entrepreneur, he took over the wine estate L'Ormarins from his late brother, Anthonij, and has developed and expanded it in memory of his brother. He has made a name for himself on all fronts in this field and was recently voted International Wine Entrepreneur of the Year at the Meininger award ceremony for Excellence in Wine and Spirits in Düsseldorf, Germany.

His illustrious business career has never, however, kept Dr Rupert from cherishing the more basic things in life – nature and our heritage – as did his father, the late Dr Anton Rupert. In his capacity as chairperson of the board of directors of the Peace Parks Foundation and formerly as trustee of the Southern African Nature Foundation (the current World Wide Fund for Nature), he campaigns tirelessly for the conservation and protection of our environment and our heritage treasures.

A former cricket player, Dr Rupert's deep interest in sport inspired him to assist in the establishment of the Sports Science Institute at the University of Cape Town and of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, an international foundation supporting 65 projects worldwide that benefit less-advantaged children in particular. He is also chairperson of the South African PGA Tour and honorary president of the South African Golf Development board.

His successes and achievements in such a wide variety of spheres have earned Dr Rupert numerous tributes. In 2004, SU awarded him an honorary doctorate in economics, followed by, four years later, an honorary doctorate in commerce from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and by the business school of the University of the Witwatersrand's sought-after Management Excellence Award. Dr Rupert is also regularly acknowledged outside the academic world for his contributions to and achievements in the business world. The top 100 listed companies in South Africa have, *inter alia*, already voted him Most Influential Leader in South Africa three times. He has also been voted Business Leader of the Year by

the *Sunday Times*, *Die Burger* and the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce and has been named one of 200 international leaders of the future by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. In 2009, he was awarded France's highest tribute – the Legion of Honour – in recognition of his close business and cultural ties with this country.

**With these words we now proceed to the official investiture of our Chancellor.**

*Mister Minister, members of Council, members of Senate, members of Convocation and honoured guests, we will now proceed with the inauguration of Dr Johann Peter Rupert as 14<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of Stellenbosch University.*

*(Vra die Kanselier om na vore te tree en hang sy toga om met die volgende woorde:)*

*U, Johann Peter Rupert, is in ooreenstemming met paragraaf 3.1 van die Statuut van die Universiteit Stellenbosch tot Kanselier verkies deur 'n kieskollege bestaande uit lede van die Universiteitsraad, lede van die uitvoerende komitee van die Senaat en die president en visepresident van die Konvokasie.*

*(Sluit dan af met:)*

Please welcome the 14<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of Stellenbosch University.

Dames en here ek stel aan u voor die 14de Kanselier van die Universiteit Stellenbosch – Dr Johann Peter Rupert.

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