Verwelkoming van nuwelingstudente en hul ouers

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Dankie, Dr MacMaster

Goeie more, almal! Geagte kollegas, dames en here, baie welkom hier. A special word of welcome to our guests of honour, our new intake of first-year students and their parents.

Before we proceed, let us think of Mrs Gloria Sekwena who died in a registration stampede at the University of Johannesburg earlier this month. Mev Sekwena was 'n ouer soos u, wat alles in haar vermoë gedoen het om deure vir haar kind oop te maak. Ongelukkig het dinge skeefgeloop, en sy het haar lewe verloor.

What happened at UJ should serve as a wake-up call to all of us. As desperately as the country needs a well-qualified workforce, just as desperately people are competing for a place at university. That means all of us have a big responsibility. We have to offer the best education possible. And you have to make the most of this opportunity.

So wat is dit wat Maties julle bied? My kort antwoord is 'n reënboog-ervaring! Kom ek verduidelik, deur oor drie kleure te praat – maroen, goud en groen.

MAROON is the colour of Maties. To me, it symbolises unity. Ons is so kleurbewus in hierdie land, en ons kom hier aan uit verskillende agtergronde. Maar hier is almal deel van die Matie-span … en ons is almal maroen. *Students, you look great in your T-shirts! Already one gets the sense that we are all part of one team. That's the essence of the Matie experience.*

Een van die verklarings vir die oorsprong van die naam "Matie" is dat dit afgelei is van die woord "maat". So, vriendskap is hier belangrik. *The friends that you make here will be your buddies for life, and that, you will learn in due course, is a valuable thing.*

Maties everywhere will tell you they are proud to have been at this university – and with good reason, which brings me to my second colour, GOLD. Goud is een van die kleure in

die Universiteitswapen, dit simboliseer gehalte, duursaamheid en blywende waarde. Dít is Stellenbosch by uitstek – ’n instelling van uitnemendheid.

As u tot nou nog getwyfel het oor u keuse, kom ek stel u gerus – die US tel onder die beste universiteite ter wêreld. *Last year, we broke into three international rankings in quick succession – the QS and Times Higher Education World University Rankings, and the Leiden Ranking. This serves to acknowledge that here we go for gold*

Deur ’n Matie te word, raak u deel van ons goudstandaard van uitnemendheid – en dis ’n hoë standaard. Studente, tyd vir ontspanning gaan daar wel wees, maar julle is in die eerste plek hier om te leer en te groei as mense. En dit verg harde werk om ’n Stellenbosch-graad te verwerf.

Speaking of Stellenbosch – I am sure you will all agree this is a beautiful town, with its old oak trees and magnificent mountains. That’s the way we would like to keep it, which brings me to my third and last colour – GREEN, the colour of life.

Groen is die natuur se kleur. Maar dis ook die kleur van die mensdom se morele bewussyn. Die besef het posgevat ons kan nie aanhou om ons beperkte natuurlike hulpbronne te mors nie; en om die wêreld so te besoedel nie.

Part of our contribution is our Mobility Plan to reduce the number of motor vehicles on campus. More details will be forthcoming in due course, but it might mean you will have to park off campus – in designated, protected areas and make use of shuttles to get to class or res. We are encouraging everyone to make use of lift clubs, and all of us will have to get used to walking and cycling more, which is actually quite healthy and enjoyable

Aan die hart van die “groen” bewussyn is die besef dat ons deel is van ’n groter geheel, dat ons verantwoordelik is vir mekaar en vir ander mense. Hierdie idee maak ook die kern uit van die HOOP Projek, waarvan julle nog baie gaan hoor. Die HOOP Projek is die US se manier om ’n verskil te maak deur middel van ons kundigheid.

It is through the HOPE Project that this University is working to eradicate poverty, promote human dignity and health, entrench democracy and human rights, advance peace and security, and balance a competitive industry with sustainable development. Die HOOP Projek is jou geleentheid om jou deel te doen vir ’n beter toekoms.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have spoken about three colours; now here is my rainbow challenge to you: Be proud of your Matie maroon; go for gold; and make this green town your home.

Ten slotte stel ek graag ons wenspan aan u voor – lede van my bestuur, en die dekane van ons fakulteite:

- Dr Llewellyn MacMaster, Studentedekaan
- *Prof Magda Fourie-Malherbe, Vice-Rector: Teaching*
- Prof Leopoldt van Huyssteen, Uitvoerende Direkteur: Bedryf en Finansies
- *Mr Johann Aspeling, Registrar*
- Prof Sam Tshehla, Dekaan van die Fakulteit Krygskunde
- *Prof Yusef Waghid, Dean of the Faculty of Education*
- Prof Nico Koopman, Dekaan van Teologie
- *Prof Mohammad Karaan, Dean of AgriSciences*
- Prof Johann de Villiers, Dekaan van Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe
- *Prof Hennie Kotzé, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences*
- Prof Gerhard Lubbe, Dekaan van Regsgeleerdheid
- *Prof Arnold Schoonwinkel, Dean of Engineering*
- Prof Eugene Cloete, Dekaan van Natuurwetenskappe; *and*
- *Prof Jimmy Volmink, Dean of Health Sciences*

Maties, these people are your team captains – and they are excellent leaders, as you will soon learn. As mentioned earlier by Dr MacMaster, you will get to meet the Deans at various venues immediately after this event.

That's it from my side, ladies and gentlemen. Weereens, baie welkom hier, en onthou, eenmaal 'n Matie, altyd 'n Matie!