

11 August 2020

**The Family of the late Professor Lungile Pepeta
The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sibongile Muthwa
Nelson Mandela University
Port Elizabeth**

It is with utmost sadness that the news of the untimely passing away of Professor Lungile Pepeta, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Nelson Mandela University, reached the higher education and scientific communities of South Africa. They have lost one of the most talented of their own. On behalf of the vice-chancellors and the staff of Universities South Africa (USAf) we offer our deepest condolences to the family of Professor Pepeta and to the community of the Nelson Mandela University. During this very difficult time we wish you much strength and fortitude.

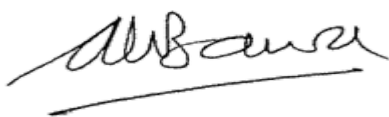
As we commiserate on our loss, we must also celebrate this giant in South African scholarship. In his capacity as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Nelson Mandela University, Professor Pepeta played an important role within one of USAf's communities of practice, namely the South African Committee of Medical Deans (SACOMD) that represents the 10 medical schools within our system and the Health Sciences Faculties more generally. Professor Pepeta will be remembered particularly for his passion in equipping healthcare professionals for service.

Passing away at a time that USAf is actively championing the embeddedness of universities in and their responsiveness to the contexts within which they find themselves, Professor Pepeta remains a living embodiment of this vision. His firm belief in this regard manifested, not only in the sterling role he played towards the establishment of a medical school at Nelson Mandela University, it was also exemplified in his work in reimagining the nature of the curriculum. Needless to say, his work in leading Nelson Mandela University's public health response to COVID-19 in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro is further amplification of this vision.

It is therefore fitting to say that the community of Nelson Mandela University, the South Africa's public university system at large, the broad society of the Eastern Cape Province and South Africa, are all in unison in mourning the loss of this great son of the soil.

As we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family, we want you to take comfort in that South Africa's public university system is all the better for having counted this giant among its intellectuals.

He shall be deeply missed.



**Ahmed C Bawa
Chief Executive Officer**