

National University Staff Golf Tournament Opening Address 2019

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the host institution the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the organising committee it is indeed a pleasure to welcome you to Cape Town and the stunning Arabella Hotel. I trust the organising committee have pulled out all the stops to ensure you have a stimulating three and a half days of golf and networking. Social interaction between university staff members cannot be underestimated in the wider Higher Education landscape. Co-operation agreements, benchmarking exercises and the uplifting of the overall student experience are the real prizes to come out of the next few days.

At CPUT, our colleagues in the Sports Management Department in Mowbray are working hard at breaking down the elitist persona of golf and encouraging our students to consider careers in this burgeoning field. Just before the September recess a group of 10 students had the opportunity of visiting the Pearl Valley golf course in Franschhoek for a Golf Development course. For most this was the first time they held a golf club and were exposed to the exquisite surroundings of a world-class golf course. And next month a partnership between CPUT and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture will see more of these students visiting the Rondebosch Golf Course for a similar exercise. We are blessed to have staff members who see the value of exposing our students to the mental and physical benefits of the game. These same students are also destined to become captains of industry, and their future may involve many enjoyable hours on golf courses, as you yourselves are preparing to do.

As South African's we cannot be aloof to the social restoration of the game. We must avoid the have-nots peeking over the fence at spectacular golf courses and watching the privileged play. Sports like golf are integral to the ongoing nation building exercise and I am proud of CPUT for playing its part in that. Our university has seen the value that sport plays in building institutional pride when we won the FNB Varsity Shield Rugby tournament earlier this year. Prior to winning, University Management took a decision to invest in world class floodlights for our Bellville Rugby Stadium. This rejuvenated enthusiasm for the sport, has made the stadium a viable after-hours fitness venue for staff and students and has boosted venue bookings from external stakeholders.

In conclusion I hope you enjoy your time on the Arabella and Hermanus Golf courses in the following few days. I hope that you are blessed with good weather to compliment the beautiful surroundings.

Thank You



