Cape Peninsula University of Technology
creating futures

PO Box 1906, Bellville,7535 Symphony Way, Bellville, Cape Town, South Africa
+ 27 (0)21 959 6767 www.facebook.com/cput.ac.za info@cput.ac.za www.cput.ac.za

SPEECH DRAFTED FOR DELIVERY AT ZACUBE PLENARY EVENT 26 FEBRUARY 2019

- **Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane**
- **Industry partners from the South African National Space Agency, South African Agency for Science and Technology and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research**
- **Dignitaries, Members of CPUT Executive Management**
- **Staff and Students, Distinguished guests, members of the media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

We welcome you to the Cape Peninsula University of Technology as we do what, in academic speak, would be the first assessment of the ZACube-2 mission thus far- the report card if you will. Many of us will recall how we waited with baited breath on Day of Goodwill last year as the nano-satellite was launched from the space station in Russia. With it went the hard work of a mission first started way back in 2008 when the CPUT node of the French South African Institute of Technology was launched with the support of the Department of Science and Technology. 11 years later the Pan African Space industry continues to play a critical role in leveraging the future wealth generation of Africa's oceans economy.

I emphasize the word **future** in the statement I just made, because that is CPUT's role in this exciting endeavour. We are capacitating the next generation of space cadets while at the same time helping to attract more students to careers in space engineering and related fields. The future wealth and security of our beautiful country depend on the strength of the South African space industry. It is not a task we take lightly.

The responsibility of producing graduates who understand societal needs and respond accordingly is in the DNA of CPUT. We have always embraced technological innovations and our mantra of One SMART CPUT underpins this philosophy. Myself, and my management team, are endlessly asking ourselves "How can we leverage the strengths of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the creation of a Smart society?"

Cape Peninsula
University of Technology
creating futures

PO Box 1906, Bellville,7535 Symphony Way, Bellville, Cape Town, South Africa
+ 27 (0)21 959 6767 www.facebook.com/cput.ac.za info@cput.ac.za www.cput.ac.za

This quote by Andreas Scheichter says Education in the Fourth Industrial Revolution is *"about making students develop a reliable compass and the navigation skills to find their own way through an increasingly uncertain, volatile and ambiguous world."* That is what we are attempting to do here at CPUT. The innovations that will lead us into this new era will be borne in our high-tech laboratories, research facilities, IT facilities and well-resourced libraries. And ZACube-2 is leading the charge…

To date, the Satellite Programme has produced more than 60 postgraduate students to support the space industry and, ultimately, national imperatives like Operation Phakisa. Through its vibrant innovation hub, The Africa Space Innovation Centre, CPUT spearheads the commercialisation of nano-satellite technologies. These developments take place right here on this campus in our space programme which is equipped with the cleanroom, production and development areas, state of the art test equipment and a ground station.

And I am proud to say that like most Proudly South African made products we build things to last here at CPUT. ZACube's predecessor ZaCube-1 later renamed Tshepiso-Sat long outlived its life expectancy and over four years later it continues to orbit and transmit space weather data. Truly exceptional. We wish the same for ZACube-2, even as its successor no doubt nips at its heels. Programme Director, I cannot think of a better academic home for South Africa's space ambitions.

I see many correlations between nano-satellites and CPUT. Nano-satellites are affordable, highly responsive and agile and provide real world solutions to real world issues. I would argue that CPUT, as one of the top Universities of Technology in the country echoes this.

I am confident that the ZACube-2 report card when it is received later in the programme will reflect the collective hard work, dedication and ambitions of a team who have been working diligently behind the scenes. Your continued support is appreciated.

Thank You