

Geagte Raadslede – van sowel die Universiteit Stellenbosch en die Munisipaliteit, Raadsheer Lauretta Maree, gerespekteerde lede van die US Bestuur insluitende dekanes en ander akademici, dames en here ...

Ek wil die woorde wat Raadsheer Maree gespreek het, endorseer -- veral ten opsigte van die toekomsgerigte benadering en die gedeelde visie vir die skepping van 'n volhoubare dorp van hoop vir almal.

Alderman Maree, I cannot agree with you more on the issues of building a great new town of hope and overcoming the divisions and the inequalities of the past.

It is my contention that a key element of our shared vision is not only coming to grips with the injustices of the past, but going forward and focusing on the common good of all our communities and all our people so that we can truly create a home for all.

To this end we have come a long way in terms of dealing with the broad challenges of Town and Gown in terms of identifying the key areas of co-operation and taking the necessary steps to ensure that it is embedded in our medium and long term planning.

Between our two institutions I think I can safely say that we share a formidable knowledge base,

extremely high levels of expertise and competencies, and the enthusiasm to create a blueprint of social reconstruction on local and regional level that can be a forerunner and an example to the rest of the country.

Maar daar is myns insiens ook 'n ander onderliggende nuanse aan hierdie gedeelde visie en die Memorandum van Verstandhouding, waarby ek tog vir 'n oomblik wil stilstaan: Dit is die saak en uitdaging van versoening. Dit is my hoop en strewe dat in al ons samewerkingsinisiatiewe ons alles in ons vermoë sal doen om al ons mense te help om deur nuwe grense te breek sodat ons op hierdie dorp en in hierdie streek (en eindelijk in hierdie land) ons medemenslikheid sal terugvind – op 'n manier en vlak wat persoonlike belange in de agtergrond skuif, maar die gemeenskaplike belange en welwees vooropstel.

Op operasionele vlak gaan ons op alle terreine van samewerking meer inklusief dink en beplan aan 'n nuwe toekoms, en het ons die nodige strukture in plek geplaas om te verseker dat dit gebeur. Maar onderliggend hieraan lê 'n proses van nuut dink oor “Hoe is ons wat ons is?” en “Hoe word ons wat ons wil wees?” Om dit met sukses te kan doen, vra 'n versoeningsbenadering van ons almal om eindelijk met opregtheid te werk vir die skepping van een dorp vir almal -- waarin die belange van wit en swart, arm en ryk, Mostertsdrif en Kayamandi eweveel gewig dra in die beste belang van almal. So word Stellenbosch

'n mikrokosmos en die laboratorium vir die essensiële sosiale hervorming wat so onmisbaar is op die breër vlakke van ons land.

This is the challenge that we all face today, and it is a foremost challenge for Stellenbosch University in particular. How do we deal effectively with the educational needs of the poor? And are we doing enough to promote equal access to the University for the daughter of the farm laborer when compared to the enrolment opportunities of the farmer's son. How do we make sure that we become a beacon of hope for all our people? We can apply these challenges metaphorically across the spectrum of problems that we are facing in our efforts to socially and morally reconstruct all our towns and regions and ultimately our country.

At the heart of the process is reconciliation and acting in the common good of all. This is the spirit of this Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Municipality and I hope that we will be the torch bearers of a new era of hope that will shine across our country.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the Councils of both the University and the Municipality for sharing our vision in creating one undivided town that will truly qualify as a home for all. Thank you for embracing and supporting this initiative wholeheartedly.

I thank you.

Baie dankie vir u aandag.