



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SMU USHERS IN A NEW ERA OF EXCELLENCE WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR TANDI MATSHA-ERASMUS AS VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**GA-RANKUWA, PRETORIA**—Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) is proud to announce the appointment of Professor Tandi Matsha-Erasmus as its new Vice-Chancellor, effective 1 June 2025. This historic appointment signals a bold and visionary step forward for SMU as it strengthens its position as a leading institution in health sciences education, research, and societal impact.

Matsha-Erasmus is a distinguished scholar, seasoned academic leader, and research powerhouse who brings over 27 years of executive leadership experience in academia and research institutions. Her academic portfolio includes a PhD in Medical Biochemistry, a Higher Diploma in Higher Education and Training, and a Management Development Programme qualification. A C1-rated scientist by the National Research Foundation, Matsha-Erasmus has authored over 150 peer-reviewed publications, supervised a significant number of postgraduate candidates, and led several high-impact research and grant funding initiatives across the continent.

Prior to her appointment, Matsha-Erasmus served with distinction as the university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Research and, most recently, as Acting Vice-Chancellor, where she has already laid the foundation for a strong academic and research-driven future.

Her appointment follows a rigorous selection process governed by the university's policy on the appointment of vice-chancellor. As Vice-Chancellor, Matsha-Erasmus will lead the implementation of the university's strategic priorities with boldness, agility, and academic integrity. Her vision aligns with the university's mission to be a vibrant, student-centred institution producing world-class professionals and researchers who contribute meaningfully to addressing the health sciences challenges of South Africa, the continent and the globe.

Chairperson of Council, Maria Rambauli, remarks: "This appointment marks a pivotal moment for SMU. Under Professor Matsha-Erasmus's leadership, we are confident that the university will reach new heights in academic excellence, transformative research, and inclusive progress."

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