10-years for UKZN

The university celebrates 10-year anniversary

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UNIVERSITY of KZN vice-chancellor Malegapuru Makgopa said his university had every reason to celebrate its 10-year anniversary since the configuration of the country’s tertiary institutions.

“People were afraid of the merger, but were excited about the new institution,” Makgopa said during the university’s 10-year anniversary on Wednesday night.

UKZN was born out of a merger between the Universities of Westville and Natal.

Makgopa said: “Over the years our academics have adapted and are competing with colleagues in the world. Our aspiration to drive for excellence has given results we are proud of.”

Makgopa said UKZN was the only merger of tertiary institutions that was a success.

“We are the only successful merger that was successful. One failed and another was disbundled. The people who predicted that we were doomed to fail got it all wrong,” he said.

Recalling the merger, UKZN council chairperson Vincent Maphai said then education ministers Kader Asmal and Naledi Pandor had given them a mandate to make it work.

“They understood the importance of distinguishing the role of the ministry and council. They never interfered,” he said.

Maphai said UKZN should be a shining example and should attract people who would serve and make the institution grow.

“We need a strong culture where leadership is about service and self-sacrifice,” he said.

Renuka Vithal, deputy vice-chancellor for teaching and learning, said: “In these 10 years we have laid a strong foundation.

“There is much to be done, but we are on our way.”

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