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3 September 2024

UCT and CAF kick off game-changing programme to elevate African football administration



Professor Mosa Moshabela and Dr Patrice Motsepe.

Photo: Robyn Walker.

The University of Cape Town (UCT) and the Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF) launched the CAF Football Management Executive Programme on Monday night, 2 September 2024 at UCT's Graduate School of Business. This ground-breaking initiative is set to revolutionise the landscape of football administration across the African continent by equipping football administrators with the knowledge, capacity, and administrative skills needed to elevate African football to world-class standards.

The programme, an ambitious venture spearheaded by CAF leadership, is designed for the administrative staff and officials of CAF member associations. Through this initiative, CAF and UCT aim to build capacity, enhance skills, and drive efficiency, ensuring that African football administration and competitions reach the heights of global excellence. As Africa's

premier university, UCT is committed to playing a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of football leaders.

The launch marked the beginning of the programme's roll-out, with plans to expand to French-speaking regions of Africa in the near future. The programme boasts a distinguished faculty, including former Arsenal Chairperson David Dein, former Multichoice Chairperson Imtiaz Patel, and other personalities in the business of sport. UCT will deliver bespoke courses and programmes as an Africa Centre of Education Excellence, underscoring its dedication to driving knowledge, creating capacity, and strengthening administrative skills among Africa's football stakeholders.

UCT Chancellor Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe described the partnership as a union of excellence, leadership, and innovation. "At UCT, we pride ourselves on being more than just a university. We see ourselves as a beacon of hope, a catalyst for change, and a leader in driving Africa's progress on global stages. As Africa's number one university, we are deeply committed to contributing to the continent's future. This partnership with CAF is a natural extension of our mission to nurture leaders who will make a lasting impact across all sectors of society. By collaborating with CAF, we are investing in the future of African football, ensuring it is governed with the excellence, professionalism, and integrity it deserves," she said.

Dr Moloi-Motsepe also emphasised the programme's broader impact, particularly on youth and women in football. "We are not just training administrators; we are shaping the future of African football for its youth, both girls and boys. This programme will establish new standards for football administration, ensuring efficiency and sustainability for the benefit of all. Furthermore, we are enabling more women to recognise the diversity of roles they can play in sustaining the sports they love."

UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mosa Moshabela echoed these sentiments, highlighting the significance of the partnership. "CAF's decision to partner with UCT signals a commitment to excellence and impact. We understand the importance of sustainability and legacy, and this partnership embodies the teamwork and unity that are crucial to success. Our stars may gain experience globally, but our goal is for them to return and contribute to Africa's growth. At UCT, we strive to get things right the first time, and this partnership will be no exception. We are determined to excel, and we look forward to a long-lasting relationship with CAF."

Professor Moshabela urged other universities to join UCT in the task to equip African football administrators and said: "It is my hope that we will also see other institutions coming on board doing the same, understanding that, as universities, we cannot continue being ivory towers. We have to take interest in what is happening in the society around us and make a direct impact in our society, in real time. I know that the task ahead is not a small one, but the fact that it is tough does not mean it is impossible. We will do it and it will succeed."

CAF President Dr Patrice Motsepe alluded to the importance of bringing the best skills and expertise to African football administration. "Our goal is to equip the 54 Secretary Generals across Africa with the skills and expertise needed to run football efficiently, adhering to global best practices. By partnering with UCT, we are ensuring that the quality of our administrators is world-class. This programme will build a legacy of governance, financial management, and confidence among stakeholders, ultimately attracting more sponsors and partners to African football," he said.

UCT Council Chair Advocate Norman Arendse said the programme will impact positively on Africa's football administrators and wished them well. He thanked Dr Motsepe for entrusting UCT with the programme.

The landmark partnership between UCT and CAF represents a significant step forward in the professionalisation of football administration in Africa. It seeks to shape the future of football on the continent and set new standards for excellence, governance, and sustainability.

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