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**6 December 2013**

## **UCT community gathers to reflect on Madiba's passing**

**Friday, 6 December 2013, 14h00, Jameson Hall, Upper Campus, UCT**

As South Africa and the world seek meaningful ways to reflect on the passing of former President Nelson Mandela, the University of Cape Town will be holding a campus community gathering at 14h00 today (Friday, 6 December 2013) on the steps of Jameson Hall, Upper Campus.

The gathering will be led by Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, Chair of Council, Dr Max Price, Vice-Chancellor of UCT, Ms Mary Burton, Chair of Convocation, and Ms Nommangaliso Gondwe, President of the Students' Representative Council. Dr Price will call for a moment of silence to mark Madiba's passing, and together with Archbishop Ndungane, Ms Burton and Ms Gondwe, make some brief remarks.

The Vice-Chancellor will then invite members of the UCT community to sign a memorial book in the Ben Beinart Room and a memorial canvas in the Richard Luyt Room. (Both rooms are located in the Otto Beit Building - adjacent to the Jameson Hall.)

Dr Price says: "As we keep the UCT Chancellor, Mrs Graça Machel, and the Mandela family in our thoughts, our university community has an important role to play in contributing to the period of national mourning in a dignified and respectful way. In this time we also reflect upon Madiba's legacy and the meaning of his life for South Africa and the world.

"As a public institution we are mindful of our responsibility to provide safe public spaces where we can express this tremendous sense of loss that many of us are feeling. We invite staff, students, alumni and members of the public to pay their respects, to record their reminiscences and to commune with one another."

Media are welcome to attend the UCT community gathering.

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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