



2 February 2016

## **UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA APPOINTS PROFESSOR AHMED BAWA AS ITS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

After a comprehensive recruitment and selection process Universities South Africa is proud to announce the appointment of Professor Ahmed Bawa, as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Professor Bawa, who has served as Vice-Chancellor at the Durban University of Technology, since 2010, brings an impressive set of credentials to Universities SA. He has dedicated most of his professional life to South Africa's university sector including a stint as Programme Officer at the Ford Foundation.

His previous positions include Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Production and Partnerships) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Principal of the Durban Campus of the same university and also Vice-Principal of the Pietermaritzburg Campus. By virtue of his Vice-Chancellorship, Professor Bawa has been a member of the Board of Directors of the former Higher Education South Africa (HESA), now Universities SA and served as its Chairperson until December 2013.

Of this appointment, Universities SA's Chairperson Professor Adam Habib, says that Professor Bawa is "the most appropriate candidate, having experienced the complexities and challenges of change, at a national and institutional level, and understands what it takes to lead a repositioned and revitalized university association." In concert with the management team and staff, Professor Bawa will play a critical leadership role in realising the strategic goals Universities SA has set for the success of not only the university sector but ultimately, South Africa's national economic growth and social development.

Professor Bawa will assume office with effect from 1 May 2016.

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