

Tribute to top South African Scholar



The Late Prof. Hayman Russell Botman.

The untimely death of Prof. Hayman Russell Botman, has left a deep gap in the African higher education sector.

Until his death, Botman served in various capacities, including Rector and Vice-Chancellor, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, Chairperson of the World Design Capital Cape Town 2014 Board, Director of Higher Education South Africa and of Media24. At a continental level, he was Vice-President of the Association for African Universities (AAU), as well as a member of the international board of trustees of the African Institute for Mathematics and Science (AIMS).

A quiet man, but a principled individual and leader, all who served with him were aware, of his commitment to the upliftment of his community and, specifically, the transformation of Stellenbosch University.

At the University of Nairobi, Botman will be remembered for the role that he played in initiating strong collaboration between the University of Nairobi and the University of Stellenbosch, an initiative that has resulted in joint research projects, staff and student exchange and research capacity development. Most recently, Stellenbosch University in partnership with the University of Nairobi and the Association of African Universities (AAU) organized a University Advancement Training Programme for University Leadership.

Prof. Botman's dedication, experience and knowledge contributed immensely to the higher education sector in Africa and he will be sorely missed; but we believe that his legacy of unity, solidarity, peace and human capacity building, should keep all of us focused on taking Africa closer to sustainable development.

As we condole with the family and the Stellenbosch University community, the University of Nairobi community, prays that the good deeds that Prof. Botman did be remembered for “He gave his honors to the world again, His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace”.

Fare thee Well, Hayman Russell Botman.

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