

# North-West University announces new chairperson and deputy chairperson of its council

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During its meeting on 23 June 2022, the North-West University (NWU) council elected a new chairperson and deputy chairperson.



Bert Sorgdrager, elected sixth chairperson of the NWU Council



Obakeng Mongale, elected as deputy chairperson

Mr Bert Sorgdrager, a seasoned legal professional with more than 30 years' experience in the private sector, was elected as the sixth chairperson of the NWU Council. Mr Obakeng Mongale, an experienced public servant and the current superintendent general for the North West Department of Health, will serve as deputy chairperson.

This follows the resignation of the previous chairperson, Dr Bismark Tyobeka, who has since been appointed principal and vice-chancellor of the NWU.

"I am proud to continue serving my alma mater and consider it a privilege to be looking after the interests of the NWU, both currently and in the future," says Mr Sorgdrager. His association with the university goes back to his enrolment in 1977 for, and his completion of the BLuris (1979) and LLB (1981) degrees at the then Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, now the NWU.

Mr Sorgdrager, currently an attorney at Van Deventer Dlamini Inc, previously served the NWU Council as acting

chairperson and deputy chairperson. He has been a council member since 2017 (elected from the ranks of the Convocation) and has been a member of the executive committee of the NWU council since September 2018.

His association with the NWU includes serving on various committees and being an exco member since August 2014, and president of the NWU Convocation since April 2018. He has also been the chairperson of the NWU Alumni Association since August 2014 and the representative of the Potchefstroom campus alumni since 2012.

Mr Sorgdrager spent most of his career in banking, specifically at Nedbank, where he served as legal adviser and also held various management positions in risk management.

Mr Mongale is also a proud alumnus of the NWU, having obtained a postgraduate diploma (PGDip) in management, and a master's degree in industrial psychology. He holds an honours degree in industrial psychology and a bachelor's degree in administration from the former University of Bophuthatswana, now the NWU. He is an Oliver Tambo fellow (postgraduate diploma in health management) at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Mr Mongale is currently studying towards a master's degree in philosophy in conflict transformation at the Nelson Mandela University.

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