PROGRAM DATE: 2014-07-31

PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: PROFESSOR CHERYL DE LA REY – VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPALOF THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA- GENDER TRANSFORMATION IN UNIVERSITY

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPTION
DR. MALKA	Hello, I'm Dr.AmaleyaGoneos-Malka, welcome to 'Womanity –
	Women in Unity'. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary
	African Women's milestone achievements in their struggles for
	liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-
	economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA	We're here at the University of Pretoria talking to Professor Cheryl De La Rey who has been the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria since 2009. Her previous executive positions include being CEO of the Council on Higher Education, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town and Executive Director at the National Research Foundation. She has published books and several journal articles in her discipline, psychology. Professor De La Rey is a registered psychologist, a Fellow of the Psychological Association of South Africa, a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and of the Academy of Science of South Africa. She is a member of a number of boards and committees such as the National Human Resource Development Council, The Council of the Association of Common Wealth Universities, International Council of
	Sciences, Strategy & Planning Committee and the Talloires Network. She is also the African Co-Chairperson of the Australia Africa Universities Network.
DR. MALKA	Welcome to the show Professor.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Thank you very much, I'm delighted to have the opportunity to
DE LA RAY	speak to you and your listeners.
DR. MALKA	Congratulations on entering into the second term as Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Thank you very much.
DE LA RAY	
DR. MALKA	Please can you share some information about the university as well as
	your role as Vice-Chancellor and Principal?
PROFESSOR CHERYL DE LA RAY	Well thank you. The University of Pretoria is one of South Africa's oldest universities. It was started in 1908, well over a 100 years ago
	and from a very small beginning has grown into South Africa's
	largest research university. So currently we have about 50,000 full time students and another 15,000 students who study by distance
	education. So we are a community of about 65,000 students and I
	find it dynamic, it's diverse and it's invigorating on a daily basis.
DR.MALKA	In terms of the faculties, if I'm not mistaken, there're nine faculties?
PROFESSOR CHERYL	That's correct, there are nine faculties, our largest faculty at the
DE LA RAY	moment is our faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT,
	but we also have the only faculty of Veterinary Sciences in South
	Africa and we have a Faculty of Law, so we cover all the main

	professions and disciplines and we also have a Business School, the Gordon Institute of Business Science based in Johannesburg. So we offer the widest range of academic programmes of all South
	African universities and as I said, it's dynamic, it's diverse and we're growing all the time, including attracting a growing number of students from the rest of Africa and from across the world and
	we're delighted about that.
DR.MALKA	When we're talking from the rest of Africa, are there specific countries that have been targeted?
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Initially it's mostly been – when we started attracting students from
DE LA RAY	the rest of Africa it was mostly in Southern Africa, in particular
	where English is a language of communication, but now we've seen
	that diversify with an increasing number of students coming from
	West Africa for example.
DR.MALKA	And are these students part of the distance learning education or full
	time students?
PROFESSOR CHERYL	No, full time students. Our distance education at the moment is a
DE LA RAY	very focused offering. It's offered in the Faculty of Education
	mostly to South African School Teachers who are seeking to
	improve qualifications and then we have an open and distance
	learning programme at the Masters level in Veterinary Science and
	those tend to be international students, many from across the
	continent. But by and large, our African students, you know, other
	than the South African students are full time students in residence
	here at the University of Pretoria.
DR.MALKA	And the contribution in terms of student numbers what percentages
DR.WALKA	would you say are from the continent?
DDOEESCOD CHEDVI	
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Well at the moment we have about 5,000 students from the
DE LA RAY	continent of the 50,000 that I mentioned.
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	universities produce those who drive the political sphere, the
	economic sphere and also the public space in general. We produce
	the leaders in all, in our local communities but also in the other
	sectors that I've mentioned. And we see our role as fundamentally
	critical to the development, not only of South Africa but to the
	African region. We believe very strongly that the curriculum and
	the curriculum we offer has to be not only of world class quality in
	academic terms but relevant to our changing environment, but not
	only in the present, but in terms of the future. What will be
	required of an African leader for example, in the next 20 to 50
	years, and that's what we look at. So quality and relevance as well
	as diversity and sustainability are the four principles that drive the University of Pretoria.
DR. MALKA	And my experience as well, what I've found from a research point of
	view is that quite often the data that we receive is very westernised by
	nature and there doesn't seem to be enough African related and relevant
PROFESSOR CHERW	research that is coming through on
PROFESSOR CHERYL	You're absolutely correct and that's why the intellectual space
DE LA RAY	offered by university education is so important, right from year one, what we're trying to do is encourage what we could an enquiry
	led curriculum and that means encouraging students to think, to
	ask questions, sometimes difficult questions, and to seek answers to
	those questions and that's fundamentally what research is about.
	But it is very important that we don't stop at simply asking
	questions but we find answers that are relevant and can be applied
	in a very meaningful way to our local contexts, our national and
	our regional contexts because what I meant by game changer is not
	only making a difference to the life of the individual graduate, but
	also making a difference to the social and economic development of
	the community and society at large.
DR. MALKA	Yes, it's got a significant effect because whatever I do as an individual,
	I have an impact on my immediate environment which will then trigger
PROFESSOR CHERYL	onto somebody else's environment and have that influencing thought. Yes, I think that beyond that, we've taken on the responsibility of
DE LA RAY	integrating community engagement into our core business. So, a
DE LA KAT	university is a place of considerable expertise and the question is
	how do we use that expertise beyond the traditional classroom for
	the benefit of society? So for example we have a specific division in
	our university and one of the programmes, just to mention, we're
	working in partnership with one of our local city, the City of
	Tshwane and to date they trained 10,000 youth entrepreneurs.
	Young people who have ideas, who we believe have business
	potential and the city provides support because one of the realities
	we face is that jobs are not being created in the formal economy
	fast enough and therefore we have to be more creative. So how can
	we stimulate micro- businesses and small business development and
	entrepreneurial thinking in our society? So, it's not only through individual graduates but using the expertise and the resources of
	individual graduates but using the expertise and the resources of the university as a whole, for the benefit of society.
DR.MALKA	That's a great initiative because currently I think that we are on about
DIVINIUTIVA	25/26 percent official unemployment stats in South Africa and when
	they start to include the other components its coming up to about 37/38
	percent so entrepreneurship is a significant changer.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Yes and you know if we travel, not only across South Africa, but
	2 John mad it is ventury not drilly not done bound in include but

DE LA RAY	many countries on the continent, I think we as an African
	community, we are entrepreneurial. You'll see many people
	making a living in a very small way. Often its women trading you
	know, goods on a small scale and the challenge is, how do we, from
	that early start, how do we also assist those entrepreneurs from
	moving to that level to the next level of business development and I
	think universities play a critical role, after all we have a faculty of
	economic and management sciences, we have a business school, so
	we have expertise - let's look at how we can call that expertise for wider benefits.
DR. MALKA	So, with the community programmes who owns the community
	programme, is it an initiative that's driven from the university or does it
	come from the council?
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Well it's in both directions and it's very important that community
DE LA RAY	initiatives are actually two or more players who become true
	partnerships, so it's not a charity model where the relationship is
	very different. This is based on reciprocity and mutual benefit. So
	in many cases it's an idea that we have, but then we have to engage with the community through the formal and sometimes informal
	leadership structures to make sure that what we are doing is
	embarking on a longer term relationship. So the example I
	mentioned to you is actually a partnership that we have formally
	with the City of Tshwane and it has many facets to it, I've just
	given you one example but we see this as a long term relationship
	with mutual benefit. So this is the City in which we're based. We
	are committed to the growth and development of the city and we
	would like the city to grow and if the city grows the university
	henefite So it's a win/win situation in the and
DD MALKA	benefits. So it's a win/win situation in the end.
DR. MALKA	And sustainable with that reciprocal benefit.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	
	And sustainable with that reciprocal benefit. Exactly.
PROFESSOR CHERYL DE LA RAY	And sustainable with that reciprocal benefit.
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	nuagrammas Whan I was a student woman wore mostly alustaned
	programmes. When I was a student women were mostly clustered
	in faculties of humanities or faculties of arts or faculties of
	education, doing what was mostly regarded as the traditional
	feminine careers, whereas now if you walk into the school of
	engineering you will see a growing cohort of women and across the
	board. There is no career where we're not seeing change at the
	level of gender participation.
DR. MALKA	Well I think legislation is a really critical component on change and in
	fact, when I was talking to the High Commissioner of Tanzania, she
	spoke to me about her role when she started at the University of Dar Es
	Salaam and she said that there was the Musoma Resolution, which
	came into play and she said when she went into the university they
	called women coming into the university "the flood". And I asked her,
	I said well why is that? And she said it was because of the Musoma
	l v
	Resolution that came through which opened up those opportunities for
	women to go directly from high school into university and she said it
	was a game changer and a life changer for women in Tanzania.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Well we've had a similar experience. You know since '94 there've
DE LA RAY	been two important what you could say policy provisions, or
	constitutional, in fact these are constitutional provisions, it's in the
	South African Constitution which is quite exceptional in the
	following sense. Not only is the constitutional provision
	commitment to freedom from discrimination, but there's also
	provision for enabling the advancement of women. In other words
	what you might describe as equity provisions. And it's that twin
	- · · ·
	commitment that has enabled the growing participation of women
	in universities as we've seen in the last 20 years. So it's important
	to acknowledge that it's not about simply saying that we must
	remove discrimination, but if we want to see significant shifts, we
	also have to say well what more do we need to do to foster and to
	facilitate the participation of girls and women.
DR. MALKA	And do you see any other contributing factors other than the legislation
	and constitutional components in terms of driving the increased access
	of women coming into the education sector, because I recall from the
	Council of Education in Statistics around about 2012 where the
1	lestimated ratio of graduates was 60% women to 40% men, and I think
	estimated ratio of graduates was 60% women to 40% men, and I think
	already you've mentioned that we've got a 56% intake of women in
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DR. MALKA	Possibly sort of shifting a gender stereo-type on role model
DD OFFICE OF CTTTT	responsibility.
PROFESSOR CHERYL DE LA RAY	And role models of course and as more women succeed there are more role models and a greater diversity of role models for young girls to see that many options are available and yes, it is possible for women to have families and to succeed in their careers and to take on a much greater diversity of career roles, not only the traditional
	albeit important roles, that women have occupied.
DR. MALKA	I almost don't consider that we have traditional roles anymore our environment is changing so rapidly.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	And that's wonderful, isn't it? So we are not steered into a
DE LA RAY	particular direction, in fact, there are many career pathways open to us as women.
DR. MALKA	So it's having the right ingredients and I think support structure is one of the crucial factors which allows you to accommodate all of the interests that you may want to have and pursue. So whether it is having shared responsibilities in the household or outsourcing some of those responsibilities and in a way perhaps it's creating an entrepreneurial environment for somebody else.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Of course, and creating employment.
DE LA RAY	or course, and creating employments
DR. MALKA	And I see from a South African perspective just looking back and I'm going back to legislation again, that South African women have made really strong inroads, if we look at it from a political space. Pre - 1994 there were less than 3% in government, 1994 - 27%, 1999 I think then it increased up to 30%. By 2004 it was 33% and in 2009 we were on 44/45% representation of women in parliament. I haven't seen the latest
PROFESSOR SHERW	data yet on what we've had in the elections now.
PROFESSOR CHERYL DE LA RAY	Neither have I but I think as I said to you earlier, that's one of the reasons for celebrating 20 years of democracy because so many opportunities have opened up for women, including myself, and I am enormously grateful to all of those who fought for the freedom that we now enjoy and who have made the opportunities available.
DR.MALKA	And with legislation, we've already chatted briefly about constitutional elements from an equity point of view and minimising and hopefully
	eradicating discrimination, South Africa has put out the new Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, what are your perspectives on the Bill?
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, what are your perspectives on the Bill?
PROFESSOR CHERYL DE LA RAY	Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, what are your perspectives on

PROFESSOR CHERYL	Absolutely, yes.
DE LA RAY	Thisolately, yes.
DR. MALKA	So, something that may happen in one area of the world is going to
	have repercussions eventually onto our area of society. But I do know
	that the work that is done in South Africa is often taken the abroad and
	showcased for the legislation that we have.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	And rightly so. You know my, my, one of the fields that I wrote
DE LA RAY	about as part of my academic career was in fact looking at issues of
	gender. My specific view is social psychology and I remember after
	the first decade of democracy, being in the position of travelling or
	presenting at conferences, pointing out that in ten years, South
	Africa reached the level of participation of women in higher
	education that took many developed countries decades to achieve.
	So, I think there're many lessons that can be shared from South
	Africa with other countries in the world, including many of the
	developed nations.
DR. MALKA	I agree with you and I think that legislation has been that enabling force
	that has overcome obstacles.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Yes, and also you know we have, let's say a collective will, to ensure
DE LA RAY	that we open up opportunities, particularly for the young talented
	people in our country.
DR. MALKA	We will be back right after this.
	AD BREAK
DR. MALKA	You're listening to 'Womanity - Woman in Unity' on Channel Africa,
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	up on our discussion
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Unless we harness the fullest available talent, we are not going to
DE LA RAY	succeed in terms of our own national development and you cannot
	exclude part of your talent on some grounds. So it's really about
	making sure that we create opportunities for the widest pool of
	talent so we as a nation and as a region can succeed.
DR. MALKA	And leveraging that talent is vital and I think that possibly that's where
	we have advantages with things like the National Development Plan
	2013, which is really geared through its long term strategy on targeting
	different segments of society, for the whole purpose of being able to
	develop an inclusive and productive economy, and I know that it has a
	proposal for education and training with a specific call to increase the
	number of PHD graduates, to foster innovation and economic
	prosperity and I'll just read a segment of a clause in one of the articles
	where the National Planning Commission wants to produce more than
	100 doctoral graduates per million, per year by 2030. "South Africa
	currently produces 28 doctoral graduates per million, per year, and if
	South Africa is to be a leading innovator, most of these doctorates
	should be in science, engineering, technology and mathematics. Double
	the number of graduate and post graduate scientists, and increase the
	number of African and women post graduates, especially PHD's."
	Now in loose terms we're currently putting out on estimate about 1,400
	doctoral graduates per annum but this initiative wants to take it up to
	about 5,000 What do you think about the goal?
PROFESSOR CHERYL	I think it's a necessary goal and I'm very pleased that it's not only a

	making sure that your ideas get out and are disseminated. But I
	and your students, and that's why publications are important in
	opportunity to teach the very ideas that are generated by yourself
	teaching other people's ideas by and large, you also have an
	have an opportunity to teach the ideas you generate. You're not
DE LA RAY	remember reading a quote, you know, it's the one place where you
PROFESSOR CHERYL	It does indeed and it's because a higher education is unique. I
	have that strategic input and the strategic level of thinking, which I think that comes through from a higher education.
	it's very easy once you've got onto an operational level but you need to
	more importantly is that this is about the strategic aspects 'cause often
	somebody else that further stimulates more thinking, and what I find
	and sometimes when you're bouncing those contributions off of
	conducive environment and you've got triggers, it offers the stimulation
DR. MALKA	And with an enabling environment like that I find that having a
	principles that drive our strategy and those are quality, relevance, diversity and sustainability.
	innovation and so it's part of our, as I said, we've got four
	where innovation thrives. Intellectual diversity is fundamental to
	bring different perspectives on any issue that we face and that's
	create spaces for different ideas to be debated, different ideas to
	ambitions of our university because innovation comes where you
	diversity of our country and our region as part of the intellectual
	of our objective is to diversify the cohort of academic staff at the University of Pretoria. It's very important that we harness the
	academic staff. More students, you need more staff. But also part
	doctorate level and that does require that we have to increase our
DE LA RAY	growing at both the undergraduate level but mostly as I said, at the
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Well the University of Pretoria is growing every year and we're
	academic staff within the institution to accommodate the influx?
DR. MALKA	And with that initiative are you looking at increasing the number of
	for the development of our communities and our nation as a whole.
	periods because we'd like them to go out into the world and make a difference and to use their skills, not only for their own benefit, but
	also to complete in, lets say the given time and not to have extended
	amount of money into supporting doctoral students to complete,
	objectives and in fact we as a university, have put a considerable
DE LA RAY	enrolment is one of the objectives in our strategies, one of the top
PROFESSOR CHERYL	And we're very well positioned. So increasing our doctoral
	of those sectors.
DR. MALKA	And if you've got so many different faculties and the leadership in each
	specific sector
	economic success particularly in, well across the board, there's no
	than in the 20 th century. So, the PHD is really an enabler for
	we do know that the level of skills that's required is much higher
	universities but particularly it's a necessary condition for the economic development of South Africa, because in the 21 st century
	increasing significantly. I think this is a wonderful opportunity for
	and graduate and I'm very pleased that each year its been
	our strategy, is increasing the number of PHD's that we educate
	regional goal. At the University of Pretoria our strategy, part of
	South African goal but increasingly when we have our regional meetings in higher education it's a regional goal, an African
	Bouth African goal but increasingly when we have our regionar

	critical to the development of not only South Africa, but the
	African region, because innovations that work elsewhere are
	sometimes not appropriate for our local context, so locally grown
	innovation is really important to its success in its various
	manifestations and we've seen that with a number of technologies.
	I don't think that anybody predicted that our citizens would
	embrace hand-held wireless technology as we have.
DR. MALKA	Mobile technology is exceptionally advanced, its overtaken fixed line
DR. WALKA	
PROFESSOR SWEDW	rates
PROFESSOR CHERYL	And it's the way we've used it that's so advanced and even here we
DA LA RAY	use cell phone technology now in our teaching, as an educational
	tool. Using apps and students being able to access knowledge
	resources by using their mobile phones.
DR. MALKA	And it's a preferred means of communication
PROFESSOR CHERYL	It's quick, it's fast
DE LA RAY	1 /
DR. MALKA	With that particular age demographic as well, they're plugged in.
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Yes. Quite right, so I think as I said innovation is absolutely
DE LA RAY	necessary and if innovation is so necessary what will drive
DE LA RAY	
	innovation is high level skills and that's why the PHD is an
	important objective for the University of Pretoria, but for the
	country and I believe for the region as a whole.
DR. MALKA	We will be right back after this.
	AD BREAK
DR. MALKA	And now picking up on our discussion with Professor Cheryl De La
	Ray, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria
DR. MALKA	We've spoken a lot in terms about how the University of Pretoria is
	structured, what its targets are in terms of PHD outputs, is there
	anything else that you can add in terms of the vision, I know that there's
	a 2025 Strategic Plan?
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Well, you know we often talk about objectives and targets and so
DE LA RAY	
DE LA RA I	forth in kind of quantitative terms. A key aspect of the vision is not
	the quantitative aspect, but looking fundamentally at the quality of
	the graduate that we educate and train for society and the key issue
	there is relevance that I mentioned, looking at the curriculum and
	its relevance. Looking also at the important role that universities
	play in developing leaders and what is the quality of leadership that
	we need for our local environment and for our regional context to
	meet the objectives that we have as a nation and as a region, and I
	think it's very important that we recognise, we can't simply import
	leadership development models from elsewhere in the world
	because we are unique. We have our own history, we have a
	dynamic environment, we have contradictions, we have a diversity
	of cultures and what kind of leaders should universities be
	producing for the future, so it's not just only about ticking the box,
	yes, you have a PHD, but it's about has that PHD experience
	fundamentally transformed you into the kind of leader or the
	quality of professional who's really going to make a difference, not
	only in your own life, but in the lives of others.
DR. MALKA	A question I have concerning one element is that the university is
	putting out and creating leadership through its educated individuals.
	Are there dialogues that are happening with other stakeholders, so from
	a political point of view, to say well you know in our political
	environment we feel that we need to have greater leadership or greater
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DE LA RAY	part of developing the person holistically, not only the intellect but also the physical, the emotional and the spiritual side of an individual needs to be developed and we take that very seriously.
DE LA RAY	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
DE LA RAY	
	of them are our students, enrolled students, so you know and that's
PROFESSOR CHERYL	And now with the Common Wealth Games coming up quite a few
DR. MALKA	I hadn't realised that, that's an amazing achievement.
DE LA KA I	2012, as a university, we produced 50 percent of the medals won by South Africa and
PROFESSOR CHERYL DE LA RAY	So, yes I mean we were very proud that in the London Olympics in
DR. MALKA	Yes, I saw Caster Semenya on the wall of
	sport and it's also part of that holistic education.
	education and as you may know, we're known for our excellence in
DE LA RAY	that's what we do at the University of Pretoria, we offer holistic
PROFESSOR CHERYL	I haven't said this to you today, but you know I frequently say that
DR. MALKA	So take a holistic perspective?
	social institutions and our communities and also making sure that leadership development is part of the core curriculum that we offer.
	the humanities, very important to understand the people and our
	create more opportunities for multi-disciplinary work bringing in
	in their professions and that's why I think we must focus more,
	but have broad vision about their own role and about what they do
	don't create or develop graduates who have narrow perspectives
	differently to men's lives. So it's very important not that we
DE LA RAY	consideration that, you know, women's lives are structured
PROFESSOR CHERYL	And the impact on the community. Have we taken into
DR. MALKA	designing structures we know how people live? And the impact on the community
	broader understanding of our societies so that when we're
	the role of an engineer is in society. Does that engineer have a
	and theoretical aspects of engineering, but also understands what
	sufficient to have a graduate who simply knows all the technical
	science and technology, but we have to recognise that it's not
	boundaries. So for example, we talk about PHD's in engineering,
	is really on my agenda is how do we break or blur some old
	you produce a graduate who is more likely to succeed after graduation, and you know, in this dialogue one of the issues is that
	of the graduate. If you fully engage with yourselves for partners
	importantly to recognise that it's ultimately also about the quality
	engage with society, for a whole host of reasons, but very
	looking at how the resources, the expertise of the university must
	and what that means is ongoing engagement and as I mentioned,
	issues that you raise and you know, we're a university in society,
	diplomatic core. So there is ongoing dialogue about these very
	representation of the international community through the
DE LA KAI	government and we're also located in a city where we have wide
PROFESSOR CHERYL DE LA RAY	One of the benefits we have being the University of Pretoria is our location and we're located in the capital city, the seat of
PROFESSOR CONTRACTOR	
DR. MALKA	
DE LA RAY	105, 110
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Yes, the
	element, perhaps it's about facilitating grants delivery?

PROFESSOR CHERYL	Thank you.
DE LA RAY	
DR. MALKA	So congratulations there
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Thank you so much.
DE LA RAY	
DR. MALKA	Prof De La Ray, in closing today's discussion, could you please share a
	few words of inspiration that you'd like to pass on to women listening
	to this show on the continent?
PROFESSOR CHERYL	Well you know one of my sources of inspiration comes from our
DE LA RAY	now late former president, our first president of our democracy,
	President Nelson Mandela. It's perhaps one of the statements he's
	made that's not quoted as often as I believe it should, and it goes
	something like this"Do not settle for a life that is less than the
	one you capable of living" and for me that's an inspiration. We
	are capable, each of us, of living to our fullest potential. Do not
	settle for living in a way that's less than your fullest potential.
DR. MALKA	There is an important message to those words and I hope they resonate
	with our listeners as much as they resonate with myself. Thank you
	Professor De La Ray, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University
	of Pretoria.
	PROGRAMME END