



## Chris Nhlapo

### PhD

Professor Chris Nhlapo is the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) in the Republic of South Africa. He leads one of South Africa's largest public higher education institutions, located in the city of Cape Town.

Professor Nhlapo is a distinguished leader in the fields of higher education and research in South Africa. His work encompasses academic research, research management, innovation development, and the establishment of strategic partnerships at both national and international levels.

He currently serves as Chairperson of the Finance and Investment Committee and as a member of the Board of Universities South Africa. He is also a Board Member of the French South African Institute of Technology. Previously, Professor Nhlapo chaired the Technological Higher Education Network South Africa (THENSA), which represents the interests of the country's universities of technology.

Professor Nhlapo holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Mathematics from the University of the Free State, a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Chemistry from the same institution, a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Limpopo, and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Chemistry from North-West University.

Throughout his academic career, Professor Nhlapo has completed numerous postdoctoral and professional development programmes in specialised scientific fields, as well as in research management and technology transfer. He has worked at various South African higher education institutions and scientific organisations, holding several senior academic and administrative positions.

Over many years, he has taught, supervised research, and mentored students and emerging scholars. Professor Nhlapo has published and presented numerous scholarly papers at international conferences and is widely recognised in the field of research management.

Professor Nhlapo is a member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). During his involvement with the organisation, he participated in the work of Commission IV and contributed to a number of international scientific projects.

Prior to joining CPUT, he was a member of the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, where he played a significant role in developing the research capacity of higher education institutions across the country. Under his leadership, national and international strategic partnerships were established, and key research policy documents and guidelines were developed. These continue to serve as important standards for research capacity development within South African universities.

Professor Nhlapo actively participates in national and international discussions on South Africa's economic competitiveness, innovation, technology transfer, and the developmental state model. In recognition of his professional expertise, the Forum of Deputy Vice-Chancellors for Research nominated him to serve on the Research and Innovation Strategy Group of Universities South Africa.

Professor Nhlapo places strong emphasis on the role of universities of technology in societal development. He highlights the opportunities created by the Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolutions for youth development and the cultivation of future-ready skills. In his view, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology has an important mission in preparing future generations and contributing to South Africa's socio-economic development.