

On behalf of the Board of the Sasol Inzalo Foundation, it is with great sadness that we convey our deepest condolences to the Gerwel family over the passing away of education, political, business and civil society icon, Jakes Gerwel.

Jakes Gerwel left a huge imprint on the educational system in South Africa as principal of UWC. He led the transformation of the campus, preparing new generations of students for leadership in the new South Africa. Jakes was an accomplished intellectual, writer, academic and a dedicated political activist. He inspired generations of leaders in intellectual thought and scientific and education research. He encouraged his students to grasp a deeper understanding of universal suffering and universal conditions of oppression, and hence the need for a deeper democratic transformation in South Africa. Jakes was widely honoured for his intellectual and political contributions, with over 10 local and international honorary degrees.

Jakes was also a pragmatic leader and a sound administrator. As Director-General of President's Mandela's Office in the first democratic government, he led the civil service transformation with great care and diligence. President Mandela honoured him with the Order of the Southern Cross in Gold, the highest honour that a country can bestow on its citizens, for his contribution to resolving the Libyan crisis.

Jakes established the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory and the Mandela Children's Fund. He served on a number of educational and civil society institutions, including peace NGO Accord, Equal Opportunity Foundation, Committee of University Principals, etc. He left a deep legacy in building civil society institutions and leadership.

Jakes was also a highly respected business leader. As Chairman of SAA, Life Healthcare Group, Global Chairman of Aurecon, Director of Naspers, etc. he made a substantial contribution to economic and business transformation.

Jakes was a humble family man, with an impish sense of humour. In many respects he remains an enigma, someone who scaled the greatest heights, but never forgot where he came from - the rural plains of the Eastern Cape. He never lost his aura of humbleness and dignity.

We pay tribute to Professor Jakes Gerwel's achievements, as the country mourns this great leader.

Dr Yvonne Muthien
Chairperson
Sasol Inzalo Foundation

