

## *Claude Bonganjalo Goba (1943–2016)*

*(Please note that this obituary could not be included in the 2016 edition of Natalia as submissions had closed: it is thus included in the 2017 volume)*

PROFESSOR Claude Bonganjalo Goba, the former vice chancellor, role model and mentor at the Durban University of Technology passed away on 21 September 2016.

Born into a Congregationalist family, he studied at the Federal Theological Seminary in South Africa receiving an associateship in 1969. He received a Master of Theology degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1976, a Master of Social Science degree from the University of Chicago in 1977 and a PhD from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1988.

Goba began his ministerial career in 1970 at the United Congregational Church in Benoni Circuit in South Africa. From there, he became a minister, teacher, international student and lecturer until 1987 when he became an associate professor of Theology and Ethics at the Chicago Theological Seminary.

He then served as the regional secretary for Africa with the United Church Board for World Ministries (today known as the Global Ministries) in New York City from 1987.

In 1992 Goba became the Professor of Practical Theology and Systematic Theology and Ethics at the University of Durban-Westville in Durban, South Africa and later served as dean of its Faculty.

Goba also served as vice chancellor and principal at the then ML Sultan Technikon (now Durban University of Technology) from 1997 to 2001. He



was the brainchild behind the successful amalgamation of ML Sultan Technikon and Natal Technikon – which is now known as the Durban University of Technology.

He was an ordained minister of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) and resided in the South Africa synod of the UCCSA and was one of the signatories to the historical Kairos Document – an historical theological document that declared apartheid a heresy and provided a counter and convincing theological argument to apartheid theology.

He was very committed to the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and the post-apartheid transition to democracy. Besides finding time to be involved in education, he was also the author of many articles and book chapters on theological and social themes and was well-versed in five languages.

A bond of respect was shared with President J.G. Zuma and he was often invited to bless various government functions and events. He will always be remembered for championing and be-

ing at the forefront of providing quality education to aspiring learners.

A special provincial official funeral service was held for Goba in October 2016, a funeral designated by the president for distinguished persons. He is survived by two daughters, two sons and grandchildren. His wife, Gwyneth, passed on in 2014.

WAHEEDA PETERS