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### **Kimi Makwetu was a dedicated watchdog**

As UCT Ombud I join South Africans, the global community and the Chapter nine institutions in mourning the untimely passing of the outgoing Auditor General, a colleague and a friend, Kimi. His rise to become the second black Auditor General came as no surprise to those who knew him. He led this office with distinction relying on his personal courage, the ability to work with and succeed through others, a rich toolkit comprising of integrity, ethical leadership, honesty, soft yet outspoken personality, dedication to truth, honesty and zero tolerance for a lack of accountability.

I recall congratulating him some years back as he was mentioned as one of the rising former UCT students, and Kimi, in his humble yet thoughtful manner said "It does not matter how far people rise; if they are not equal to the task, the rise is not worthy".

When I released the UCT Ombud report mid-2019, Kimi was the first person to call me and forewarned me that I was taking "a road less travelled", and that I would have to be ready to be misunderstood. It was and still is so. His departing at a time when clean governance is still worked on, when truth telling brings rage and further abuse of power and office, creates a significant gap. People like him are required in their multiples. Kimi remarked recently that oversight offices are weakened when they do their work well, but this work and their contribution is not heeded or even directly ignored as a strategy to cover up faulty operations. We still have a lot to learn from people like him on matters of ethics, humility, conscience and truth. "Lala ngoxolo Kimi, siyabulela ngawe".

Zetu Makamandela-Mguqulwa