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Chairman of Council
University of Fort. Hare

please reply to

52 Rouwkoop Road
Rondebosch
7700

OLIVER TAMBO:

FAX NO: (081) 883 0629

Dear Dr Tambo

Thank you very much for your 2 fax messages of the 8th and the 11th of March. We would now like to move ahead with the press release in the next few days. We shall announce that you have been elected Chancellor by the University of Fort Hare but the installation of you as Chancellor will not take place until later on in the year, probably towards the end of October. The tentative date (which I shall confirm with you as soon as possible) is Saturday the 19th of October. Effectively your Chancellorship will begin on that date although as soon as the news is made public you will be the Chancellor Elect. Until the installation I do not think that you will be expected to do anything at all unless you wish to say something to the press. However that too could perfectly well wait until the installation when, naturally, we should like you to make a speech if you are willing to do so. You say that you are in London until June of this year and ask if this is awkward. Not at all. We simply want to make the announcement now but are more than happy, indeed it suits us well, not to have the installation until later in the year*

I should also like to tell you (although it must remain confidential at this stage) that the Search and Selection Committee met a few days ago to interview 5 persons for the position of Vice Chancellor. After rigorous interviews, long and careful debate, the committee came to the unanimous conclusion that it would like to recommend Dr Sibusiso Bengu for the selection. This still has to go through the Executive Committee of Council and to be approved of by Council members as a whole but we expect to make that announcement fairly soon. I am delighted by this turn of events and feel that we have got a really good person to lead the University in the years ahead. I know that you know Dr Bengu and I am sure that you will share our pleasure in his selection. May I take this opportunity in

expressing my deep gratitude to you in being willing to take on the position of Chancellor of Fort Hare. I can think of nobody on earth more suited to this position. We are honoured and touched and filled with hope by your commitment to the University of Fort Hare.

With warmest wishes

Francis Wils