

***Council on Higher Education announces appointment of new CEO: Prof Narend Baijnath***



The Council on Higher Education (CHE) is pleased to announce the appointment of Prof Narend Baijnath as Chief Executive Officer. Prof Baijnath will assume duties on 1 October 2015.

Having been created through the Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997), the CHE as an independent body advises the Minister of Higher Education and Training on higher education policy matters; monitors trends in the higher education system; assures and promotes the quality of provisioning in higher education. It also promotes a critical discourse in the sector on contemporary higher education issues. The Council on Higher Education is constituted by members with expertise and experience in higher education, representatives from key constituencies such as the National Research Foundation, Department of Science and Technology, student structures and the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Prof Baijnath has a distinguished career in higher education, having accumulated over 25 years of experience in numerous roles in teaching, senior management and governance. He has worked in different roles at the universities of Cape Town and Western Cape, Technikon SA, and currently at UNISA as the Pro Vice-Chancellor.

Prof Baijnath's qualifications include a D Phil from the University of the Western Cape focused on higher education policy, planning and educational change. He also holds a Master's Degree from the University of Durham. In his diverse senior leadership roles he has developed deep knowledge of the social, economic, technological and political forces that are shaping higher education policy in this country and elsewhere. He has published widely on various aspects of higher education and development praxis, while also serving on the editorial boards of a number of local and international journals. He has been a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa since 2010. He serves as the South African representative on the *Common Wealth of Learning* Board and its Executive Committee. Prof Baijnath was recently invited by UNESCO to be co-chair of the drafting committee of its declaration on the use of ICTs to enhance access to higher education for students with disabilities. Prof Baijnath was a fellow at St Edmunds College, University of Cambridge, and also a visiting Professor at the Open University, UK.

On behalf of the Council on Higher Education I congratulate Professor Narend Baijnath and wish him well in his new appointment.

**Prof N. Themba Mosia**  
**Chairman: Council on Higher Education**  
***3 August 2015***