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Dr David Phaho is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Technology Innovation and Partnerships at Cape Peninsula University of Technology. He holds several qualifications in chemistry, innovation, finance, and management including a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Chemistry he obtained in the United States as a Fulbright Fellow. David's diverse research interests include Industrial Chemistry, Sustainability, and Innovation Management with a specific focus on National and Regional Systems of Innovation. He has published papers, patents, industrial proprietary know-how and position papers as well as presenting at local and international conferences.

David started his working life as a researcher at Sasol's world-renowned Research and Development Division. David was then Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Tshumisano Trust (now part of the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)), a Department of Science and Innovation agency set up to improve the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) in areas of National Priority. David re-joined Sasol R&D Division as Head: Refinery Technologies Group. Before joining CPUT, David was Vice President: Innovation and Business Impact with monitoring and evaluation oversight of Sasol's Global Research and Development Project Portfolio.

Professionally, David has sat on the Boards of Foskor (Pty) Ltd and Pikitup (Pty) Ltd as an independent, non-executive Director. He has also previously served as Chair of Council of Vaal University of Technology. He has served on the HESA (now USAf)'s Research and Innovation Strategy Group as well as structures within the former South African Technology Network (now THENSA).

