



Abridged Biography | Mr Larry Pokpas



Larry Pokpas holds the position as Institutional Planner and Executive Assistant to the Rector and Vice-Chancellor at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). He obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications from the UWC and a teacher's diploma from the erstwhile Bellville College of Education. He was appointed as the founding director of Institutional Planning in 1998 at a time when the university's vulnerable financial position and waning public profile reflected a convergence of a complex set of internal and external forces. He was tasked to lead the development of an overarching strategic framework to help define institutional priorities,

guide the development of a range of multifunctional plans and help monitor the successful execution of projects aligned to UWC's vision.

In his capacity as advisor to the Vice-Chancellor he headed up a series of productive relationships with local and international partners linked to the university's future aspiration. These include the formation of strategic partnerships with Nordic and Southern African universities as a forerunner to the establishment of the Southern African Nordic Centre (SANORD); as well as coordination of cross-functional teams as part of the inter-university cooperation with several Flemish universities.

As part of his physical planning responsibilities and the coordination of the university's anchor strategy, he was integrally involved in: (i) extending and integrating the campus footprint into a new residential neighbourhood adjacent to the campus seat; (ii) repurposing a former hospital as a catalytic project in the Bellville central business district; and (iii) helping to locate key functions in closer relationships with community and key businesses. Many of UWC's sub-regional planning benefited from the research insights from a series of Masters dissertations developed in close partnership with Ghent University's Department of Architecture and Urban Planning. Pokpas is the co-editor of the book, *From Hope to Action through Knowledge: The Renaissance of the University of the Western Cape – 2001-2014*.
