

## **RESUME: N Barney Pityana** GCOB

The Revd Canon Prof Nyameko Barney Pityana is Rector of the College of the Transfiguration Grahamstown, the centre for the education and training of clergy for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. He retired as Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa (Unisa) in December 2010 having served 9 years in that office.

While at Unisa Prof Pityana was the exponent of ODL in Africa and served as founding Chairman of the African Council of Open and Distance Education (ACDE) for two terms and later on the Executive Committee of ACDE until 2010. He has also been a member of the Executive Committee of ICDE for 4 years. He has also been prominent in higher education leadership and management having been speaker and panelist at the World Conference on Higher Education, Paris 2009.

Prof Pityana is a lawyer and theologian and a notable human rights academic and activist. He was appointed Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission (1995-2001), a member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (1997-2003). He has contributed to the United Nations human rights and development programmes as an expert and consultant over many years. He also served as Director of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches' Programme to Combat Racism for five years.

Pityana has degrees in law from the University of South Africa, and theology from King's College London and the University of Cape Town where he obtained a PhD in Religious Studies. He trained for the Anglican ministry in Oxford and served in parishes in the Church of England before moving to Geneva in 1988. He is also an attorney of the High Court of South Africa. He has published extensively in theology and human rights law, as well as in higher education

management and leadership and Open Distance Learning.

Barney Pityana was nurtured in the anti-apartheid and liberation politics of South Africa, having served with Steve Biko as founders of the Black Consciousness Movement. He went into exile in the United Kingdom where he continued his activities in the ANC, and anti-apartheid movement. Currently he has been prominent in South Africa for his critique of the politics of that country, and writes in the media and gives lectures on ethics and public morality.

In 2006 President Thabo Mbeki awarded him the Grand Counselor of the Baobab (GCOB) in that year's Presidential Honours List. He has honorary degrees and fellowships from several international institutions including the Commonwealth of Learning and King's College London. He is a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (MASSAf). In 2011 he was made a Provincial Canon of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Grahamstown, 21 September 2011