



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PROFESSOR JOHN HEARN BY THE AFRICA GROUP OF HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN CANBERRA, COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

The Africa Group of Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Canberra, Australia has received with shock, pain and a sense of great loss, the news on the death of Professor John Hearn. The Africa Group acknowledges that the death of Professor John Hearn is a big loss to the family, relatives, and friends of the late Professor John Hearn. Equally, that it is a very big loss to both Australia and Africa, firstly in the academic worlds, and secondly, in the broader context of Australia-Africa cooperation.

In the late Professor John Hearn, both Australia and Africa have lost a visionary and proponent of strong Australia-Africa relations.

The African diplomatic community and scholars from Africa are poorer with the passing on of Professor John Hearn, the co-founder of the Australia-Africa University Network (AAUN) who was a pillar of support and strength of the AAUN which until his death he served as the co-chair on the Australian side of the AAUN.

The late Professor John Hearn was convinced that the AAUN holds the potential of strengthening Australia-Africa relations firstly, through fostering people to people contacts and also by developing a shared human resource base that serves as a catalyst for forging mutually beneficial academic research and development, cultivating technological relations and advancing sustainable socio-economic relations.

The late Professor John Hearn leaves behind to each one of us who occupy both the academic and cross-sectoral policy space the huge challenge of building strong Australia-Africa academic and overall relations.

We are all further challenged to embrace with humility and wisdom all that the late Professor John Hearn stood for. It is aptly said that a great man does not die because his great works continue to live long after he has left the planet Earth.

May His Dear Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

Dean of the Africa Group.

Joe Tapera Mhishi (Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe)

Canberra,

12 November, 2024

