

Dr Derrick Swartz



Derrick Swartz currently serves as Science, Technology and Innovation science expert to the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation in South Africa. He previously served as Special Advisor to South Africa's Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation. He served as Rector of the University of Fort Hare from 1999 to 2007, one of South Africa's most iconic and celebrated universities where former President Nelson Mandela and generations of leaders of South Africa's democratic movement studied. He also served as Rector of Nelson Mandela University from 2008 to 2017.

Prof Swartz holds DPhil in Sociology of development and industrialization and is also recipient of Honorary Doctorates in Human Rights Law from Essex University in 2008 and Southampton University in 2022. His current work focuses on policy and strategy to promote the scaling up and intensification of technological innovations in South Africa to tackle challenges such as climate change, structural poverty and unemployment, food sovereignty, inclusive healthcare and industrialization. He also holds specific interests in ocean science and technology for the sustainable development of South Africa's ocean and coastal regions. He serves on numerous non-profit Trusts devoted to social and ecological sustainability causes.