

## University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

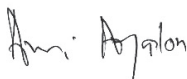
**Frederik Willem de Klerk**

the degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa**

In recognition of his vision, courage and belief in the equality of all human beings; for his leadership and ability to go against the stream, and his actions to end the policy of racial segregation in South Africa; for his uncompromising efforts on behalf of advancing the rule of law and shared citizenship in a multi-cultural society; for his extensive activities assisting nations and governments around the globe facing significant challenges of transition and development; for his constant pursuit of equality, pluralism and coexistence between all peoples - values entrenched in the University of Haifa ethos.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel  
27 Iyar 5774/May 27, 2014



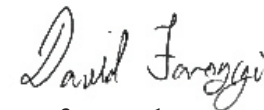
**Ami Ayalon**

Chairman of the Executive Committee



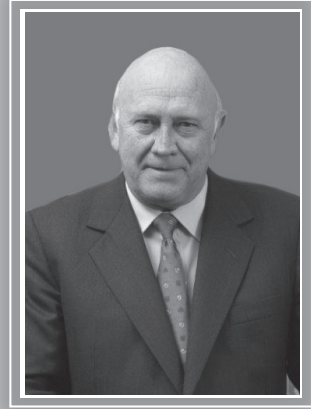
**Amos Shapira**

President



**Prof. David Faraggi**

Rector



## FREDERIK WILLEM DE KLERK

Frederik Willem de Klerk was born in Johannesburg in 1936 to a prominent family of political and public figures.

De Klerk attended high school in Krugersdorp. In 1958 he earned his degree in law, cum laude, from the Potchefstroom University. De Klerk was elected Member of Parliament representing the national conservative National Party in 1969, during the apartheid period. In 1978, he was appointed a government minister and subsequently was responsible for a long line of portfolios including: National Education; Post and Telecommunications; Social Welfare and Pensions; Mineral and Energy Affairs; and Mining and Environmental Planning. De Klerk was elected leader of the National Party in the Transvaal in 1982. In September 1989 he was elected President of South Africa, replacing President Pieter Willem Botha.

For some time, the leadership of the National Party had been wrestling with the fact that apartheid had failed; that it had caused unacceptable injustice; and that it could not be reformed. When De Klerk became President, in September 1989, he immediately began to dismantle the remaining elements of apartheid and to prepare the way for negotiations on a new non-racial constitution. In his historical address to Parliament on February 2, 1990, he removed all the obstacles to the commencement of negotiations. He lifted restrictions on banned political parties including the African National Congress (ANC), the Pan-African Congress (PAC) and the South African Communist Party (SACP). He had already released most of the ANC's imprisoned leaders and announced that Nelson Mandela would also soon be freed. In May of the same year De Klerk's Government began negotiations with the ANC, which later agreed to abandon its armed struggle. In June 1990 the Government lifted the state of emergency it had declared in 1986. In 1991 De Klerk repealed the remaining discriminatory laws still in effect – laws dealing with land ownership, living areas and classification of citizens according to race.

In March 1992, 69% of the white electorate gave De Klerk a mandate to continue negotiations with the ANC and other parties for a non-racial democratic constitution under the terms of which all South Africans would enjoy equal rights.

In April 1994, citizens of all races took part in the country's first democratic elections. The ANC won the election and the new parliament elected Nelson Mandela as President. De Klerk served as Executive Deputy President in the Government of National Unity until the National Party's withdrawal from the Government in 1996. Mr. De Klerk was Leader of the Opposition until his retirement from active politics in 1997.

For his activities to end apartheid and to help establish a new non-racial constitutional democracy, in 1993, together with Mandela, De Klerk was awarded the world's most prestigious honor: the Nobel Peace Prize.

Following his retirement, De Klerk continued his efforts in support of non-racial constitutional democracy and positive interracial relations. In 1999, he established the FW de Klerk Foundation, an organization committed to supporting the Constitution and to promoting positive inter-community relations. De Klerk lectures around the world and actively participates in international conferences that deal with a wide range of questions. In 2004, he founded the Global Leadership Foundation (GLF), a non-profit organization which provides discreet and expert advice to governments experiencing transitional and developmental challenges.