



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

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Dear Rhodes University Graduand,

On behalf of our Chancellor, the Honourable Justice Lex Mpati, the University Council, and the Rhodes University community, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on this momentous occasion, your graduation. This remarkable achievement represents years of dedication, perseverance, and hard work. You and your loved ones have every reason to take immense pride in this milestone.

We recognise that the journey to this moment of joy may have had twists and turns for you. Along the way, you may have faced unexpected challenges, setbacks, and moments of doubt. Yet, you persisted. Your resilience and commitment have brought you to this day, and we are tremendously proud of what you have accomplished. Today, we celebrate your determination and success.

To those of you who are the first in your family to graduate, we offer a special tribute. Your success is not only personal - it is transformative. You have blazed a trail for those who will come after you, and your achievement is a beacon of hope and possibility for others in your community. Well done!

Graduating from Rhodes University is not just the culmination of your studies - it is the beginning of a lifelong journey as an ambassador of this distinguished institution. Our motto, *Vis, Virtus, Veritas* (Truth, Virtue, and Strength), embodies the values we hope you will carry into the world. Let integrity, empathy, and a commitment to service guide you in your personal and professional life. The world needs compassionate leaders, critical thinkers, and individuals willing to stand up for what is just and right. We believe you are ready to be one of those leaders.

As you enter the next chapter, never lose your curiosity or appreciation for learning. Value the power of knowledge, the strength of thoughtful questions, and the importance of listening to different perspectives. Life beyond these halls will present new challenges and opportunities - approach them with an open mind, a clear purpose, and the confidence that you are well-prepared. We are acutely aware that you are entering a world and country facing complex challenges - economic uncertainty, social inequalities, and global shifts - demanding thoughtful leadership. In these times, your education is not just a personal asset but a powerful tool for positive change. Be courageous in confronting injustice, innovative in finding solutions, and compassionate in your interactions with others. South Africa and the world at large need

individuals like you - principled, resilient, and committed to building a more just, equitable, and hopeful future. You have the potential to make a difference. Seize it.

By graduating, you join a vibrant network of Rhodes University alumni who are making an impact across the globe. Stay connected with your *alma mater* and your fellow graduates; these relationships will continue to enrich your life in ways you may not yet imagine. Please keep in touch with our Alumni Relations Office to be part of reunions, networking events, and other opportunities to remain engaged with our university community. Please complete the address update form [here](#) before graduation to get your special graduation gift pack quickly.

We hope your time at Rhodes University has left you with more than a qualification. May you carry with you lasting friendships, cherished memories, and experiences that have shaped you into the person you are today. As you move forward, hold close the lessons you've learnt and the values that have been nurtured here.

Congratulations once again! May your future be bright, your journey fulfilling, and your impact profound.

Halala! Halala! Halala!

Yours sincerely



Sizwe Mabizela,
Vice-Chancellor, Rhodes University.