

18 March 2024

Dear Rhodes University Graduand,

On behalf of our Chancellor, the Honourable Justice Lex Mpati, the University Council and the entire Rhodes University community, I offer our warm and heartfelt congratulations to you on your graduation. This fabulous achievement is a culmination of months and years of hard work, perseverance and sheer dedication. You and your family can be justifiably proud of what you have achieved.

For some of you the path to this significant milestone and personal achievement has been difficult and circuitous, and beset with setbacks, obstacles and disappointments. You did not give up; you persevered and succeeded. We are immensely proud of you and what you have achieved and celebrate with you and your loved ones your success.

I extend a special word of congratulations to those of you who are first in their family to earn a university degree. Your success will serve as an inspiration for others who come after you as you continue to blaze trails for others to follow. Well done!

Now that you are a graduate of this distinct and distinctive institution of higher learning, you have special responsibilities and duties to your family, society and humankind. As you take your rightful place in society, may you always live out the spirit and values of our motto - *Vis, Virtus, Veritas* (Truth, Virtue and Strength) and may you always be guided by the principles and values of integrity, honesty, empathy, human solidarity and commitment to service. You are the light of the world. May you shine always to 'brighten the corner where you are' and dispel the darkness of ignorance, despair, hopelessness, greed, corruption, selfishness, violence, hatred and self-centredness. May you always be the reason others feel positive and confident about themselves, their lives and the future. And, may you always be a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration for a better society and a better world.

As you enter the next phase of your life, never cease to appreciate the value of learning; the significance of knowledge; the strength of ideas; the merit of asking questions; the usefulness of theory; the need for reason and evidence; the power of logic; and the benefits that come from clear thinking and thoughtful argument. Learn to keep a clear mind and invest time, energy and resourcefulness in that which matters in life.

With your graduation, you join a special community of proud Rhodes University alumni - extraordinary people who are making remarkable contributions in many and diverse fields of human endeavour. You have earned your place in this distinguished and select group of leaders in our society and beyond. We encourage you to stay connected with your *alma mater* and with your fellow alumni. In this regard, kindly complete the address update form [here](#) to stay in touch with the Alumni Relations Office for invitations to reunions and other alumni affinity events for networking and to receive your graduation gift pack. Keep us updated on your achievements and contributions as you endeavour to make a positive difference in the world.

May you always cherish your university experience and the privilege of an excellent education you have received at Rhodes University. And, may you always treasure the rich and precious memories created along the way and value the bonds of friendships formed during your time at university.

Kindly join us for the night of fun and elegance on 05 April 2024 at 19h30 to celebrate your success. To buy the tickets and book your space to the Alumni Grand Ball click [here](#) or email alumni@ru.ac.za.

Once more, heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a bright, fulfilling and rewarding future.

Halala! Halala! Halala!

Yours sincerely



Sizwe Mabizela,

Vice-Chancellor, Rhodes University.