

03 March 2026

Dear Rhodes University Graduand,

On behalf of the Chancellor, the Honourable Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga, the University Council, and the entire Rhodes University community, I offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to you on the successful completion of your studies and the attainment of this important academic milestone. Your graduation represents a defining moment in your personal journey and in the life of our University.

A qualification represents far more than accumulated credits or completed assessments. It reflects years of disciplined effort, intellectual growth, and personal transformation. During your time at Rhodes University, you have not only acquired knowledge in your chosen field, but you have also learnt how to question, to analyse, to listen, and to engage thoughtfully with complexity. These capacities will serve you long after the graduation ceremony has concluded.

Each graduating cohort carries a distinctive narrative shaped by the context of its time. Your cohort's journey has unfolded within a world marked by rapid change, profound uncertainty, and shifting global dynamics. In the midst of these evolving realities, you have studied with diligence, pursued research with intellectual rigour, engaged in robust debate, and persevered. That alone speaks to your adaptability and strength of character.

As you step into the next chapter, I encourage you to think of your education not as a possession, but as a responsibility. The privilege of higher learning brings with it an obligation to contribute to your profession, to your community, and to the broader society. Let your decisions always be guided by integrity and grounded in ethical conviction. Let your ambitions be tempered by empathy. Let your success create pathways for others. Whether you pursue further study, professional endeavours, entrepreneurship, or community engagement, may you do so with confidence in your abilities and humility in your leadership.

To those who supported you along this journey, your families, friends, partners, teachers and mentors, we extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude. Their encouragement, sacrifices, and belief in your potential have been deeply woven into

your achievement. Graduation is never solely an individual accomplishment; it is a shared triumph. We honour and acknowledge the collective investment of time, care, guidance, and hope that has contributed to this milestone and to the promising future that lies ahead of you.

You now join a global community of Rhodes University alumni. This connection does not end with the conferral of your degree or award of a diploma; rather, it begins anew. Stay engaged with the University, support one another, and continue to embody the spirit of critical engagement and principled leadership that defines this institution.

May you move forward with confidence in your abilities and clarity in your purpose. May you remain intellectually curious, socially conscious, and steadfast in the pursuit of what is true and just.

Congratulations on your achievement. We are proud of you.

Halala! Halala! Halala!

With warm regards,



Sizwe Mabizela
Vice-Chancellor, Rhodes University.