



Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Main Admin Building, Drostdy Road, Makhanda/Grahamstown, 6139, South Africa
PO Box 94, Makhanda/Grahamstown, 6140, South Africa
t: +27 (0) 46 603 8148
f: +27 (0) 46 603 7561
e: vc@ru.ac.za

www.ru.ac.za

13 March 2023

Dear Rhodes University Graduand,

On behalf of our Chancellor, the University Council and the entire Rhodes University community, I offer our heartfelt congratulations to you on your graduation from our prestigious University. This is a tremendous achievement of which you and your family can be justifiably proud.

Graduation marks an important milestone in any person's academic pursuit. Our University community celebrates your tremendous accomplishments with you and your family. Your hard work, tenacity and dedication have paid off. We are immensely proud of you and what you have achieved. Our special word of congratulations goes to those of you who are first in your family to earn a university degree. Congratulations on being a pathfinder in your family!

Now that you will be a graduate of this distinct and distinctive institution of higher learning, you have special responsibilities and duties to your family, society and humanity, which you cannot, and must not, shirk. As you take your rightful role in society, may you always live out the spirit and values of our motto: *Vis, Virtus, Veritas* (Truth, Virtue and Strength). You are the light. 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 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 move on to 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 to know what matters, and learn to know what to respond to and what to ignore.

With your graduation, you join a special family of our proud alumni - extraordinary people who are making remarkable contribution in many and diverse fields of human endeavour. Last year, we launched a new and innovative interactive platform to connect our alumni in a lively and versatile cultural space. This exclusive platform is able to connect our graduates across generations and across the globe to form communities based on shared interests. It will allow you to communicate and engage with one another and with your *alma mater*. The platform will enable you to access mentoring opportunities and be part of many other constructive initiatives with like-minded Rhodes University graduates.

You have earned your place in the distinguished and select group of Rhodes University alumni who are leaders in our society and beyond. We would love to see you at our affinity events, which aim to expand your professional network. Please visit www.ru.ac.za/alumni to update your contact details or email alumni@ru.ac.za

Once more, heartiest congratulations on your graduation. I am immensely proud of you on your tremendous academic success. Halala! Halala! Halala!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sizwe Mabizela', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Sizwe Mabizela,

Vice-Chancellor, Rhodes University.