

[Finale konsep: onderhewig aan wysiging tydens lewering; onder embargo tot dan]

**Universiteit Stellenbosch,
Tweede gradeplegtigheid, Maart 2018**

2018/03/20, 10:00, Coetzenburg Sentrum/Centre

**Fakulteite: (1) Teologie; en
(2) Ingenieurswese**

**Verwelkoming deur die voorsittende
beampte, prof Wim de Villiers,
Rektor en Visekanselier**

[Final draft; Embargoed until delivery; Subject to change during delivery]

Stellenbosch University,

Second graduation ceremony, March 2018

**Faculties: (1) Theology; and
(2) Engineering**

**Welcoming by the presiding officer,
Prof Wim de Villiers,
Rector and Vice-Chancellor**

Ladies and gentlemen, what a pleasure it is to preside over this graduation ceremony taking place in our Centenary year, which makes it a truly historic occasion.

Honderd jaar lank staan die Universiteit Stellenbosch en die dorps se stewige ou eike reeds sy aan sy. In dié tyd het die instelling tot een van die beste universiteite op die Afrikavasteland gegroei.

As we commemorate our Centenary this year, we celebrate great achievements and ground-breaking discoveries the past 100 years. We acknowledge everyone who helped to mould this institution. At the same time, the University has “acknowledged its contribution to the injustices of the past” and committed itself to redress and development.

Teen die agtergrond van waardevolle lesse uit ons komplekse geskiedenis, verteenwoordig ons Eeufees ’n nuwe begin vir die Universiteit Stellenbosch. Ons streef daarna om ’n relevante instelling te wees wat ’n kernrol in die ontwikkeling van ons nasie en ons vasteland speel. En ons is daartoe verbind om ’n samelewing van waardigheid, genesing, geregtigheid, vryheid en gelykheid vir almal te help skep.

[Sien ook rektor se boodskap in Gradeprogram: Jy is deel van ’n uitgelese groep, want ons gedenk vanjaar ons eeuwording as universiteit. Die US het in 1918 met vier fakulteite, 503 studente en 40 dosente begin. Vandag spog ons met tien fakulteite en ’n dinamiese gemeenskap van meer as 30 000 studente en 3 000 personeellede op vyf kampusse in die streek. Also see Rector’s message in Graduation Programme: We thank everyone who has helped to mould this institution and cement its reputation as a world-class academic institution. At the same time, SU acknowledges its contribution towards the injustices of the past. For this we have deep regret. We apologise unreservedly to those who were excluded from the historical privileges that SU enjoyed. We also honour the critical Matie voices of that time who would not be silenced despite being ostracised. And in responsibility towards the present and future generations, SU commits itself to the ideal of an inclusive, world-class university in and for Africa.]

Ladies and gentlemen, our latest group of graduates exemplify what this University stands for – inclusivity, excellence and social impact.

By the end of this week’s graduation ceremonies, and following those of December 2017, we will again have awarded a record number of qualifications for a single academic year – 9 032 qualifications in total, including 1 620 master’s degrees and 305 PhDs. These are phenomenal numbers! Clearly, Stellenbosch University is making an invaluable contribution as a national asset.

Dames en here, ons nuwe graduandi vanoggend kom uit twee fakulteite – Teologie en Ingenieurswese. Teologie is in 1920 gestig en Ingenieurswese in 1944, en u kan trots wees op die baanbrekerswerk wat in beide fakulteite gedoen word.

Our Faculty of Theology is listed among the top 100 internationally on the *QS World University Rankings by Subject*, making it one of only three theological institutions on the African continent achieving this distinction. Its transformative impact is clear from the fact that 57% of the Faculty’s students receiving qualifications today are from previously disadvantaged groupings. *Die Fakulteit se inklusiewe benadering blyk ook uit die feit dat studente van verskillende denominasies daar opgelei word. Ooreenkomste is nou al met vyf verskillende kerkgroepe gesluit. Welgedaan!*

Our Faculty of Engineering is also doing sterling work with a positive impact on society. For instance, it houses the national head office of the TRAC SA programme, which assists under-resourced secondary schools with science and technology teaching. *TRAC-fasiliteerders werk daagliks met meer as 10 000 leerders in 110 sekondêre skole landswyd. Wat veral verblydend is, is dat leerders wat deur TRAC ondersteun word, baie goed vaar in hul skoleindeksamens en van die beste punte in die fisiese wetenskappe in hul provinsies behaal. So, welgedaan!*

Dames en here, ’n aansienlike persentasie van ons studente sou glad nie universiteit toe kon gekom het as hulle nie ’n beurs ontvang het nie, en baie studente het bykomde geldelike hulp nodig om hul studies te voltooi.

So, we welcome the recent announcement by the state that “fully subsidised, free higher education and training for poor and working-class South Africans” will be phased in. But we also know that the need is so great that additional bursary support will still be required. I therefore want to thank all donors helping us to provide opportunities to the next generation of talented students making an impact globally.

Dames en here, ons ken hierdie week meer eregrade as gewoonlik toe – 13 in totaal, versprei oor ses gradeplegtighede. Ons doen dit spesiaal vir ons Eeufees. Die ontvangers is almal gerekende denkleiers, nasionaal en internasionaal. Lees gerus meer oor hulle op die Universiteit se webblad, www.sun.ac.za

Recipients at this ceremony / *Ontvangers by hierdie seremonie*::

- **Prof Musa W Dube** and **Dr Thabo Cecil Makgoba**, both theologians;
and
- one engineer: **Mr Trueman Thandabantu Goba**.

Ons eregraduandi vergestalt nie net die kenmerke van die gegradueerde wat ons by ons studente wil inskerp nie, maar ook die eienskappe waarmee ons instelling graag die toekoms wil aanpak nou dat ons die US se tweede eeu as 'n toonaangewende universiteit betree.

Ons gaan nou saam vorentoe ... masiye phambili ... forward together!

Aan al ons graduati, wil ek 'n hartlike woord van gelukwense rig met die verwerwing van julle kwalifikasies. Ons hoop dat dié kwalifikasie na verdere studie sal lei, na suksesvolle en vervullende loopbane, of 'n versterking van 'n bestaande loopbaan. Bly in verbinding met jou alma mater deur die alumniwebblad sodat jy uitnodigings na alumnibyeenkomste, elektroniese nuusbriewe en Matieland kan ontvang.

I also wish to congratulate parents, spouses, family and friends with the achievement of your graduate. In many an instance support probably went hand in hand with sacrifice, but we trust that the reason for your presence here today made it all worth while. Thank you.