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

**Universiteit Stellenbosch,  
Sesde gradeplegtigheid, Maart 2018**

**Stellenbosch University,  
Sixth graduation ceremony, March 2018**

**2018/03/23, 10:00, Coetzenburg Sentrum/Centre**

**Fakulteit: Ekonomiese en  
Bestuurswetenskappe (Groep A)**

**Faculty: Economic and  
Management Sciences (Group A)**

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

**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 dorp se stewige ou eikebome reeds sy aan sy. In dié tyd het die instelling tot een van die beste wêreldklasuniversiteite 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.*

[Also see [Rector's message in Graduation Programme](#): "You are part of a select group, because the University is commemorating its centenary this year. Starting out with four faculties, 503 students and 40 lecturing staff in 1918, SU today is home to 10 faculties, a dynamic community of more than 30 000 students and 3 000 staff members, spread over five campuses in the region." *Sien ook [Rektor se boodskap in Gradeprogram](#): "Ons bedank almal wat hierdie instelling help vorm en sy reputasie as 'n wêreldklasakademiese instelling help vestig het. Terselfdertyd erken ons die Universiteit se bydrae tot die onregte van die verlede, waaroor ons diepe berou het. Ons vra onvoorwaardelik om verskoning aan diegene wat uitgesluit was van die historiese voorregte wat die US geniet het. Ons vereer ook die kritiese Matiestemme van daardie tyd, wat aanhou praat het al is hulle verstoot. En uit verantwoordelikheid teenoor huidige en toekomstige geslagte verbind die US hom tot die ideaal van 'n inklusiewe wêreldklasuniversiteit in en vir Afrika."*]

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 truly phenomenal numbers! Clearly, Stellenbosch University is making an invaluable contribution as a national asset.

*Dames en here, ons nuwe graduandi vanoggend kom uit ons grootste fakulteit – Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe. Daar is so baie van hulle, die Fakulteit het twee gradeplegtighede nodig gehad! (Hul eerste een het Maandag plaasgevind). En vanoggend bars hierdie Sentrum boonop uit*

*sy nate; so binnekort sal dié fakulteit waarskynlik 3 seremonies nodig hê per gradeplegtigheid reeks. So, welgedaan, almal!*

*Nou, 'n aansienlike persentasie van ons studente sou glad nie universiteit toe kon gekom het as hulle nie 'n beurs ontvang het nie, en baie van ons studente het bykomende 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.

This Faculty has been very successful in boosting access to higher education. For the past decade, it has participated in the Thuthuka project, which aims to produce more Chartered Accountants from previously disadvantaged groups. *En die afgelope akademiese jaar het die geldelike bystand wat aan behoeftiges studente verleen is, sowat 40% van die Fakulteit se totale inkomste uit klasgeld beloop.*

However, it is not only about the numbers of students we accommodate but also about the quality of learning and teaching provided. For instance, a large number of MBAs will be awarded today, and I am pleased to point out that the University of Stellenbosch Business School was the first business school from an African university to achieve all three of the major international accreditations in this field.

We also know that good governance is absolutely essential in both the private and public sectors. SU's School of Public Leadership, which is part of this Faculty, prepares graduates – many of whom come from the local government level – to tackle these challenges. It also provides specialist anti-corruption education and training through a dedicated research chair and centre.

*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](http://www.sun.ac.za)*

The recipient at this ceremony is Prof Mervyn King, former judge of the Supreme Court of South Africa and esteemed corporate governance expert. Prof King and our other honorary degree recipients exemplify not only the graduate attributes that we aim to instil in our students, but also the qualities we seek to take with us into the future as we enter our second century as a leading university.

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

#### CONCLUSION / SLOT:

*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 alumniewebblad 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.