



COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING  
Alumni Relations Office

03 July 2020

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:  
ENJOYING THE SHADES OF TREES OF GOODWILL**

Dear fellow alumni,

Over the past couple of months, we have experienced the havoc wreaked by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The virus has radically changed the manner in which we relate to one another as human beings. We wish to make a humble call to the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT)'s alumni to adhere to health protocols, as this is the best way to contain the pandemic in the absence of a vaccine.

We are pleased with the leadership provided by the institution in prioritising lives in the fight against the virus, whilst trying to save the academic year. We also commend the institution for the transparency it demonstrated with its first confirmed case of the pandemic.

The institution must remain committed to save the academic year without compromising human life. The return of students and staff members must be in keeping with the health protocols outlined by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation.

On another note, President Cyril Ramaphosa has recently characterised gender-based violence as the second pandemic: "It is with the heaviest of hearts that I stand before the women and girls of South Africa this evening to talk about another pandemic that is raging in our country – the killing of women and children by the men of our country".

We wish to condemn the rampant acts of violence directed at women and children. We must stop these sordid acts. All members of the CUT alumni must be champions of the war against gender-based violence; it must be our first civic duty as citizens of this country. We cannot allow this suffering and violence around us to continue unabated, hence Alumni Executive Committee will be embarking on a campaign to fight the pandemic.

In terms of developments at CUT, the university is finalising the last round of consultations of Vision 2030, which will outline the path the university will take over the next ten years.

At the centre of this draft Vision 2030 is the desire to contribute to producing a generation of entrepreneurial leaders, and to use innovation towards becoming a leading university of technology in Africa. We have accordingly contributed to the conceptualisation of Vision 2030, and will continue to do so until it is adopted by the CUT Council.

The institution must not only be the university of choice for the best and brightest students from different backgrounds, but also an innovation-focused institution that is engaged in our communities.

As far as the Alumni Association is concerned, we have recently launched a fundraising initiative, with the intention to make a modest difference in the lives of both students and alumni members who are unable to access their certificates due to an unaffordability and the high rate of unemployment in our country.

We are doing this in appreciation of the shades of small trees planted a long time ago, which assisted many of us financially when we could not afford to pay our university fees. Henceforth, we must assist the posterity through small gestures of goodwill. We believe that some responsibility comes with enjoying the shades of goodwill. Hence, we call upon all of you to make a small contribution towards this Goodwill Alumni Donation initiative. Contributions can be deposited into the following account:

**Bank name** : First National Bank  
**Account holder** : Central University of Technology, Free State  
**Account type** : Cheque  
**Branch name** : Bloemfontein  
**Account number** : 62538533531  
**Branch code** : 230134  
**Reference** : 50395310 + surname/student number

Secondly, we will be launching Alumni Awards, the dates of which will be announced soon. The awards will comprise the following four categories: Social Impact; Academic Star; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and Sports, Arts and Media. We encourage you to participate in recognising these CUT ambassadors once nominations are declared open. Please regularly visit the CUT alumni webpage at [www.cut.ac.za/the-alumni](http://www.cut.ac.za/the-alumni) for more information.

In addition, we have formally initiated a campaign to call for the release of alumni's certificates. We firmly believe that universities have other means of ensuring that outstanding fees are settled, other than withholding graduates' certificates. The country is faced with dire poverty that is hovering at 30.1%. Hence, we believe that every hurdle must be removed in the path of graduates in their endeavour to be active participants in the job market. We will also be mobilising our counterparts at other universities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support this initiative.

Furthermore, as a direct response to challenges brought about by the novel coronavirus, the Alumni Executive Committee has resolved to virtually launch Alumni Chapters. The first port of call will be the Motheo Chapter, after which others will follow. The details will be announced via our media platforms. We are happy to report that we have launched the Lejweleputswa Alumni Chapter on 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2020.

Finally, we will be conducting an alumni survey to obtain information that will guide us to better respond to your needs. We would like to invite you to participate in the survey, towards ensuring that we are a better and more responsive association.

I wish you all of the best during this challenging time in our country. Stay safe!

Kind regards,

**Chabana Chabana**  
**Act President of the CUT Alumni Association**