



Central University of
Technology, Free State

COMMUNIQUE TO CUT ALUMNI

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, FREE STATE (CUT) ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (Alumni 01/2018)

Tuesday, 16 October 2018

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from myself, the President of the CUT Alumni Association, and the entire university community.

The year 2018 represents my first term of office as President of the Alumni Association. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you, our alumni, for taking an interest in your alma mater. We have witnessed an increased hype on different social media platforms during the Alumni Association elections and campaigns. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the electronic voting process, and who took the time to attend the inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM), which ushered in a new beginning for the current Executive Committee.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the plans we have made since the beginning of our term of office in May 2018. As you are aware, communiqués from the Vice-Chancellor and Principal are shared with us, with the intention of communicating CUT's achievements. We have decided to extend this form of communication to the alumni, as a means of ensuring clear communication to the entire constituency that accurately reflects our aspirations and goals. I hope that you will appreciate our efforts to reach out to you and to improve our dialogue, in an attempt to ensure that you are kept up to date and informed about the latest developments that are taking place within the office. We will thus be staying in touch with you through the letters from the President.

As the President of the Alumni Association, I am pleased to announce that the university has pledged to invest in the Alumni Association through greater engagement with alumni; inspiring alumni to stay connected to CUT; and supporting the association's vision, thereby contributing to its success – a commitment that was well received by the Executive Committee.

CUT is privileged to have incredible, selfless leaders who are willing to contribute to the development and growth of both the university and its Alumni Association. Their selflessness is aligned with the institution's theme for 2018, namely that of servant leadership. Also, as the year 2018 was marked the year of servant leadership, we intend to serve our mandate as your servants.

In July 2018, we held a two-day meeting to reflect on the Alumni Association's standing, and to consider how we could rethink and reimagine it as a vibrant, engaged and progressive association. As a result, we devised a strategy document, which serves as our action plan to

achieve the aforementioned goals. In our strategy document, we identified seven key milestones as our focus areas for the next three years. The Executive reflected on short-term actions that could be easily implemented, whilst acknowledging the need for a long-term action plan through which to engage alumni to reconsider CUT as their university of choice.

Over the last couple of weeks, we held meetings with various stakeholders within and outside of the university, lobbying for their support; securing their buy-in of the strategy; and, finally, securing funding for the activities that we have planned. I am pleased to inform you that all our endeavours are beginning to bear fruit, which we intend to share with you.

I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to you and to CUT's Management for the continued support in our plans to make the Alumni Association a structure that forms part of the university; as we find our place within the institution; and whilst we are determining how we could best serve you.

The institution has committed the resources and processes to ensure the success of the Alumni Association, as envisioned by the CUT Statute and the university's Vision 2020. We now call upon you, our alumni, to pledge your support by giving your time, contributions, referral and any form of gratuitous service to the institution within your respective areas.

Our plans are intended to achieve the following objectives:

- Continuing to identify and promote the success and achievements of alumni, thereby enhancing the credibility and reputation of CUT in the higher education sector.
- Deepening the lifelong relationship between our alumni and the university through opportunities that promote interaction and engagement with CUT.
- Administering alumni programmes that will encourage all of you to identify with CUT, whilst generating and sustaining your interest and participation in the university.
- Inspiring you to contribute to the development and promotion of our good name and reputation.
- Enhancing your experience with the university as a student, employee or former graduate.
- Strengthening our communication efforts by ensuring continuous feedback and information sharing, so that you can become part of the activities in the area of the institution, and in your respective areas or provinces.

We are in the process of revamping the institutional database to ensure that it is up to date, world-class and interactive, providing you with continuous communication with other alumni locally and internationally. Follow-up communication on this effort will follow shortly, and will hopefully encourage you to update your information, so that we can stay close to you, and you with us.

In order to ensure that we stay connected to you, and provide you with satisfactory and relevant activities, a survey in the form of an online questionnaire will be distributed via e-mail and on social media platforms. I encourage you to fully participate in the survey, so that we can take your needs into consideration. We believe this will enhance the manner in which you interact with the university, and ensure that each touchpoint of the university has a satisfactorily aligned alumni component.

As the Executive Committee, we have committed to focus on areas and activities that will add value to you, our alumni, and, most importantly, to the university, over the next three years. These focus areas will include addressing the matters pertaining to historical debt, outstanding graduation certificates, blacklisted graduates, and current higher education challenges faced by young South Africans, particularly the current students and graduates of CUT.

In our upcoming newsletter, we will also provide you with a brief profile of the newly elected Executive members of the Alumni Association, together with their respective portfolios. These members are:

- Gama Major Cindi: President of the Alumni Association, and member of the CUT Council;
- Chabana Chabana: Deputy President of the Alumni Association;
- David Makhoali: Executive: Finance;
- Kabelo Moremi: Executive: Education and Transformation, and member of the Institutional Forum (IF);
- Luyolo Busakwe: Executive: Community Engagement and Programmes;
- Mbuyiselo Frans: Executive: Communication and Social Media;
- Kagisho Mmetseng: Executive: Events and Marketing; and
- Lebogang Khutlang Farmer: Executive: Projects.

I am confident that you have made the right choice by voting for the above leaders, who, as servant leaders, are eager to enhance the quality of life of CUT students and graduates. Once again, we invite you to stay in touch with us; watch this space; look out for invitations to participate in our activities; and contribute to the cause of socio-economic freedom.

I thank you for your patience during this period of reimagining the CUT Alumni Association as an engaged and a progressive association of CUT graduates.

Stay blessed!

Gama Major Cindi
President of the Alumni Association