



# LOCKDOWN GRADUATION

## MUT caps 2 539 students at its 'virtual' graduation ceremonies

Saturday, 27 June 2020, was just another day for many across South Africa. But for 2 539 MUT students graduating at the University's 2020 graduation, it was a day they were going to make history. They were the first graduates to be capped at MUT's first 'virtual' graduation in line with the country's social distancing and lockdown regulations.

The Faculty of Engineering graduated 809 students, while the Faculty of Management Sciences graduated 1 279 students. The Faculty of Natural Sciences graduated a smaller number of 451 students, but this included three Master's students – an extra cause for celebration.

The three ceremonies were available for viewing on the MUT virtual graduation microsite from 10h00 on the graduation Saturday. The ceremonies started with the constitution of the congregation and introductory remarks by MUT Chancellor and Minister of Human Settlements, Water & Sanitation, the Honourable Lindiwe Sisulu (MP), who was the first to send in her recorded message. Sisulu's introduction was followed by an address by the Acting Vice-Chancellor & Principal, Professor Marcus Ramogale. The conferral of qualifications followed immediately after Professor Ramogale's address. Sandile Dlamini, President of

MUT Convocation, then welcomed graduates to the Convocation of MUT before Sisulu dissolved the congregation.

Opening the ceremonies as she would during face-to-face graduation, Honourable Minister Sisulu expressed her disappointment at not being able to join the University's graduates in person. "As you know, the MUT graduation is very close to my heart," said Sisulu. "There is a sense of uniqueness to the MUT graduation which makes me appreciate how far we have come as a country to bring access to education to people from all walks of life."

Sisulu further reminded graduates that they needed to find ways to soldier on with their lives as the coronavirus would be part of them until a vaccine was discovered and distributed.