



# Freedom Day Message

**By Professor Khehla Ndlovu,** Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Vaal University of Technology (VUT)

Today, as we mark Freedom Day, we pause not only to remember a defining moment in our nation's history, but to reflect on the responsibility that freedom places upon each of us.

Freedom in South Africa was hard-won. It came through sacrifice, courage, and an unwavering belief in the dignity of all people. It is because of this legacy that we are able to gather, to learn, to teach, and to shape the future within institutions such as the Vaal University of Technology (VUT).

Yet freedom is not a static achievement. It is a living commitment.

For us as a University, freedom must find expression in access to education, in the success of every student who walks our corridors, and in the relevance of the knowledge we produce. It must be reflected in our ability to confront inequality, to expand opportunity, and to contribute meaningfully to the development of our society.

As we continue on our Road to 60, we are reminded that our institutional journey is inseparable from the broader national

project. Each graduate we produce, each innovation we advance, and each life we impact is part of the ongoing work of giving real meaning to freedom.

Freedom also calls for accountability. It challenges us to lead with integrity, to act with purpose, and to ensure that no one is left behind. In this regard, our commitment to transformation, inclusion, and excellence remains central to who we are and what we stand for.

On this day, let us honour the past not only with remembrance, but with action. Let us recommit ourselves to building a University and a country where freedom is not merely celebrated, but experienced in tangible and lasting ways.

**I wish all members of the VUT community a reflective and meaningful Freedom Day.**

