

ATTENTION: EDITORS, JOURNALISTS, PRODUCERS AND BLOGGERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VUT marks 60 years of excellence with Diamond Jubilee celebrations

Vanderbijlpark, 21 July 2026 – The Vaal University of Technology (VUT) will commemorate its 60th Diamond Jubilee on Thursday, 23 July 2026, celebrating six decades of academic excellence, innovation and institutional impact under the theme:

"60 Years of Excellence: Honouring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future."

The Diamond Jubilee marks an important milestone in the University's history, celebrating its transformation from its establishment in 1966 into one of South Africa's leading Universities of Technology. The celebrations will reflect on VUT's achievements while reaffirming its commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and community impact.

The day's celebrations will commence with the official opening of newly revamped academic laboratories, highlighting VUT's investment in modern teaching, learning and research infrastructure. The celebrations will continue with a student-centred comedy show celebrating campus life and the University's heritage, before culminating in a prestigious Gala Dinner.

The prestigious Diamond Jubilee Gala Dinner will be held at Pont de Val, bringing together government leaders, alumni, industry partners, higher education stakeholders, students and staff to celebrate the University's enduring legacy and future aspirations.

The Gala Dinner will feature a keynote address by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela, reflecting on VUT's contribution to higher education, innovation, skills development and South Africa's socio-economic development over the past six decades.

Event details

Event: Vaal University of Technology 60th Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Theme: 60 Years of Excellence: Honouring Our Legacy, Shaping the Future

Date: Thursday, 23 July 2026

Venue: Vaal University of Technology, Vanderbijlpark Campus (Day Programme) and Pont de Val (Gala Dinner)

Programme highlights

- Official opening of newly revamped academic laboratories **(08:30)**
- VUT 60th Jubilee Comedy Show **(15:00)**
- Diamond Jubilee Gala Dinner **(18:00)**
- Keynote address by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela

Media opportunities

Media will have an opportunity to:

- Cover the official opening of VUT's new laboratories.
- Capture student-centred Jubilee celebrations and interactive activations.
- Conduct interviews with VUT leadership, invited dignitaries, alumni, staff and students.
- Cover the Diamond Jubilee Gala Dinner and keynote address by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela.
- Capture photographs and video footage throughout the day's celebrations.

Members of the media are requested to RSVP by **22 July 2026** to facilitate accreditation and access to the various events.

About VUT

Established in 1966, the Vaal University of Technology has grown into one of South Africa's leading Universities of Technology, recognised for producing industry-ready graduates, advancing impactful research, driving innovation and fostering meaningful partnerships that contribute to national and global development. As VUT celebrates 60 years of Inspiring Thought and Shaping Talent, the University continues to shape the future through excellence in teaching and learning, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and community engagement.

Issued by

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