



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemakingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

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“I am not leaving UCT, I am taking UCT with me!” – Chancellor Machel

Outgoing University of Cape Town (UCT) Chancellor Mrs Graça Machel – who will conclude her term at the end of this year – was honoured at a special graduation ceremony on 12 December 2019.

Mrs Machel presided over her last graduation ceremonies on Thursday, bringing to an end a tenure spanning two decades during which she has been more than a titular head for UCT but has also played a crucial ambassadorial and motherly role.

“I am not leaving UCT, I am taking UCT with me,” she said in her farewell speech delivered in front of approximately 300 graduands and many others in attendance.

Having served UCT for 20 years, Mrs Machel received a standing ovation from the congregation that packed the Sarah Baartman Hall when she ended her speech.

- [Read Mrs Machel's farewell message to the UCT community.](#)



Ahead of her speech, a befitting tribute was paid to Mrs Machel through video messages by the Chair of Council, Mr Siphon M Pityana; current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng; previous Vice-Chancellors, Dr Max Price and Dr Mamphele Ramphele; former Chair of Convocation, Mary Burton; former Dean of Law, Professor Hugh Corder; and former SRC President Insaaf Isaacs.

- [View the moving tributes to Mrs Machel.](#)

In 1999, Mrs Machel became the first woman to be appointed Chancellor of UCT. She was then re-elected for another 10-year term in 2009.

- [Download photos of Mrs Machel.](#)

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Elijah Moholola

Senior Manager: Media Liaison and Social Media
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 5674
Cell: (083) 981 7770
Email: elijah.moholola@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za