

NEWS RELEASE

Former Auditor-General Terence Nombembe receives honorary doctorate from UP



Terence Nombembe delivering his graduation speech upon receiving an honorary Doctorate in Commerce at the UP 2025 autumn graduations.

PRETORIA - The University of Pretoria (UP) has conferred an honorary Doctorate in Commerce on Terence Nombembe, a chartered accountant and leader in the public and private sector who served as [Auditor-General of South Africa](#) (AGSA) from 2006 to 2013. He was also the first black South African to hold this position in the organisation's century-long history.

Nombembe is set to receive the honour at UP's [Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences](#) graduation ceremony in May. The ceremony forms part of UP's Autumn 2025 graduation season, which runs from 2 to 29 May and will see over 12 000 students graduate.

From 2014 to 2019, Nombembe served as Chief Executive Officer of the [South African Institute of Chartered Accountants](#) (SAICA). In 2018 he served on the [Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture](#) (Zondo

Commission) as Head of Investigations, until the Commission's term ended in June 2022. He also served on the board of the [South African Reserve Bank](#) (SARB), with his term ending in 2023. In 2024 he completed his term as the Chairman of the Gauteng Ethics Advisory Council (GEAC).

Throughout his career, Nombembe's ethics, integrity, leadership, innovation and opposition to any form of corruption have guided the organisations he has served. He has often been referred to as the commercial equivalent of former Public Protector Advocate Thuli Madonsela.

He has spoken out about how corruption and wasteful expenditure affect the entire society, and particularly the poor. In his role as Auditor-General he stressed that every staff member had to be professional, honest, and combat corruption and maladministration, particularly in areas such as procurement.

Under his leadership, the Office of the Auditor-General made significant strides in enhancing the effectiveness of public financial management and combating corruption. "We should not have a situation whereby there is no knowledge of where money was spent by any government entity or department," he said. He emphasised the need to "get the fundamentals right", and that people should feel committed to achieving clean, accurate audits, not only in terms of financial statements but in the quality of service-delivery.

Nombembe started his career in the private sector, which equipped him with invaluable experience as an accountant and both external and internal auditor. His roles in organisations such as KPMG, Unilever, Gobodo Incorporated and BP Southern Africa gave him a solid foundation in management and leadership.

He has also made invaluable contributions to academia, sharing his expertise and insights with the next generation of accounting professionals. His dedication to education and mentorship has had a lasting impact on countless students, young chartered accountants and financial managers, inspiring them to strive for excellence and ethical leadership in their careers, and to uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. "South Africa is a rich mine of young, bright and talented youths. It is our task to help unearth and polish this latent talent," he said.

His own education began in Qumbu, Transkei, where he was born and raised. From a young age he pursued education with determination, attaining a BCom degree from the University of Transkei in 1982, followed by a BCompt (Hons) from the [University of South Africa](#) in 1986. He served his articles with Alex Aiken & Carter (now KPMG) and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1990.

Currently, Nombembe serves on the boards of listed companies, including [Nedbank Limited](#) and [Sibanye-Stillwater Limited](#); and two non-profit companies, the [World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa](#) (WWF-SA) and the [Africa Health Research Institute](#) (AHRI).

His contributions to the accounting and auditing profession extend beyond South Africa's borders, as evidenced by his involvement in professional bodies such as the International [Public Sector Accounting Standards Board](#) (IPSASB) and the [African Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions](#) (AFROSAI), where he served as President.

He is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and accolades, and the University of Pretoria is proud to honour him with this doctorate.

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>> [Watch Terence Nombembe's graduation speech here](#)

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, with its administration offices located on its Hatfield Campus in Pretoria. This 115-year-old institution is also one of the largest producers of research in South Africa.

Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the [Gordon Institute of Business Science](#) (GIBS). It is the only university in the country with a [Faculty of Veterinary Science](#), which is ranked the best in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than 56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The 2025 Times Higher Education subject rankings placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of [Accounting](#) and [Finance](#); [Architecture](#); [Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#); Law; Sport Science; and Veterinary Science. UP's Faculty of Law has been ranked as the top law school in Africa for a remarkable eighth consecutive year.

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranked the University among the top five in Africa, as part of their [2024 World University Rankings \(WUR\)](#). UP was the only South African university featured in the [2023 World University Rankings for Innovation \(WURI\)](#), falling within in the 101-200 range of innovative universities.

For more information, please go to www.up.ac.za