



UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

• 25 OCTOBER 1991

Special Graduation Ceremony



OLIVER REGINALD TAMBO

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Like his friend, partner and comrade Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo entered politics at a young age. Expelled from university in 1942 after campaigning for a democratically elected Student Representative Council of Fort Hare, Tambo embarked on a political career which saw him move easily into positions of leadership: from secretary of the pioneering ANC Youth League in 1943; to the executive of the Transvaal ANC in 1946; to the national executive of the ANC in 1950; and then to general secretary (1955), vice-president (1985), acting president (1967) and finally president of the organisation. Historians have credited his rise to a quiet, but principled character, an astute sense of diplomacy and an ability to exercise calm authority.

Tambo was part of a missionary educated generation of intellectuals who placed great store by education. At school he "set academic records" before achieving a first-class pass and winning a scholarship to university. At Fort Hare he graduated with a B.Sc. degree, a rare achievement for a black South African at that time. Tambo then taught science and mathematics at St Peters Secondary School, influencing a number of students who went on to become political leaders. In 1952 he qualified as an attorney. His intellectual skills impacted directly on South African politics. In 1943, he was one of the most prominent of the young intellectuals who came together in the ANC Youth League and started articulating new conceptions of struggle. He helped to draft the 1949 "Programme of Action" which reshaped the history of the ANC and South Africa. In the 1950s he was responsible for drawing up a new ANC constitution to guide the organisation in the new era of mass mobilisation and membership.

However, Oliver Tambo's most outstanding intellectual and political contribution has been as leader of the African National Congress during the 30 year period of exile which is now drawing to a close. Sent out of the country as the ANC's foreign affairs representative in 1960 in the wake of Sharpeville, he was responsible for reconstructing a battered movement in the vacuum of exile. That the ANC not only survived, but today has more international legations and enjoys more legitimacy (domestic and international) than the South African government was in no small way due to Oliver Tambo. He has observed and helped chart the organisation's progress through the various phases it has passed in the last five decades — moderation to militancy and mass mobilisation; re-building to re-emergence and resurgence.

The greatest tribute to Oliver Tambo is that he operated for more than a quarter of a century on the most difficult political terrain of all — exile — and succeeded by common acknowledgement in holding the ANC together and building it into the vanguard force for South African liberation in the process. Today that movement speaks for millions of South Africans when it articulates its vision of a united, non-racial, democratic South Africa.

By awarding *Oliver Tambo* an honorary doctorate UWC can at once give recognition to a South African of stature and humane vision, and attest to its ideals and goals.

GRADUATION PROGRAMME

1. UWC / Creative Arts Choir and Brass Ensemble
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2. Academic Procession (Guadiumus Igitur)
(The audience is requested to stand as the procession enters the Stadium)
*
3. The Chancellor constitutes the Assembly
*
4. Nkosi Sikelel'I Afrika (Choirs & Ensemble)
*
5. Scripture Reading and Prayer : Dean Faculty of Theology
(Whereafter the assembly shall be seated)
*
6. Vice-Chancellor introduces the ceremony
*
7. Item of Song
*
8. Messages of Goodwill
*
9. Presentation of Honoris Causa Graduand to the Chancellor
Doctor of Laws Oliver Reginald Tambo
*
10. Item of Song
*
11. Honorary Graduand delivers his acceptance speech
*
12. Praise Poem
*
13. The Chancellor dissolves the Assembly
*
14. The Academic Procession leaves the stadium
(The audience is requested to stand and to remain standing until the procession has left the Stadium)

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Oscar Mpetha

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useful
an innovation



NATIONAL ANTHEM

* * * * *

Nkosi' sikelel' iafrika
Maluphakamiso phondo lwayo
Yiva nemithandazo yethu
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusaphalwayo. (X2)

Yiza moya sikelela nkosi sikelela
Yiza moya sikelela nkosi sikelela
Yiza moya oyingcwele
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusaphalwayo.

Morena boluka sechaba saHesu
Ofedise dintwa lemantswenyeho. (X2)

Osiboluke Osibuluke
Osiboluke morena siboluke
Sechaba saHesu
Sechaba saAfrika. (X2)

Lord bless Africa
May her horn rise like a ship's mast
So also hear our prayers
Lord bless us
We, the families of Africa.

Come Spirit . . . bless us Lord, bless us
Come Spirit . . . bless us Lord, bless us
Come Holy Spirit
And bless our families.

Lord take care of our nation
Stop the struggle and frustrations
Save it, save it
Save it, save it
Our Nation, Our Africa
Save it God
Save it
Savour our Nation, Save it.
Our nation
Our Africa.

