



**National  
Research  
Foundation**

PO Box 2600  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel: (012) 481 4000  
Fax: (012) 349 1179  
Int. Code: +27 12  
info@nrf.ac.za

[www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)

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Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Cape Town  
Private Bag X3  
RONDEBOSCH, 7701

Email: [vc@uct.ac.za](mailto:vc@uct.ac.za); [julia.novella@uct.ac.za](mailto:julia.novella@uct.ac.za)

Dear Prof Phakeng

**Message of NRF support for the University of Cape Town (UCT) Community**

On behalf of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Board and Executive, I would like extend a message of support to the UCT staff, students and the community of Cape Town as you take the first steps in rebuilding after the devastating fires at the Rondebosch campus.

The loss of irreplaceable historical material and records of our past is a great loss to UCT, and indeed to us all as a society. We also note the considerable damage to certain university research infrastructure, amongst others. We are, however, very thankful that everyone is safe and that no serious injuries or loss of life has been reported. I would like to commend the UCT Executive for their swift action in the evacuation of staff and students and all efforts to ensure their wellbeing throughout the crisis situation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

**Fulufhelo Nelwamondo (PhD)  
Chief Executive Officer**