

## **UFH: Inspirational 100 year legacy**

23 May 2016 - The University of Fort Hare (UFH) has, for many years, improved the standard of living and helped with the political emancipation of the African continent.

It has touched the lives of the oppressed people by meeting their basic needs such as producing educationists, academics, business leaders, renowned writers and struggle heroes, who, in turn, have become heads of state in Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa, amongst others.

At the university's 100 year celebration this weekend, speaker after speaker encouraged the youth to consider education as a stepping stone to a brighter future which will liberate their minds and help them to become responsible citizens.

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, a former graduate, was full of admiration for the university and said: "It is a great pleasure as a former student to celebrate with you. This university transformed me and it is here I discovered my African identity."

He said the university was a beacon of hope for most African children who were subjected to inferior education. It was a university of outstanding achievement and added that former graduates contributed their countries throughout the continent.

President Jacob Zuma said it was clear from the beginning that the university was going to be an extraordinary site of struggle, for education and the liberation of Africa.

"The new public service in South Sudan has been assisted by UFH. The university is also providing training to public servants in countries as far as Somalia," said President Zuma who also attended the celebration.

The university has produced world leaders and political activists such as the late Nelson Mandela, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Robert Sobukwe, Oliver Tambo and Minister Naledi Pandor's grandfather Professor ZK Matthews to mention only a few.