



Executive Mayor congratulatory message to Dr. van der Westhuizen

The Executive Mayor Queen Mogatle-Thoane on behalf of council, management and employees congratulated Dr. Gerrie van der Westhuizen for obtaining his Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Pretoria. His thesis is titled: 'An Exploration into the Engagement of Planning with the Creation of Human Rights-centred 'Quality Human Environments''. Although he received it in absentia today, 02 September 2024, Dr. v/der Westhuizen could not hide his emotions of what has been an incredible and exhausting journey given that he started in the wake of covid-19 and credit his achievement to dedication, hard work and strong support structure. He said he believes that anyone in the institution can achieve what he has when they put their mind to it.

Through his thesis he does not only make timeous contribution to planning theory and practice, but also demonstrates how planning can be made serviceable to one of the most crucial pursuits of our time-dignity, respect and justice for all.