

## **HONORARY DOCTORATE – SPECIAL CONVOCATION CEREMONY**

**President of South Africa, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa**

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**Your Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa,  
Honourable guests, Excellencies, colleagues, and distinguished  
members of the Universiti Malaya community,**

1. It is a historic moment when a university has the honour to recognise a leader whose life's work has transformed not only his nation, but the conscience of the world.
2. Thirty five years have passed since we honoured the great Nelson Mandela in this very hall, and now another historic moment will be made in similar level of pride and pomp.
3. Today, Universiti Malaya proudly confers upon His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa the Honorary Doctorate in International Relations - in tribute to his unwavering pursuit of justice, peace, and human dignity.
4. From the streets of Soweto to the corridors of the African Union and the United Nations, President Ramaphosa has embodied the power of moral courage and patient diplomacy.
5. He was a towering figure in South Africa's struggle against apartheid - a negotiator who chose peace over vengeance, dialogue over division. As Chair of the Constitutional Assembly, he helped shape one of the most progressive constitutions in human history - a living charter of

equality, freedom, and human rights that continues to inspire nations worldwide.

6. He built bridges between the boardroom and the township, between government and the governed - nurturing education, entrepreneurship, and empowerment through the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation.
  
7. He has championed the cause of workers, of youth, and of those left behind. And as President, he continues to remind the world that true leadership is measured not in power, but in conscience - in how one uplifts others to stand taller.
  
8. For Universiti Malaya, this recognition carries special meaning. We honour President Ramaphosa not only for his nation's journey, but for the values that bind us together - the belief that peace must be built upon knowledge, that justice must be sustained by education, and that prosperity must be shared through cooperation.
  
9. Malaysia and South Africa are connected by history and by heart: both nations rose from colonial struggle to chart their own destinies; both stood firm for the principles of non-alignment, solidarity, and the voice of the developing world; and both see in each other, a true partner in the continuing quest for equality and hope.
  
10. Mr President, your leadership reminds us that universities are not ivory towers, but beacons that light the path of humanity. Your lifelong journey, from trade unionist to a statesman, from mediator to global reformer - mirrors our own mission: to educate, to empower, and to build peace through reason, compassion, and truth.

11. May this recognition not only celebrate your legacy, but also strengthen the bridge between our peoples, our institutions, and our shared commitment to a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. In honouring President Cyril Ramaphosa today, we also affirm our faith in what leadership can achieve when guided by vision and humanity.

13. May this convocation remind us that in every era, and in every nation, there must be voices, like his - that stand for peace, integrity, and the enduring dignity of mankind.

**Your Excellency, we salute your courage, your statesmanship, and your service to humanity.**

Congratulations, and thank you