

BACKFIRING OF HONORARY DOCTORATES DEGREES IN SOUTH AFRICA

DO WE REALLY NEED THESE TITLES WITHOUT ACADEMIC BACKGROUND?

It takes between seven and nine years of study to be called Doctor. The title doctor for honorary degrees may only be used when corresponding with the institutions that conferred these upon them (honored doctors)

IS DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY SAME AS PHD in Theology?

THD (DOCTORATE OF THEOLOGY)	PHD in Theology
ThD is more specifically on Christian theology	PhD is more comparative
ThD is awarded by seminaries, divinity schools, and schools of theology	PhD is offered by a universities
HOW IS HONORARY DOCTORATE DIFFERENT FROM ACADEMIC DOCTORATE?	
Academic doctorate degrees embody scholarly achievements, specialization, and the advancement of knowledge within a particular field.	Honorary doctorate degrees celebrate exceptional accomplishments and contributions to society.

VERIFICATION OF HONORARY DEGREES AND CREDENTIALS OF THE INSTITUTION THAT IS HONORING.

These honorary degrees will diminish the value of academic doctorate degrees if they are not managed properly and rules not explained to the recipients.

WE HAVE FOUR AREAS OF THEOLOGY/ PILLAR OF THEOLOGY:

- Church history.
- Systematic theology.
- Practical theology.
- Study theology and progress your faith journey.

HONORARY DOCTORATES

A person cannot be called a doctor when he does not hold a medical degree or an academic doctoral degree (*Ditsele and Motsaathebe, 2023, Of Titles and Honour*).

WHO TO CONTACT CONCERNING REGISTERED THEOLOGY INSTITUTIONS:**National Office**

Tel: 012 312 5253/5320

Fax: 012 324 6343

City/town: Pretoria

Province: Gauteng

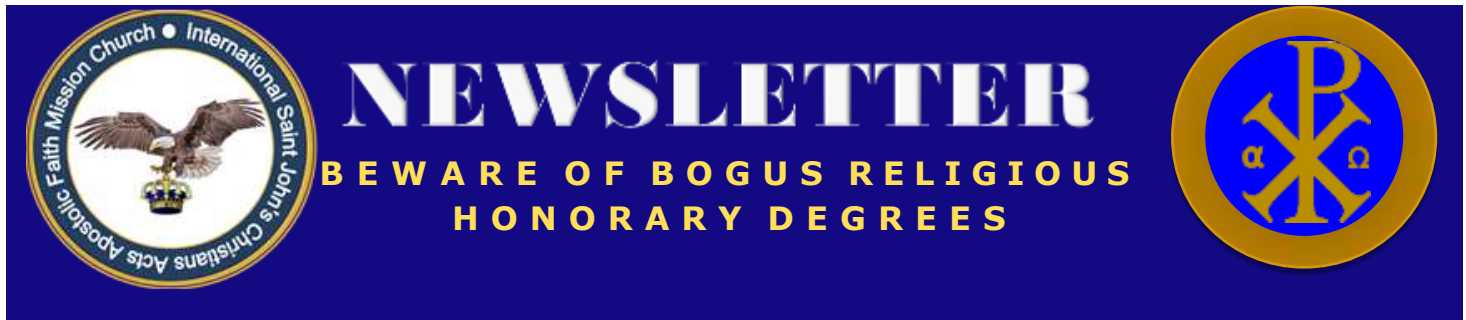
Physical address: Department of Education: Directorate: Private Higher Education Institutions, Sol

Plaatje House, 123 Schoeman Street, Pretoria

Postal address: Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001



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Bishop's Word of Wisdom

Church Issues/01/2022

WHAT IS AN HONORARY DEGREE?

An honorary degree is an academic degree for which a university has waived all of the usual requirements.

Bishop Gcebe is urging church leaders not to accept bogus honorary degrees from academic institutions that are not registered and accredited to offer those qualifications.



What is the purpose of honorary degrees?:

Universities do not always award honorary degrees for the purpose of honouring a person's exceptional achievement

**BISHOP GCEBE SAYS
BEWARE
DON'T BE A VICTIM OF A SCAM**



WHO GETS AN HONORARY DOCTORATE?: The Honorary Doctorate Degree is conferred upon distinguished Archbishops, Bishops, Pastors, Evangelists, Ministers, and other Christian Leaders who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. There have been many cases in which honorary degrees have been awarded by institutions that are **not registered and not recognised** by the South African Department of Education.

Who deserves an honorary religious degree?

An Honorary religious degree is awarded in recognition of an individual's religious work in contribution to the Church ministry and significant contributions to the community service and in active Christian service, and the exemplary qualifications of those individuals in their field of service.



INCREASE OF BOGUS RELIGIOUS HONORARY DEGREES IN SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa there is an increase of Institutions offering fake honorary degrees and church leaders are the victims of these practices. It is costly to pay for something that is not recognised and it is also an embarrassment for senior church leaders.

It can happen that church leaders are not aware that they are scammed and these honorary doctorates does not carry any value. Likewise some church leaders may be aware of the scam but still want the title of being a "Dr or Professor".

WHO IS TARGETED BY THESE FAKE INSTITUTIONS

These institution are targeting church leaders and celebrities some prominent people in South Africa.

HOW TO CHECK IF A COLLEGE OR INSTITUTION IS REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED:

1. Head on over to the [Department of Education website](#) to see whether the college is listed there.
2. Alternatively, you can email: RegistrarFET@doe.gov.za to find out about a college and their status.

The final component of a college's **accreditation** has to do with the fact that **Umalusi** has to verify the college's accreditation. You can contact **Umalusi** on the following details:

Telephone: +27 (012) 349 1510

Fax: +27 (012) 349 1511 (by unit)

Email: info@umalusi.org.za

In South Africa, one such **accreditation** is awarded by **SANAS** – the South African National Accreditation System. SANAS looks at the **qualifications of the lecturers** (did they study to teach FET, and what did they qualify in), the **quality of the institution and services they offer** (admin, financial support, etc.), the **textbooks** they use and base their lectures on (the **content and accuracy** of it). They also **check the quality of the laboratories and facilities**.

From there on, there are numerous **accreditation bodies** responsible for accrediting specific courses offered by a college and other education institutions. Each sector or industry in SA has a SETA (Sector Educational and Training Authority) that acts as an accreditation body. Accreditation is essential for education, and that's why all universities are **accredited**. They **HAVE** to meet local standards since most universities are internationally accredited too. SANAS and the DHET award and accredit universities based on international standards. This is to ensure that all higher learning institutions offer qualifications that are of the same level.

(<https://www.dhet.gov.za/>)

