

## **Mr Alistar Thompson: Words of Appreciation from the Thompson Family**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, and Teachers

Today, I have the distinct honour of addressing you all with a heart full of gratitude and pride. Two years ago, the world lost a remarkable man, my father, who was not only a loving parent but also a dedicated educator and the President of the National Teachers Union. His journey was cut short due to the devastating impact of COVID-19, but his legacy and the mark he left on education and our lives continue to shine brightly.

My father, Mr. [Allen Thompson], was an exceptional leader, who was voted in as the President of the National Teachers Union in 2018. During his tenure, he exhibited a perspicacious understanding of the needs of teachers and students, always working tirelessly to better their lives. He was unwavering in his commitment to improving the educational system, advocating for better resources, fair compensation, and professional development for teachers. He knew that by supporting teachers, he was also supporting the future of our nation.

But it wasn't just his dedication to his work that set my father apart. He was equally dedicated to his family, especially my mom, Mrs Hlengiwe Thompson. He knew that his tireless efforts for teachers and students were not possible without the love and support of his family. As the backbone of our household, my mom stood by his side through every challenge and triumph, ensuring that his commitment to education remained unwavering.

Today, as we gather to express our gratitude, we are here to thank the National Teachers Union for renaming a building in my father's honour. This gesture is more than just a plaque or a building; it is a symbol of the deep appreciation and respect for his unwavering dedication and love for education, teachers, and students. It is a testament to the profound impact one person can have on an entire community.

My father may not be with us today, but his spirit lives on in the work that the National Teachers Union continues to do in his name. This building serves as a reminder of his vision and dedication, and it carries forward his legacy of passion, determination, and love for education.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the National Teachers Union for this incredible honour. It brings comfort to my family and I, knowing that his work and legacy continue to inspire others. My father's name will forever be associated with a cause he cherished, and I know that he would be both humbled and proud to see his legacy live on.

In closing, I want to thank all the teachers and educators here today who, like my father, are committed to making a difference in the lives of their students. You are the torchbearers of knowledge and hope, and you carry forward the mission he held so dear.

Thank you all for joining us in celebrating my father's life and work, and for honouring his memory with this remarkable tribute. Your kindness and recognition mean the world to my family, and we will forever be grateful for this touching gesture.

Thank you.