



PROSPECTS FOR RHODES UNIVERSITY FOR 1979

Rhodes University will be facing another New Year strengthened and encouraged by the events and achievements that lie behind us. We have just commemorated, for example, the centenary of tertiary education in Grahamstown. It was not until 1904 that the pioneering College Department of St. Andrew's made way for the new Rhodes University College. In September 1979 we shall mark the 75th anniversary of that event with a week of festivities including a special graduation ceremony, lectures, demonstrations and musical and dramatic functions.

The present circumstances lend themselves not to bold and exciting new ventures but rather to a period of consolidation. Fortunately the financial forecast suggests a slightly less spartan existence, while the academic staff have the prospect of improved salary scales. The indications are that we shall welcome about the same number of first year students, between 800 and 850, but that more students than ever will stay ^{on} ~~at~~ for a professional postgraduate diploma or a higher degree. We also anticipate a further increase in our Black and Brown student enrolment, presently standing at about fifty.

A most encouraging trend, which will certainly continue in the New Year, has been a very welcome increase in the outside support of our widespread research activities. Special mention must be made of our Institute of Social and Economic Research, which will be launching its Development Studies programme and

be acting as host to the newly affiliated International Library of African Music, under ~~the~~ able direction of Mr Andrew Tracey. There are also exciting new developments to be anticipated in the fields of Microbiology, Geology and in the study of English as a second language. We are hopeful too that the forthcoming visit to Rhodes of Chief Minister Sebe will lead to increased opportunities for beneficial applied research in the Ciskei.

Students are undoubtedly taking their opportunities for study and leadership development more seriously than in the past. We can confidently look forward to 1979, therefore, as a year of solid achievement in teaching, research and in all those opportunities for community life and personal development that make a university, something a great deal more than a mere knowledge factory.