



Honoris United Universities Announces Partnership with Old Mutual Private Equity as New Majority Shareholder as Actis Realizes its Investment

4th September 2025 – Honoris United Universities (“**Honoris**”), the first and largest pan-African private higher education platform, is pleased to announce that its majority shareholder will transition from Actis to Old Mutual Private Equity, part of Old Mutual Alternative Investments (“**OMPE**”).

This development marks a new chapter in Honoris’ journey, building on a successful period of growth, transformation, and impact.

Actis, a global investment firm focused on sustainable infrastructure, launched Honoris with the vision of combining the expertise of world-class institutions across Africa to increase access to quality and employability-focused education across the continent. Under Actis’ ownership, the Honoris platform has helped ensure a student-centric approach to building a transformed higher education sector, enabling it to transform more than 1.2 million lives to date across Africa.

Today, Honoris stands as a New Champion of the World Economic Forum, member of the United Nations Global Compact, and a leader in its mission to transform lives through relevant education for lifetime success. With a community of over 100,000 students across 26 cities, the network encompasses 16 institutions including multidisciplinary universities, specialized schools, and technical and vocational institutes, offering both in-person and online learning modalities.

The acquisition of Honoris aligns with OMPE’s strategic commitment to investing in transformative sectors with significant socio-economic impact. Under OMPE’s ownership, the business will be largely black owned, emphasising OMPE’s focus on inclusive economic growth and Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment in South Africa.

Honoris Group CEO, Dr. Jonathan Louw, commented: “As we transition our partnership from Actis to OMPE, our mission of Education for Impact remains unchanged. We will continue to increase access to quality education that transforms the lives of our students and their communities. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all our faculty and staff for their focus on student centricity whilst reaching new heights to realize Africa’s potential.”

“Honoris has transformed more than 1.2 million lives to date, offering over 490 qualifications across a number of disciplines, and has recently achieved an 86% employability rate, a KPI now independently assured by Deloitte.”

Sami Cherif, Director at Actis, added: “Over the past decade, we’ve proudly built Honoris into the largest pan-African private higher education platform, partnering with like-minded founders and management across the continent. Our goal was to create high-quality universities that equip students with the skills needed in future employment - and we’re proud to have achieved that. We’ve helped shape the future of education in Africa, empowered students, and met the evolving needs of employers. We look forward to seeing Honoris continue to thrive under Old Mutual Private Equity's ownership.”



Chumani Kula, Co-Head, Old Mutual Private Equity, commented: “As OMPE, we are pleased to be investing in Honoris, a world-class private higher education platform. Apart from the attractive investment merits and rationale, we are particularly excited about the sheer positive impact Honoris is able to make, at scale, in its admirable mission of providing a pathway to employability to so many learners through the provision of high-quality tertiary education that is both affordable and accessible. We look forward to partnering with a strong management team as it continues to play a market leading role in the private higher education sector across the continent.”

Financial terms of the transaction are undisclosed. The transaction remains subject to customary regulatory approvals.

Actis are advised by Rede Partners as exclusive financial advisor and Clifford Chance acted as legal advisor.

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About Honoris United Universities*

Honoris United Universities is the first and largest pan-African private higher education network committed to transforming lives through relevant education for lifetime success. Collaborative intelligence, cultural agility, and mobile mindsets are at the heart of the Honoris approach to educating the next generation of leaders and professionals to make a transformative impact on a global scale. Honoris combines the expertise of its member institutions to develop world-class African human talent with an entrepreneurial mindset and 21st-century skills to thrive in the world of work.

Recognized as a New Champion by the World Economic Forum, Honoris comprises a community of 100,000+ students in 26 cities. The network is formed of 16 institutions: multidisciplinary universities, specialized schools, technical and vocational institutes, contact, distance, and online institutions. Honoris has transformed more than 1.2 million lives to date with a legacy of 250+ years of experience in education, supported by exclusive academic partnerships and exchange programs in more than 250 universities across Europe, North America, and Asia. To strengthen its employability mandate, students benefit from an ecosystem of over 1,000 employer partners. More



than 490 degrees are offered in Medicine, Health Sciences, Engineering, IT, Business, Law, Architecture, Digital and Creative Arts, Fashion and Design, Media, Political Science, and Education.

*as of June 30th 2025

About Actis

Actis is a leading growth markets investor in sustainable infrastructure, seeking to deliver measurable positive impact for the countries, cities and communities in which it operates. Actis invests in structural themes that aim to support long-term, equitable growth in defensive, critical infrastructure across energy transition, digitalisation transition, and supply chain transformation.

Actis believes that the firm's decades of global experience, operational know-how and strong culture allow it to create global sustainability leaders at scale. Actis is a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), an investor initiative supported by the United Nations.

About Old Mutual Private Equity

Old Mutual Private Equity, part of Old Mutual Alternative Investments, is one of the largest and most established private equity managers in South Africa, with a 25-year heritage of being a significant investor in privately owned businesses across key industries and sectors. OMPE has invested in some of South Africa's strongest private businesses, including Actom, Consol, Tourvest, Ti-Auto, Primedia, In2Food and 10x. Since 2000, OMPE has invested more than R12.5 billion and delivered R35 billion in realised and unrealised value, across 38 transactions and 26 exits.