# Joe Biden's upcoming commencement speech at Morehouse College amid controversy



**Joe Biden's Upcoming Commencement Speech at Morehouse College Amid Controversy**

President Joe Biden is scheduled to deliver a commencement address at Morehouse College on Sunday, May 17, 2024. The decision followed weeks of consultations with significant Black public figures. The speech aims to highlight themes of triumph over adversity and the impact of peaceful protest.

The event holds particular importance as it celebrates young Black leaders' achievements. However, the upcoming speech has generated controversy due to dissatisfaction among some students regarding Biden's handling of the Gaza conflict. In early May, White House officials met with Morehouse students to address their concerns, with the topic of Gaza consuming a significant portion of the discussions.

Dr. Tony Allen, President of Delaware State University and a confidant of Biden's, advised the president to acknowledge the bravery of young activists. Stephen Benjamin, Biden's Director of Public Engagement, emphasized that the president intends to maintain the graduates as the event's focus.

Biden's speech occurs in a politically charged environment as he campaigns for re-election and seeks support from Black voters, a demographic showing signs of erosion. Notable figures like Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr., a Princeton University professor and Morehouse trustee, have been consulted in crafting the speech.

In recognition of Morehouse's legacy, Cedric Richmond, a Morehouse alumnus and Biden adviser, facilitated the president's engagement with the college. The Biden administration underscored its commitment to Black institutions by showcasing $16 billion in funding for HBCUs and $12 billion for Black-owned businesses.

Biden's speech will likely highlight his administration's economic policies aimed at expanding the middle class, coinciding with his broader message of opportunity and equity. The president's engagements include recent efforts to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, emphasizing the ongoing struggle for racial equity.