



The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor

PROF MS MAKHANYA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

UNISA/GCIS AFRICA DAY PUBLIC COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE

'Building a better Africa and a Better World'.

BAMBOO AUDITORIUM, KGORONG BUILDING

30 MAY 2016

- The Honourable Mr Bulelani Magwanishe, Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises
- Unisa Members of Council Mr Lebese and Mr Tlhabanelo
- Dr Abraham Serote, Director of Social Cohesion and Nation Building, Department of Arts and Culture
- Ms Nebo Legoabe, Deputy Director General: ICSM – GCIS
- Mr Tshepo Ikaneng, Presidential Correspondent SABC News
- Unisa staff

- Members of the student leadership and formations
- Representatives from Labour
- Members of the Press
- Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to the University of South Africa and to this seminal lecture in commemoration and celebration of Africa Month. Unisa is proud to be co-hosting this lecture in partnership with our colleagues from Government Communication and Information Systems, and in that context and spirit of cooperation and collaboration, I am honoured to extend a special word of welcome to the Honourable Mr Bulelani Magwanishe, Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises, who is our keynote speaker today. You are most welcome Sir.

The 53nd celebration of Africa month comes at a time of unprecedented flux in our continental socio-economic and political fortunes. Not only that, but in the global context, we see similar signs of a world on the cusp of a profound reorientation and reorganization along new lines, in response to very volatile geopolitical and social dynamics. This is especially true when it comes to Higher Education, for example. The extent of that transformational momentum varies greatly, but it cannot be ignored lest it generates an unstoppable momentum that destroys, rather than builds.

Given this unsettling time of acute political and economic challenges, as well as rising opportunities this lecture is timely as we seek views and possible courses of action towards more just and equitable societies across all fronts. We have a wonderfully enabling policy environment in which to contextualize and chart the way forward. At a national level, we have the National Development Plan 2030 and the Medium Term Strategy Framework (MTSF) which form the pillars of our Africa Month activities and at the global level we now have the hugely influential *Sustainability Development Goals for 2016*; the *UNESCO Position Paper on Education 2015*; and the *UNESCO Education 2030. Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action Towards Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for all* (2015) to name but a few.

The generation of an ongoing, unstoppable conversational momentum provides a necessary foundation for the “call to action” that began collaboratively at Unisa some years ago, and which I have undertaken, during my tenure, to expand and develop. The “call to action” of which I speak, resonates fundamentally, not only with Unisa’s commitment to establish itself as an authentically African University with its own authentic Africa voice, but also as an institution that is a vibrant and active member state of this Continent, deeply committed to the kind of inclusive growth and development that is characterised by Ubuntu/Botho and that sets

the African Continent and people apart from the other peoples of the world.

In August 2014 the African Union launched Agenda 2063: *The future we want for Africa*. Under the banner of the African Union's Vision for "An Integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena", agenda 2063 asserts:

Aiming to encourage discussion among all stakeholders, "Agenda 2063" is an approach to how the Continent should effectively learn from the lessons of the past, build on the progress now underway and strategically exploit all possible opportunities available in the short , medium and long term, so as to ensure positive socioeconomic transformation in the next 50 years.

Africa Month is a natural extension of that commitment, and seeks to meet in a deliberate and incremental manner, a variety of strategic goals, which include: promoting the African Agenda and strengthening the African Union institutions and policies; strengthening the culture and creative industries and their value-add in socio-economic development; increasing appreciation and demand for arts and culture goods and services to stimulate competitive markets for inter and intra-Africa Trade; promoting African identity and entrenching African values and ethics;

establishing new relations and strengthening existing collaborations on the continent; creating cultural-dialogues and interaction amongst arts practitioners in the continent; and promoting business interactions, dialogues and foster entrepreneurship amongst Africans.

This year's Africa Day and month mark 53 years since the formation of Organisation of African Unity on 25 May 1963 and the African Union in 2002 and we are delighted to join with the rest of the continent in celebrating this milestone, and our heritage and our successes with pride.

Distinguished guests, the theme of Africa month: '***Building a better Africa and a Better World***', finds both resonance and consonance with the letter and spirit of Agenda 2063 and moves the process a step forward to the future which we all desire for our country and our continent. This lecture should be seen in that context and as such, it is a most apposite and welcome development. Mr Deputy Minister, we look forward to hearing what you have to share with us today.

I thank you