



The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor

PROF MS MAKHANYA, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

CITY OF TSHWANE/UNISA CEREMONIAL MoA SIGNING CEREMONY

26 AUGUST 2014

- His Worship the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa
- Members of the Mayoral Committee of the City of Tshwane
- Members of Unisa's executive and extended management and Unisa staff here present
- Distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour and pleasure to welcome you all to this ground-breaking signing ceremony that marks the formal acknowledgment of a long-term, mutually beneficial collaborative relationship between the University of South Africa and the City of Tshwane.

At a time when we are confronted on a daily basis with many pressing needs, especially in regard to service delivery and providing quality education to our citizens, this Memorandum is a timely manifestation of the pragmatism and cooperation needed to ensure the best possible leveraging and utilization of our respective capacities and resources to the benefit of our society. It is for this reason that today must surely be a cause for celebration and pride.

The Agreement has been some time in the making, characterized by the same commitment and good faith that will be required to ensure its successful continuation anticipation to growing on the work and projects that are already being considered.

Areas covered in this MoA include:

- collaborative research, community engagement and teaching and learning projects;
- the co-operative funding of identified projects as specified in collaboration Agreements flowing from the MoA ;
- Reports to be published from time-to-time, emanating from the MoA and research projects; and
- the commencement and duration of any Agreements entered into between the parties; and the ownership of the intellectual property rights emanating from the co-operation Agreements of the research projects.

I anticipate that as the agreement gains momentum we will discover additional, mutually beneficial collaborations and projects - and allow me to assure you Mr Executive Mayor, that Unisa will always approach these in the context of the ethical and professional stewardship of our collective resources.

I mentioned that a number of projects are already under consideration. These include:

1. the Demographics, Socioeconomic Characteristics and Challenges of the Youth in CoT (with Unisa's Bureau for Market Research)
2. the Service Satisfaction Levels of Households and Businesses in the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality (Unisa's BMR) ;
3. the City of Tshwane Regeneration of Township Economies (BMR); and
4. the Income and Expenditure Profile of Tshwane (BMR)

We look forward with much anticipation to the contribution that these projects – and others - will be making to this region, which is such an integral part of the business and industrial engine of this nation. I think here for example, of collaboration in the areas of waste to energy

research; nanotechnology for water research; and spatial transformation of post-apartheid cities for social justice and sustainability. These are areas that require concerted attention locally and nationally.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Tshwane is going places. No doubt about that. For example, Tshwane is leading the way with the roll out of broadband to our citizens – a matter which lies very close to our hearts here at Unisa, where so many of our students in remote areas are not afforded this opportunity. We have to start somewhere, and it is a matter of pride that Tshwane has opened up a space for so many of its residents to ‘get connected’ where previously there was none. We trust that as this Agreement with Unisa takes root and flourishes we will see research coming through that will enable better informed and costed decision making in the best interest of this important national hub.

The White Paper on Post School Education and Training: *Building an Expanded, Effective and Integrated Post School System* (2014: xi), states quite clearly its aim of:

“A stronger and more cooperative relationship between education and training institutions and the workplace;

A PSET system that is responsive to the needs of individual citizens, employers in both public and private sectors, as well as broader societal and developmental objectives” (2014: xi).

Also included in the White Paper on PSET (2014), is an exhortation to collaborate and make mutually beneficial use of our various capacities - in short, multi-stakeholder engagement for the benefit of all. This is closely aligned to Unisa’s own strategic imperative of multi stakeholder engagement as a key tool for strategy implementation, high performance and excellent service delivery. This MoA will undoubtedly be making a significant contribution to that end and you will understand my pleasure then, at welcoming you and witnessing the realization of this Agreement.

I thank you.