



Office of the Principal and Vice Chancellor

Prof Mandla Makhanya

Vice Chancellor and Principal of UNISA

Welcome and Address

UNISA ENUF-IS-ENUF CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

5 August 2015

Reception Hall, Kgorong Building, Unisa



Programme Directors, Dr Thandi Sidzumo-Mazibuko who is also the Executive Director of Diversity Management, Equity & Transformation at Unisa, and Professor Puleng Lenka Bula who is also the Dean of Students at Unisa.



Our keynote speaker and founder of Kwanele Campaign, Ms Andy Kawa



Esteemed presenters and panellists in the name of the CEO of the Commission for Gender Equality, Ms Keketso

Maema; Sonke Gender Justice Media and Relations Manager,
Mr Mbuyiselo Botha and Ms Sakina Mohamed who is the
Acting Director of People Opposed to Women Abuse.



The participants and presenters in this programme



Members of Unisa Executive Management present here



Unisa staff members



Students



Our partners from various communities and civil society

organizations



Distinguished audience



Ladies and Gentlemen

As we commence with the programmes of the month that is dedicated to our mothers, sisters, spouses, daughters and women in general I welcome and greet you all in that warm Ubuntu/botho and motherly spirit of Unisa. I am happy to join hands, both literally and figuratively, with you in the launch of Kwanele Enuf-is-Enuf Campaign. Let me first pay tribute to the founder of this initiative,

Ms Andy Kawa, who is in attendance and will give us the main address later this morning. I would also want to thank all the organizers of this initiative.

The fact that this launch takes place at the very beginning of the officially designated Women's month is important as both this programme and the women's month programmes in general are meant to highlight, amplify, and even most importantly, assist in combating the abuse of women and all other gender-based injustices emanating from the complex tentacles of our patriarchal society.

Almost six decades ago, on 9 August 1956, more than 20,000 women marched on the Union Buildings to challenge the apartheid regime on a range of social injustices and gender-based oppression. Sadly, six decades later we still read and watch our media and statistical surveys painting a grotesque picture of violence and abuse of women and children despite the strides made in enshrining a comprehensive

range of human rights in our world-acclaimed Constitution of 1996. Behind these surveys and statistics, behind the news clips, behind the undocumented cases of domestic and institution-based abuse of women, often violent cases I must add, is a tangible pain that in most instances scar the emotion and psychology of the victims. Perhaps we were naïve to assume that the struggles against colonialism and apartheid would necessarily address pervasive patriarchy embedded in our collective consciousness and daily practice in our work places and homes.

It is not enough to complain, as we often do, about these challenges as they need maximum mobilization of all people of goodwill and commitment, men and women, to confront the scourge of gender-based violent crimes and abuses. The launch of this campaign, Kwanele Enuf-is-enuf, is a concrete intervention to do just that and this programme must be supported to reinforce all efforts in our institutions and in our communities to combat gender injustice. As

we take a stand today we are responding to what the great American Civil Rights leader, Martin Luther King junior, said is a state of “Being sick and tired of being sick and tired.” As this campaign is launched, in essence we are walking in the steps of other giants who have marched before. We are marching in the footsteps of Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Sophie de Bruin, Charlotte Maxeke, Albertina Sisulu, Miriam Makeba and many more others who dared to raise their fist in the face of patriarchy. We are riding on the shoulders of heroines at home and abroad, who raised their voice in the midst of silence on gender injustice. Here I am reminded of giants abroad such Maya Angelou, Angela Davis, Rosa Parks, Nina Simone, Alice Walker, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth and others.

As we look around the world and learn of the reign of terror in Northern Nigeria of kidnapping and killing hundreds of girls merely because they wanted education, as we notice a similar violence against women in regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan simply

because young girls wanted to enjoy human dignity, as we notice in our own South African society the swelling tide of rape and domestic violence against women then I am convinced that this campaign has come at the right time, although in the struggle for justice time is always right but it only takes activists and people of goodwill to organize themselves. The youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Malala Yousafzai captures the essence of this moment when she says, “We realise the importance of our voice when we are silenced.” She went further to say, “When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.” You are gathered here today to give that voice to the silences that often conspire against the pain of those who are victims of women abuse. I am mindful of the fact that some of you gathered here today may have been the victims or you are aware of numerous victims of this social injustice and violence against women. In that sense you have become wounded healers informed by your personal encounters and testimonies. The healing process can only come when your voices are liberated and given narrative dignity. I take this campaign to be doing exactly that.

As a father I often wonder and worry about what is happening to my daughters in a society that is so prone to abuse of women in their domestic spaces, at work and in public spaces. I often ponder on whether they are given a fair chance to prove their worth in their institutions and work environment or whether they have to live with the excruciating limitations of man-made or socially constructed limitations and ceiling that often inhibit their ascendance of the socio-economic ladder.

As Unisa we are grappling with these societal challenges through a range of institutional policy interventions such as the anti-harassment programme, equity and transformation programmes but these are seemingly not sufficient against the tide of patriarchy, both conscious and sub-conscious. It is for this reason that we welcome the launch of Enuf-is-enuf to reinforce our efforts and encourage public conversation on the subject of gender injustice and abuse of

women and girls. When I recently led Unisa delegation to engage with the Gender Commission I was able to articulate the progress made by my institution but I equally realized that there are still many rivers to cross to achieve our ideal of gender justice.

I wish you success in this campaign as well as insightful deliberations during the course of this programme.

I thank you.